

## Message #102

## Proverbs 24:23-26

**Verse 23** opens with the words “these also are the saying of the wise.” The word “wise” contains the masculine, plural ending, which may be translated “wise men.” We come now to section two of our sayings of the wise men of Israel (Section 1 – 22:17-24:22).

This new section is short (chapter 25 starts more proverbs of Solomon) and basically contains two central themes:

**(Theme #1)** - How to rule properly over people. **24:23-26**

**(Theme #2)** - How to live properly in society. 24:27-34

**WISE LEADERS WILL RULE IN TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND WILL DISCOVER THAT GOD WILL BLESS THEM, AND THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE WILL LOVE AND SUPPORT THEM.**

**GOVERNING ACTION #1** – Wise leaders will not show partiality. **24:23b**

The Hebrew word “partiality” comes from a root to be foreign or strange. The idea here is that you judge in a foreign or strange manner in view of who the person is. Both the O.T. and N.T. warn against this (Deut. 1:17; 16:19; II Chron. 19:7; Prov. 17:15; 18:5; John 7:24; James 2:9). God detests any form of partiality and, as Peter said, God will impartially judge His people “according to each man’s work” (I Pet. 1:17).

**GOVERNING ACTION #2** – Wise leaders will not justify the wicked. **24:24**

The words “curse” and “abhor” describe one who is loathed, looked upon despicably by God and by people. Wise is the believer who will never justify wickedness in his or her own life.

**GOVERNING ACTION #3** – Wise leaders will rebuke the wicked. **24:25**

Like it or not, part of the responsibility of leadership is to rebuke the words and actions of those in wickedness. That word “rebuke” speaks of rebuking someone in the sense of fully showing the individual God’s way of sunlight as opposed to his way of darkness (Gesenius, pp. 347-348).

**(Benefit #1)** - This kind of leader will be a delight.

**(Benefit #2)** - This kind of leader will be blessed.

**GOVERNING ACTION #4** – Wise is the leader who speaks the truth. **24:26**

The words “right answer” are words that describe one who sits in a row and arranges in order and guides others in the things which are straight, upright and just. The concept of “kissing the lips” is a very intimate association between one who speaks truth and one who hears truth (Ps. 85:10).