

The Book of Proverbs

“Wisdom and the Fear of the Lord: Proverbs as a Book on Faith”

Week 12: Proverbs 17

I. Proverbs 17, “Various Sayings”

1. As has been noted before, we do not know much about slavery in the Ancient Near East. Slaves managed large estates and could even be freed and share in the inheritance with his master’s children. What then does this proverb warn us against? (v 2)

2. Certainly God tempts no one (James 1:13), but God does test and try us. What are some examples of God’s testing in Scriptures? What is his promise for us (1 Cor 10:13)?

3. How does verse 6 reflect on familial relationships? How is this a way of God encouraging us to have, support, and raise children and grandchildren? How does the Bible extol this in other places? (Ps 127 and 128)

II. Proverbs 17:7-28, “Fools and Their Consequences”

4. How is false speech from a ruler worse than fine speech from a fool? (v 7)

5. What are the two ways to approach sin, as mentioned in verse 9?

6. There are many who advocate rebellion as the only cure for evil. What are some movies that advocate this? Yet what are God’s consequences for these actions? (v 11)

7. How is the mayhem of a fool worse than meeting a she-bear? (v 12)

8. We get a very strong warning in verse 15 about our actions. Which is worse: to call bad good, or to call good bad?

9. Verse 17 is a good example of synonymous parallelism. What are the two good things that Solomon uses to deepen our understanding?

10. How do we see verse 26 in our culture today?

11. How is self-control an invaluable gift in an argument? What is the typical phrase that we say that is similar to verses 27-28?

Memory Verses for Today:

Proverbs 17:6, “Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their fathers.”

Proverbs 17:28, “Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent”