

“Unteachable Fools Saved by Wisdom Himself”

Proverbs 1:7

August 1, 2021

Intro: The book of Proverbs is a book about wisdom.

Wisdom (knowledge, understanding, etc.) in Proverbs is the skill needed by God’s people to live truly happy and successful lives in this world.

“The Fool” is a character employed by Proverbs to show the opposite of wise living.

According to Proverbs, fools are, among other things, unteachable.

I. The Fool Hates Wise Instruction

- A. Fools despise wise knowledge, treating it with contempt. (Pr. 1:7, 22)
- B. Fools hate the very kind of wise teaching that could profoundly benefit them.
- C. Fools scorn even the very natural guidance of parents.

Proverbs 15:5 - A fool despises his father’s instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.

II. The Fool Thinks He Knows Everything Already

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

- A. Fools think they have everything figured out.
- B. Rather than hear advice, the fool would rather prattle on about themselves.

Proverbs 18:2 - A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

III. The Fool Becomes Impervious to Rebuke

Proverbs 27:22 - Though you grind a fool in a mortar, grinding them like grain with a pestle, you will not remove their folly from them.

- A. Hard but necessary words have no effect on the fool.
- B. Even life situations that grind them to dust do not wake them up.
- C. A committed fool is incorrigible.

Application –

1. While these verses might remind us of others, we must not think we're exempt from foolishness.
2. Paul's use of Ps. 14 & 53 in Romans 3 shows us that we're all fools.
 - a. We're born with hearts inclined to all foolishness, including the hateful refusal to be taught anything truly wise.
 - b. These tendencies remain in our flesh even after being renewed by the Holy Spirit.

3. In our foolishness, let us remember that Jesus is wisdom in human flesh.

Colossians 2:3 - in whom [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

4. Christ, as Wisdom personified, lived the opposite life of fools like us.

Luke 2:52 - And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

5. Christ's Wisdom is given to us by faith.

1 Corinthians 1:30 - But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.