

# Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 138 – Self-Righteousness Through The Way Of Righteousness (Proverbs 12:15-28)

1. Will a foolish person listen to reason when they are wrong?

No: *“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise” (Proverbs 12:15).*

- The fool is convinced their way is always right (**Proverbs 14:12, Proverbs 14:16, Proverbs 16:2, Proverbs 16:25, Proverbs 21:2, Proverbs 30:12, Luke 18:10-14, and Galatians 6:3**).
- We must never be wise in our own eyes (**Deuteronomy 12:8, Proverbs 3:7, and Isaiah 5:21**).
- Wise people will listen to wise, GODLY counsel (**Proverbs 1:5 and Proverbs 19:20**).

2. What’s at least one difference between a fool and a prudent man?

*“A fool’s wrath is presently known: but a prudent [sensible; acting with or showing care and thought for the future; Strong’s # 6175; BDB and New Oxford Dictionary] man covereth shame” (Proverbs 12:16).*

- This is not meaning to hide one’s side in a “cover-up” that is deceptive (**Proverbs 28:13**).
- What we are talking about is discretion rather than open flaunting of one’s sinful behavior (**Ezra 9:6**). Godly people are ashamed of something one does that is wrong, not wanting to “put it on display” (**Jeremiah 6:15; 8:12**).

3. What do we need to speak to show forth righteousness?

*“He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit” (Proverbs 12:17).*

- **Psalms 15:1-2 and Ephesians 5:9**.
- *“A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies” (Proverbs 14:25).*

4. Are words powerful enough to be helpful if right and harmful if wrong?

Yes: *“There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health” (Proverbs 12:18).*

- As weapons: **Psalms 57:4, Psalms 64:3, Proverbs 25:18, Ephesians 5:6, and II Timothy 2:17**.
- For good: **Proverbs 15:7 and Ephesians 4:29**.

5. Is it the truth speaker or the liar that has hope for a good future?

*“The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment” (Proverbs 12:19). \* Liars have a bad ending (**Acts 5:1-10 and Revelation 21:8**).*

6. What is in the heart of those that imagine evil?

*"Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy"*  
(**Proverbs 12:20**).

- **Proverbs 23:6-7** and **Proverbs 26:23-28**.

7. Is Proverbs 12:21 teaching that nothing bad will ever happen to people that are just (\*note: consider Psalms 37:12-15, Matthew 23:34-35, Matthew 26:1-4, and II Timothy 3:12 when answering this question)?

Proverbs 12:21 says: *"There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief"* (**Proverbs 12:21**).

- The verses given in the wording of the question prove we CANNOT be reading a Scripture that promises no harm will occur to just people (**Matthew 5:10-12** and **Luke 6:46**).
- Thus, the Scripture must be discussing things in the overall scheme of our existence, which includes eternity (**II Corinthians 4:16-5:1**).

8. What does the Lord think about liars?

*"Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight"*  
(**Proverbs 12:22**).

- **Proverbs 6:16-19** and **Revelation 21:8**.
- Our attitude ought to be the same (**Psalms 119:163**, **Proverbs 13:5**, and **Ephesians 4:25**).

9. Rather than being prudent and using discretion with one's words, what does a fool do?

*"A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness"*  
(**Proverbs 12:23**).

- **Proverbs 15:2**, **Proverbs 17:27-28**, and **Ecclesiastes 10:12-14**.

10. What are two differences between the diligent man and the slothful man (based on verses 24; 27)?

Basic point, laziness never brings you to a point of success in anything, including providing for yourself: *"The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute... The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious"* (**Proverbs 12:24; 27**).

- **Proverbs 21:25-26** and **Proverbs 24:30-34**.

11. What does heaviness [anxiety] in one's heart do?

*"Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad"*  
(**Proverbs 12:25**).

- **Psalms 38:6**, **Proverbs 15:13**, **Proverbs 17:22**, **Proverbs 18:14**, and **Philippians 4:6-7**.

12. Regardless of how righteous we are, what do we need to be cautious of?

Being seduced by the way of the wicked: *"The righteous is more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them"* (**Proverbs 12:26**).

- **Psalms 119:115, Proverbs 9:6, Proverbs 13:20, I Corinthians 15:33, and I Thessalonians 5:22.**

13. What is in the way of righteousness?

Life, not death (spiritually speaking): *"In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death"* (**Proverbs 12:28**).

- **Ezekiel 18:9, Ezekiel 18:20-23, John 5:28-29, Romans 6:22-23, and Jude 21.**