

3/21/2021

The Proverbs Series

Peace Making

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Proverbs 12:15-28 ¹⁵The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to counsel. ¹⁶A fool's anger is known at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult. ¹⁷He who speaks the truth declares what is right, but a false witness speaks deceit. ¹⁸Speaking rashly is like a piercing sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. ¹⁹Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment. ²⁰Deceit is in the hearts of those who devise evil, but the counselors of peace have joy. ²¹No harm befalls the righteous, but the wicked are filled with trouble. ²²Lying lips are detestable to the LORD, but those who deal faithfully are His delight. ²³A shrewd man keeps his knowledge to himself, but a foolish heart proclaims its folly. ²⁴The hand of the diligent will rule, but laziness ends in forced labor. ²⁵Anxiety weighs down the heart of a man, but a good word cheers it up. ²⁶A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the ways of the wicked lead them astray. ²⁷A lazy man does not roast his game, but a diligent man prizes his possession. ²⁸There is life in the path of righteousness, but another path leads to death. (BSB)

I. Here are the key points to this passage.

- A. It is easy to be **blind** to our weaknesses if we only surround ourselves with people who agree with us. V.15, 20
- B. We must be **restrained** in our anger. There are times to overlook an offense. V.16, 18
- C. The core of lying is the intent to **deceive**. V.17, 19, 22
- D. We are often our own worst **enemy**. V.21
- E. We are not **obligated** to always give our opinions. V.23
- F. Laziness appears to be **beneficial** but it punishes more than it rewards. V.24, 27
- G. We have the power to **help** others with our words. V.25
- H. We have real **choices** to make and they matter. V.28

II. How can we apply these truths?

- A. Learn how to **exchange** ideas with others. Resist the temptation to attack and learn the art of agreeing to disagree.
- B. We must learn the **skill** of dealing with anger in a godly way.
- C. Our **yes** must be yes and our **no** must be no.
- D. We must learn to do **what** we have to do **when** we have to do it.
- E. We must learn to **limit** our words and **increase** your listening.