

4/18/2021

The Proverbs Series

## **Heart Smart**

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**Proverbs 18:7-15** <sup>7</sup>A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul. <sup>8</sup>The words of a gossip are like choice morsels that go down into the inmost being. <sup>9</sup>Whoever is slothful in his work is brother to him who destroys. <sup>10</sup>The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. <sup>11</sup>A rich man's wealth is his fortified city; it is like a high wall in his imagination. <sup>12</sup>Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor. <sup>13</sup>He who answers a matter before he hears it— this is folly and disgrace to him. <sup>14</sup>The spirit of a man can endure his sickness, but who can survive a broken spirit? <sup>15</sup>The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks it out. (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. The condition of your **soul** is shown by your words and actions. V.7-8, 12
- B. **Laziness** is not a harmless behavior. V.9
- C. Our uncreated God **protects** those who trust in Him. V.10
- D. Earthly riches create a **facade** of protection. V.11
- E. The art of **listening** is a gift that truly makes one great. V.13
- F. **Discouragement** destroys us. V.14
- G. A **discerning** heart gains knowledge and the wisdom to know how to use it. V.15

II. What can we learn from this?

- A. We should do **soul** inventories. A healthy soul produces healthy actions.
- B. We should take steps to become hard workers who serve God through **everything** that we do.
- C. It is important to have your faith based in **sound** theology.
- D. Our **hope** must be in God, not our wealth.
- E. We must **improve** our listening skills. **James 1:19** My beloved brothers, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger. (BSB)
- F. We need more **intentional** encouragers.
- G. Believers must develop **godly** discernment.