

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 152 – *The Wise Receive Reproof Through Those Void Of Understanding (Proverbs 17:10-18)*

1. Does a wise man gain more from reproof than a fool would gain from a serious beating?

Yes: *“A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool” (Proverbs 17:10).*

- Wise individuals want to be corrected (**Proverbs 9:8-9**, **Proverbs 15:31**, and **Hebrews 12:5**; cf. **II Timothy 3:15-17**).
- A fool just doesn't learn no matter what you do to them (**Proverbs 15:5**, **Proverbs 27:22**, **Isaiah 1:5**, **Jeremiah 2:30**, and **Jeremiah 5:3**).

2. Are evil people rebellious?

Yes: *“An evil man seeketh only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him” (Proverbs 17:11).*

- Rebellion is departing from God's word (**Ezekiel 20:13** and **Daniel 9:5**).

3. How bad is it for a fool to meet his folly [foolishness; lack of good sense]?

Bad, as is identified by the comparison drawn: *“Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly” (Proverbs 17:12).*

- A fool returning to his folly or meeting his folly is just a sure situation of apostasy (**Proverbs 5:23**).
- The illustration of a bear meeting a man in defense of her young is powerful (**Hosea 13:8**).

4. Is it good for a person to reward evil for good?

No, for evil shall not depart from their house: *“Whoso rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house” (Proverbs 17:13).*

- **Psalms 38:20** and **Psalms 109:3-17**; cf. **Matthew 27:24-25**.

5. Is it good to allow strife to begin?

No, it's like flood waters: *“The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with” (Proverbs 17:14).*

- Strife grows: **Proverbs 26:21**
- Therefore, steer clear of contention (**Proverbs 20:3**).

6. How does the Lord view those who justify the wicked and/or condemn the just?

They both are an abomination to Him: *“He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD”* (**Proverbs 17:15**).

- **Deuteronomy 25:1, Isaiah 5:20; 23, Malachi 2:17, and Luke 23:18-25.**

7. Does it make any sense for a fool to appear as though he’s trying to obtain wisdom when his heart is not set on it?

No: *“Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it”* (**Proverbs 17:16**)?

- The heart of a fool is not set on gaining knowledge from God (**Psalms 14:1, Proverbs 12:23, Proverbs 15:14, Proverbs 18:2, Proverbs 19:3, and Proverbs 28:26**).
- This does not mean one cannot go from being foolish to being a wise servant of God (**Titus 3:3**).
- Additionally, one who has served God can turn back to foolishness (**Galatians 3:1-3**).

8. What are signs of a true friend and a good brother?

When they’re there through the tough times: *“A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity”* (**Proverbs 17:17**).

- **I Samuel 18:3; 19:2, Proverbs 18:24, John 15:13-14, and Galatians 6:2.**

9. Does a wise man become a surety [one taking responsibility for the debt of another] for another?

No: *“A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of his friend”* (**Proverbs 17:18**).

- See also: **Proverbs 6:1-5, Proverbs 11:15-18, and Proverbs 22:26-27.**
- If it is a brother in need, we should give rather than lend (**Acts 20:35, Romans 15:25-27, and I John 3:15-18**).