

## “Fools, Sluggards & Liars”

**Intro:** With all thanks to our \_\_\_\_\_ we praise Him for the proverbs that are before us, realizing that through them He \_\_\_\_\_ of the shame that belongs to fools, sluggards and liars, and in so doing He turns us from that which displeases Him and our own destruction to that which glorifies Him and is for our benefit.

I. We learn of the Father's wisdom in regard to \_\_\_\_\_.

A. While the fool does what is unfitting (sinful) \_\_\_\_\_ teaches us to deal with them as is wise and \_\_\_\_\_.

B. The Christian refuses to participate at the level of the fool but rather seeks to bring the fool \_\_\_\_\_ to God and His wisdom. As God reached down to us to bring us higher so should we seek to bring the lost sinner upward to God by \_\_\_\_\_ His truth in love, even if the truth must come as a rebuke.

C. The wise people of God \_\_\_\_\_ the frustration and harm that \_\_\_\_\_ when a fool is sent to relay a message.

D. The wise show \_\_\_\_\_ only where honor is due. To show honor to a fool is to show dishonor to \_\_\_\_\_.

E. The wise believer \_\_\_\_\_ those whom they know to be \_\_\_\_\_, knowing that to do otherwise will bring harm to all.

F. A fool can be identified by his \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.

G. Pride (which God so despises) is the pinnacle of foolishness. There is no fool like the prideful fool. Yet, thanks be to God, if the fool will \_\_\_\_\_ himself and pray, turning to Christ in faith believing, repentant of his sin, confessing his sin, \_\_\_\_\_ will forgive him and \_\_\_\_\_ him from all his unrighteousness.

II. We learn of the Father's wisdom in regard to \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Those who are of Christ are to be busy about their \_\_\_\_\_ business. Having been transformed by the renewing of their minds they recognize the dangers and deceptions of laziness as opposed to the God-ordained blessings of diligent work. These find no need to make an excuse to escape work. Getting out of bed in the morning they find \_\_\_\_\_ at night. When they put their hand to the dish they return their hand to their mouth and are fed. Having seen themselves in the light of God's Word they think rightly of themselves and others. These \_\_\_\_\_!

III. We learn of the Father's wisdom in regard to \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Through deception and meddling liars (fools) make ruin of their relationships. Having made enemies of their neighbor they will find their friends few. God our Father would have us to \_\_\_\_\_ our neighbors as ourselves, speaking the \_\_\_\_\_ in love. This is the way of \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Those who hold contention in their heart whisper with their lips, first to spark strife and then to fuel. The wise of heart refuse to fuel contention through whispers but they \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ in love, and they do so openly.

C. \_\_\_\_\_ the way of the wicked the wise do not follow but rather they follow after the righteous Lord in His way of truth and righteousness. Are you wise unto salvation? Have you trusted in \_\_\_\_\_ Savior and \_\_\_\_\_? Have you turned from the treachery of sin unto the victory of life?

D. The wise children of God, seeing through the deceptive pretenses of the wicked, looking past the facade to the fruit (result) of another's life, \_\_\_\_\_ to be deceived by guile and taken in by \_\_\_\_\_. Being made wise unto God, and wise unto salvation in Christ, and indwelt by the Spirit, they \_\_\_\_\_ to test the spirits to see if they be of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Closing:** Let us be wise unto salvation, believing upon the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, and then we will not suffer the end of the fool, the sluggard and the liar, but by the \_\_\_\_\_ we will be granted everlasting life where there is love, joy and peace.

See the Father's love for us! He who gave His only begotten Son for us has not withheld any good thing for here He has told us of the terrible plight of the fool, the sluggard and the liar that we might turn to Him and live. Be wise – \_\_\_\_\_ upon the Lord Jesus, for He is the Christ!