**Living Wisely – Pr. 18**

**Focal Truth: The foolish life of conflict**

**Observations**

1. **The foolish seeks his own desires fighting against wise counsel – 18:1 -2**

*He who separates himself seeks his own desire, He quarrels against all sound wisdom*

*He who isolates himself pursues his desires; He disdains all competence – Aramaic*

1. The foolish man loves a good quarrel
2. The foolish man quarrels with wise counsel & will not receive it

Neh. 9:16 – 17 – *our fathers, acted arrogantly; they became stubborn and would not listen to Your commandments. They refused to listen…*

1 Sam. 2:25 – *but they would not listen to the voice of their father…*

1. The foolish man quarrels with God when he refuses wise counsel

Isa.45:9 – *woe to the one who quarrels with His Maker- an earthen ware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, what are you doing? Or the thing you are making say, He has no hands?*

***Pr. 1:7 – the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fool despise wisdom & instruction***

1. **The foolish bring wicked contempt to every relationship – 18:3**

*When a wicked man comes, contempt also comes, and with dishonor comes scorn*

 *Comes the wicked man comes derision, and with the rogue, contempt – Aramaic*

1. The foolish have contempt – spite for all things

Ps. 31:18 – *let lying lips be mute, which speak arrogantly against the righteous with pride and contempt*

1. The foolish practice contempt because of wickedness in their hearts

Ps. 123:4 – *our soul is greatly filled with the scoffing of those who are at ease, and with the contempt of the proud*

Neh. 4:1 – 4 – *when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews…what are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to retore it for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?...Even what they are building – if a fox should jump on it, he would break their stone wall down!*

1. **The words of the foolish bring strife – 18:6 – 8**

*A fools lips bring strife, and his mouth calls for blows*

*The words of a fool lead to strife; his speech invites blows – Aramaic*

1. Words of the foolish brings conflicts

Pr. 10:12 – *hatred stirs up strife*

Pr. 15:18 – *a hot – tempered man stirs up strife*

Pr. 15:18 – *a perverse man spreads strife*

 **Words have the power to stir up the mind for good or for evil**

Pr. 26:21 – *like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindle strife*

Gal. 5:20 – *idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife…*

1. **Flipping a coin can settle disagreements – 18:18**

*The cast lot puts an end to strife, and decides between the mighty ones*

*The lots puts an end to strife and separates those locked in dispute*

1. The lot was the ancient method of determining a decision

Pr. 16:33 – *the lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord*

Jon.1:7 – *come let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity has struck us, so they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah*

Acts 1:26 – *they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles*

 **The lot settles disagreements but the sure way to settle them is by the Word of God**

1. **The offended are hard to restore to a good relationship – 18:19**

*A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of citadel*

*A brother offended is more formidable than a stronghold; such strife is like the bars of a fortress – Aramaic*

1. The closer the relationship the harder to restore the offended

Cain was offended and murdered Abel

Joseph’s brothers were offended and sold Joseph into slavery

Absalom was offended and sought to kill David

 **Keeping good relationships is better than seeking to restore broken relationships**

1. **The righteous live in confident security because of God – 18:10**

*The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and is safe*

*The name of the Lord is a tower of strength to which the righteous man runs and is safe*

*Aramaic*

1. The righteous run to the Lord finding their security in Him

Ps. 31:20 – *You hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the conspiracies of man; you keep them secretly in a shelter from the strife of tongues*

Ps. 46:10 – *cease striving and know that I am God*

Ecc. 4:6 – *one hand full of rest is better than two fists full of labor and striving after wind*

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**