

Reading: Ecclesiastes 6:8

Topic: The Wise vs. The Fool

INTRODUCTION: In our last lesson, we studied about the need for _____ and where to obtain it and in this lesson we shall look at the _____ between the wise and the fool.

I. THE BASIC DIFFERENCES:

A. *Wise or Fool?:*

1. In the Scripture that we read in the opening, the question is asked – “What does the _____ person have that the _____ does not have? Ecc. 6:8
2. In other words, the question being posed is – “What advantage is there to being _____, which does take effort to obtain, rather than being a _____ which requires no effort?”
3. This question troubled King Solomon when he was growing older and understanding that he would _____ one day and leave his wealth to another who might be a _____ man or a _____. Ecc. 2:18,19

B. *Differences:*

1. The Word of God gives the most vivid description of the basic _____ between the wise and the fool by describing the location of the _____ of each of them. Ecc. 10:2
2. This description of the location of the _____ referring to the right hand and the left hand reveals the custom of ancient time where the right hand depicts wisdom and skill in using _____ and in contrast the left hand describes clumsiness and _____ of skill in using _____.

II. THE WISE & THE FOOL:

A. *Obedience:*

1. The Word of God states that the _____ individual will receive commandments or instruction, which means that he/she will be teachable and receptive to obeying _____. Pr. 10:8
2. On the other hand the Word of God describes the _____ as an individual who is prating or a know-it-all and is unteachable which will lead him/her to eventual _____. Pr. 16:18

B. *Perception:*

1. The prideful heart of the _____ blinds him/her to the road that he/she is travelling on and they do believe that they are always _____. Pr. 12:15
2. On the other hand, the _____ individual has a spiritual perception and an ear to listen to advice of the experienced to guide him/her in to the _____ path to avoid trouble. Pr. 22:3

C. *Spiritual Discernment:*

1. The Scripture describes a wise individual as one who has spiritual reverence and discernment to _____ the pitfall of Satan and the evil trap and to _____ it and go in the opposite direction. Pr. 14:16
2. On the other hand, the fool lacks spiritual discernment and is overconfident, _____ blindly into the _____ of Satan because he/she is confident in themselves and not in God. Pr. 27:12
3. This ability to be discerning is compared to having _____ to see what is ahead and the Scripture is

clear that the _____ have those _____ while the fool is walking blindly into trouble. Ecc. 2:14

D. Speaking:

1. When it comes to talking, in plain words the _____ does not know how to keep his/her mouth shut and speaks everything that comes to _____, rather than thinking it over first. Pr. 29:11
2. On the other hand, the _____ individual filters his/her thought and ponders them before speaking, thus avoiding blurting out hurtful and unwise _____ that cause grief and trouble. James 1:19
3. The Word of God states that even a _____ would be thought to be _____ if he/she kept the mouth _____ instead of rashly speaking. Pr. 17:28
4. The Scripture reveals that when the _____ person does open the mouth to speak, the _____ that come out are gracious – helpful and upbuilding, while the _____ speaks words that will eventually end up destroying him/her. Ecc. 10:12

E. Correction:

1. When it comes to receiving correction, again the _____ between the wise and the fool manifests in the manner of the _____ to the admonishment of the corrector. Pr. 9:8
2. The scorner or the fool will become _____ and hateful towards the one who is trying to correct him/her – not receiving the words that will _____ them from future trouble.
3. On the other hand, the _____ individual will be grateful for the correction and will appreciate the words of the corrector, realizing that it is for their _____ and their salvation.

CONCLUSION: When we examine the _____ and the _____, the differences are very clear from the Word of God. May we examine ourselves and see which traits that we manifest in our own lives and if we need to _____, let us pray for _____ to avoid being a fool!