

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 150 – The Heart Of The Wise Through The Casting Of Lots (Proverbs 16:23-33)

1. What does the heart of the wise do?

“The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips” (Proverbs 16:23).

- The heart of the wise (**Proverbs 10:8, Ecclesiastes 7:4, and Ecclesiastes 8:5**).
- Also the heart of the foolish (**Proverbs 15:7**).
- The mouth (**Psalms 37:30-31, Proverbs 10:14, and Proverbs 15:2**).
- The lips (**Proverbs 22:17-18 and Ecclesiastes 10:12**).
- The heart and our mouths are connected (**Matthew 12:34-37 and Luke 6:45**).

2. Are pleasant words good for us to hear?

Yes, but with caution (more on this in a moment): *“Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones” (Proverbs 16:24).*

- **Proverbs 25:11-12, Proverbs 25:25, and Proverbs 27:9.**
- The caution is that people often want to hear pleasant words when they are in sin. This is not when pleasant words are profitable (**Ecclesiastes 7:5, Proverbs 27:5-6, II Timothy 4:2, and Revelation 3:19**).

3. Is the way that seems right always the right way to choose?

No: *“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 16:25).*

- **Proverbs 3:5-7, Proverbs 12:15, Proverbs 14:12, Proverbs 14:16, Proverbs 16:2, Proverbs 16:25, Proverbs 20:24, Proverbs 21:2, Proverbs 28:26, Proverbs 30:12, Isaiah 5:21, Isaiah 55:7-9, Jeremiah 10:23, Jeremiah 17:9, Hosea 13:2, II Corinthians 10:12, II Corinthians 10:18, and Galatians 6:3.**

4. What is one motivation for a man to labor?

To feed himself: *“He that laboureth laboureth for himself; for his mouth craveth it of him” (Proverbs 16:26).*

- **Ecclesiastes 6:7, I Thessalonians 4:11-12, and II Thessalonians 3:10.**

5. What does an ungodly man dig up?

Evil: *“An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire” (Proverbs 16:27).*

- The point is, an evil man works hard at bringing about evil (**Isaiah 5:18**).

6. What does a froward man and a whisperer do?

"A froward [perverse] man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends"
(**Proverbs 16:28**).

- Sowing of strife (**Proverbs 6:14, Proverbs 29:22, Philippians 2:3, and James 3:16**).
- Whispering (**Proverbs 26:20-22**).

7. What kind of man entices his neighbor?

"A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into the way that is not good"
(**Proverbs 16:29**; cf. **Proverbs 29:5**).

- We should love our neighbors (**Galatians 5:14** and **James 2:8**), not seek to entice them (**Proverbs 14:21** and **Proverbs 24:28**).
- If we find ourselves being enticed, we should not go with that person (**Proverbs 1:10**).

8. In the context of the violent man, what does he do when he shuts his eyes?

"He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass"
(**Proverbs 16:30**).

- No matter what an evil man is doing, he's working something that is not good (**Proverbs 6:12-14**).

9. When is the hoary [grayish-white] head a crown of glory?

"The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness"
(**Proverbs 16:31**).

- Old age does not always mean wisdom or righteousness (**Job 32:1-18**), but being aged is not an ugly thing (**Proverbs 20:29**).

10. How good is it to be able to control one's anger?

"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city" (**Proverbs 16:32**).

- **Proverbs 14:17, Proverbs 14:29, Proverbs 15:18, Proverbs 25:28, and James 1:19-20**.

11. When a lot was cast, was it chance that brought about the decision or was the disposing [verdict; decision] of the Lord?

"The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD" (**Proverbs 16:33**).

- Lots often showed the Lord's will (**Joshua 18:6-10, I Samuel 14:37-46, and Acts 1:15-26**).