

The Lord's Church Baptist Denomination

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Pastor Howard L. Moses, Sr.

September 27, 2026

Sunday School Review & Church Service

Service Start: 11am - In Person or Online

Words of Comfort: Philippians 2:5-6, "Making Nothing of Yourself"

Text: Proverbs 14:1-19, "There Is a Way that Seems Right"

Vs. 1. Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.

Vs. 2. He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.

Vs. 3. In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.

Vs. 4. Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.

Vs. 5. A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.

Vs. 6. A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.

Vs. 7. Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.

Vs. 8. The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit.

Vs. 9. Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour.

Vs. 10. The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.

Vs. 11. The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish.

Vs. 12. There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Vs. 13. Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness.

Vs. 14. The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.

Vs. 15. The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.

Vs. 16. A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.

Vs. 17. He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.

Vs. 18. The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

Vs. 19. The evil bow before the good; and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

Introduction

The choices we make every day have the ability to build something worthwhile or slowly tear it down. Wisdom is seen not only in what we know, but in how we speak, how we respond to correction, how we treat others, and the direction we choose for our lives. Sometimes what seems right to us can lead us in the wrong direction, which is why we need God's wisdom rather than depending only upon our own understanding. In today's lesson, we will see the contrast between wisdom and foolishness and how each produces very different results in our lives.

Lesson Scripture and Commentary: Proverbs 14:1-19

Vs. 1. Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.

The picture is of a woman whose choices either strengthen or weaken her household. "House" involves more than a physical building; it includes the family, relationships, stability, and atmosphere of the home. A wise person understands that what takes years to build can be damaged through repeated foolish choices.

Although Solomon specifically mentions a woman here, the principle applies to all of us: our words, attitudes, and decisions can either build up the people around us or tear them down.

Proverbs 24:3. Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: 4. And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

Ephesians 4:29. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Vs. 2. He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.

Our relationship with God should become visible in the way we live. To fear the Lord means to reverence Him enough in our lives so that His will influence our choices. Solomon contrasts that with someone whose lifestyle continually moves contrary to God's ways. We cannot separate what we say about God from how we choose to live before Him.

Proverbs 8:13. The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

James 2:18. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

Vs. 3. In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.

Pride often reveals itself through the way we speak. A foolish person can use words in ways that eventually bring trouble upon himself, while a wise person understands when to speak, what to say, and sometimes when to remain silent.

Proverbs 18:21. Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

James 3:5. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

Vs. 4. Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.

A clean stall may look nice, but if you have no oxen, no work gets accomplished. Oxen created mess and required care, but they were essential for plowing fields and producing a harvest. Solomon teaches us that productivity often comes with inconvenience, responsibility, and sometimes mess. If we want the benefits of growth, we must also be willing to accept the work that comes with it.

Proverbs 12:11. He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.

1 Corinthians 15:58. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Vs. 5. A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.

Integrity reveals whether our words are trustworthy. God's people should develop a reputation for honesty so that others know what we say is dependable.

Exodus 20:16. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Colossians 3:9. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

Vs. 6. A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.

A scorner is someone who mocks correction or believes he already knows everything. They struggle to learn even when truth is placed before them. By contrast, a person with an understanding and teachable heart will continue to grow. Sometimes the barrier to wisdom is not a lack of information but an unwillingness to receive it.

Proverbs 9:8. Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. 9. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

James 1:19. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

Vs. 7. Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.

Solomon teaches that there are times when wisdom requires distance. We should love people, pray for people, and try to help people, but that does not mean everyone should have influence over our lives. Wisdom includes recognizing whose voices we allow to shape our decisions.

Proverbs 13:20. He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

1 Corinthians 15:33. Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Vs. 8. The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit.

A prudent person examines the direction of his life. Wisdom causes us to ask where our decisions are taking us rather than whether something feels good right now. Foolishness can deceive us into believing everything is fine while we are moving farther away from where God wants us. Wise people examine themselves regularly by God's word and make corrections when necessary.

Lamentations 3:40. Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.

2 Corinthians 13:5. Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Vs. 9. Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour.

Unbelievers' foolishness treats sin lightly; they laugh at what God says is wrong, or behave as though consequences will never come. The righteous understand that sin is serious because it damages our relationship with God and often hurts other people. Grace gives us forgiveness, but grace should never become an excuse to make light of sin.

Proverbs 10:23. It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.

Romans 6:1. What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2. God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Vs. 10. The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.

There are experiences within the human heart that others cannot fully understand. Someone may look fine outwardly while carrying pain no one else sees. Likewise, there are joys and experiences with God that may be difficult to explain completely to someone else. This verse reminds us not to assume we know everything another person is carrying based on their outward appearance.

1 Samuel 1:15. And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

Romans 12:15. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

Vs. 11. The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish.

Solomon contrasts what appears strong with what lasts. A "house" sounds more permanent than a "tabernacle," or tent, yet the wicked person's house falls while the upright person's dwelling flourishes. A life built according to God's ways has a foundation that outward appearances cannot always reveal.

Psalms 37:35. I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. 36. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

Matthew 7:24. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Vs. 12. There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Something can seem right to us and still be wrong. Our feelings, opinions, and reasoning are not perfect, which is why we need God's Word and godly wisdom to guide us. Wisdom asks not only, "Does this seem right to me?" but also, "Is this consistent with what God says?"

Jeremiah 10:23. O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

James 1:22. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Vs. 13. Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness.

People can smile, joke, work, worship, and continue their daily routine while carrying deep sorrow. Temporary entertainment can distract us from pain, but it cannot always heal what is happening in the heart. This should make us more compassionate because we never fully know what someone else may be dealing with.

Psalms 34:18. The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

2 Corinthians 1:3. Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4. Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

Vs. 14. The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.

Notice Solomon says "backslider in heart." Backsliding begins internally before it becomes obvious externally. A person's heart can gradually move away from God while outward appearances remain unchanged for a time.

Jeremiah 3:22. Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the LORD our God.

Hebrews 3:12. Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

Vs. 15. The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.

Wisdom does not believe everything simply because somebody says it. The prudent person considers the source, examines the information, and thinks carefully about where it may lead.

Proverbs 18:17. He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.

1 John 4:1. Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Vs. 16. A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.

A wise person recognizes danger and moves away from it. Wisdom does not require us to prove how close we can get to temptation without falling. Sometimes the wisest and strongest thing we can do is simply walk away.

Proverbs 22:3. A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

2 Timothy 2:22. Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Vs. 17. He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.

Anger itself can alert us that something is wrong, but uncontrolled anger can cause us to respond foolishly. Wisdom creates space between what we feel and what we do with that feeling. Spiritual maturity does not mean never becoming angry; it means learning not to let anger take control of our behavior.

Proverbs 15:18. A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.

Ephesians 4:26. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27. Neither give place to the devil.

Vs. 18. The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

What we continually choose eventually becomes part of what characterizes our lives. The simple person who refuses wisdom ends up with foolishness, while the prudent person grows in knowledge. Wisdom develops through listening, learning, applying truth, and allowing experience to teach us.

Proverbs 1:5. A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

Colossians 1:9. For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10. That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Vs. 19. The evil bow before the good; and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

Solomon ends this section by reminding us that wickedness will not triumph. There may be seasons when those doing wrong appear to prosper while those doing right struggle, but appearances are temporary. God's order ultimately prevails.

Psalm 37:9. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. 10. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

Revelation 22:12. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Conclusion

Our words, relationships, reactions, attitudes, and decisions are continually moving us in one direction or another. What seems right to us is not always right, which is why we need God's Word to guide our steps. When we walk in wisdom, examine our ways, control our words and emotions, and remain willing to learn, we build a life that reflects our reverence for God.

Golden Text: “The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish” (Proverbs 14:11).