

THE WAY OF THE WISE: A STUDY OF PROVERBS

Stop Screaming at Scoffers, Various Proverbs

LEARNING THE WORD

1. Read Proverbs 9 and make some observations. What verses catch your attention? What images stand out to you? What's the big idea?
2. In verses 1-6 and 13-18, Solomon uses the image of two ladies inviting us to different life approaches. In what specific ways do Lady Wisdom and Madame Folly appear the same? In what specific ways are they very different?
3. Verses 7-12 contrast the scoffer and the wise man. See also Proverbs 3:34, 15:12, 21:24, 22:10, 29:8. What is the primary difference between the two?
4. Verse 10 serves as the focal point of the entire chapter. Why is this spiritual focus important to our understanding the differences between the wise man and the scoffer?
5. What is Solomon saying about personal responsibility in Verse 12? Why is it important for him to mention it here (at the end of the section in verses 7-12)?

LIVING THE WORD

6. In the discussion above, we saw how Solomon went out of his way to show that wisdom and folly may appear to be very similar. How might foolishness appear wise in the eyes of our world?
7. Our digital world appears to be a breeding ground for multiplying scoffers. Mr. Scoff-a-lot appears everywhere these days when it's become fashionable to spout confident opinions, debunk others with some snark, and dismiss opponents with a condescending flair. What wisdom do these verses offer for how we should interact with scoffers?
8. How can you stand upon truth with confidence and conviction, share your opinions, or express your thoughts without becoming a scoffer? What does this look like when someone does this well?
9. Reflecting on Proverbs 9:5-6, where else in the Bible do we see an offer for simple people to share a meal of bread and wine, an invitation to live, and instruction to walk in new ways? See also Isaiah 55:1-3, John 6:51, 55. How does this help us to stay humble and teachable to the Lord and his ways?
10. What is one thing in this lesson you want to think more deeply about in the week ahead?