

Christ Our Wisdom: Seeing Christ in the Book of Proverbs
"A Portrait of a Fool"
Proverbs 12:15, 26:12; Selected Scripture
March 22, 2020

Introduction

King Solomon was a prolific author credited in Scripture with "3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005." (1 Kings 4:32) Many of these words of wisdom were recorded and preserved by the Holy Spirit in the book of Proverbs. Throughout this 31 chapter book, Solomon spent a lot of ink describing different characters and categories of people for the purpose of imparting wisdom. We read of the wise and the prudent, as well as the sluggard, the glutton, and the drunkard. Perhaps the largest character portrait in Proverbs is the one focused on the fool. So prominent is this picture that in our time together today, I want to highlight the image of the fool and pray that we would have ears to hear and pursue wisdom found in Christ alone.

Our purpose is not to make fun of the fool because as Derek Kidner writes in his classic commentary on Proverbs, "...the reader is not encouraged to think himself beyond such folly." We must remember that the pursuit of wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord which requires an honest assessment of who we are. Honesty in the area of personal foolishness should bring humility that by God's grace will enable us to recognize our foolish tendencies and flee from the way of the fool. A way that leads to great sorrow and ends ultimately in destruction.

I. Fools Live in an E_____ C_____ of Their Own Making

Proverbs 12:15 reads, "*The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.*"

And,

Proverbs 26:12 warns, "*Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.*"

II. The S_____

III. The f_____

IV. The S_____

V. Jesus and the Fool

Luke 12:13-21

The Parable of the Rich Fool

"Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." 14 But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" 15 And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." 16 And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, 17 and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' 18 And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." ' 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

Matthew 7:24-27

Build Your House on the Rock

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

Conclusion

How often the study of Scripture leads us to determine which direction we are going to go and how we are going to live. At the heart of the Bible's message is to see Jesus Christ as God's son, and to embrace that He is the One we are to follow. If we would know true wisdom, then we must know Jesus Christ. Jesus defined eternal life in these terms in his prayer recorded in John 17, "This is eternal life, that they may know you..., and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." (v. 3)