

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 146 – A Scorner's View Of A Reprover Through Good Counselors (Proverbs 15:12-22)

1. Does a scorner [mockers; scoffer] love one who tries to reprove [correct] him or her?
No: *"A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise"* (**Proverbs 15:12**).

* **Proverbs 9:8, Proverbs 15:10, Amos 5:10, John 3:19-21, and John 7:7.**

* *"(31) The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise. (32) He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding"* (**Proverbs 15:31-32**).

* If someone doesn't like correction, they won't like the Scriptures (cf. **II Timothy 3:16-17**).

2. Can sorrow in your heart have a big impact on you?
Yes, it can break your spirit: *"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken"* (**Proverbs 15:13**).

* Sorrow can swallow up a person (**II Corinthians 2:7**).

* Heaviness in the heart is not good (**Proverbs 12:25** and **II Corinthians 7:10**).

* We'll discuss a merry heart in question 4.

3. What is a difference between a man of understanding and a fool?
The man of understanding seeks knowledge while fools feed on foolishness: *"The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness"* (**Proverbs 15:14**).

* People that understand want to learn (**Proverbs 9:10** and **Proverbs 19:25**; cf. **Acts 17:10-11**).

* As hard as you may try to pound foolishness out of a fool, you'll find your labor is in vain: *"Though thou shouldst bray [pound] a fool in a mortar [hollow place] among wheat with a pestle [a device used for grinding], yet will not his foolishness depart from him"* (**Proverbs 27:22**).

4. Is a merry heart powerful?
Yes: *"All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast"* (**Proverbs 15:15**).

* We, as Christians, should be happy (**Psalms 144:15** and **Proverbs 16:20**).

* A merry heart is powerful (**Proverbs 17:22** and **Proverbs 18:14**)

5. What is better than great treasure and trouble therewith?

"Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith" (**Proverbs 15:16**).

* Better is a little (**Psalms 37:16**, **Proverbs 16:8**, **Proverbs 28:6**, **Philippians 4:11-13**, and **I Timothy 6:6-10**).

* The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (**Psalms 111:10** and **Proverbs 9:10**), knowledge (**Proverbs 1:7**), and it brings true blessings (**Proverbs 22:4**).

6. Is it better to have an ox in the stall with hatred in the home than to have to eat herbs with love in the home?

It is better to have no meat and love in the home: *"Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith"* (**Proverbs 15:17**).

* **Proverbs 17:1** and **Song of Solomon 8:7**.

7. What can one accomplish if he or she can control anger?

Appeasing strife: *"A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife"* (**Proverbs 15:18**).

* There are those who stir up fights (**Proverbs 26:21**, **Proverbs 28:25**, and **Proverbs 29:22**) and those who calm things down (**Proverbs 15:1**).

* We are supposed to be peacemakers (**Matthew 5:9**).

8. What is the way of a slothful man compared to?

"The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain" (**Proverbs 15:19**).

* Similarly this is said of the way of the forward (**Proverbs 22:5**).

* A hedge of thorns blocks progress (**Hosea 2:6**).

9. Do the actions of children have an impact on their parents?

Yes: *"A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother"* (**Proverbs 15:20**; cf. **Proverbs 10:1**).

* For good (**Proverbs 23:15-16** and **Proverbs 29:3**).

* Bad (**Proverbs 19:26** and **Proverbs 29:15**).

* *"The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it"* (**Proverbs 30:17**).

10. What type of person finds joy in folly?

"Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom; but a man of understanding walketh uprightly" (Proverbs 15:21).

* Fools make at sin (**Proverbs 10:23; 14:9**).

* A man of understanding departs from evil (**Job 28:28**).

11. Is it wise to have a multitude of sound counselors?

Yes: "Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established" (Proverbs 15:22).

* **Proverbs 11:14** and **Proverbs 20:18**.

* That counsel better ultimately be from the Lord (**Isaiah 8:20; 30:1**).