

Message #83**Proverbs 21:4-8**

Let us not misunderstand that the path of wisdom and folly are two different paths that offer two distinctly different consequences.

THERE IS A MAJOR CONTRAST BETWEEN THE WISE WAY TO LIVE LIFE AND THE FOOLISH WAY TO LIVE LIFE; AND THOSE WHO ARE WISE RECOGNIZE THOSE CONTRASTS AND CHOOSE TO LIVE IN A WISE MANNER.

Wise people want to carefully mark the wise way of life because they want to walk on the right path.

PATH #1 – The wise path is not the proud path. **21:4**

The ways of the wicked is one of the key themes of this chapter (**21:4, 7, 10, 12 (twice), 18, 27, 29**). Notice that pride is classified as both wicked and sinful. The idea behind “haughty eyes” and “proud heart” is one of expressing total arrogance. Some translations read the “lowing of the wicked” and some read “lamp of the wicked” because of two Hebrew words which are close in spelling: “nir,” which refers to plowing or tilling and “ner,” which refers to lamp. Either way, the point is that everything a proud person does is classified by God as wicked and sinful.

PATH #2 – The wise path is not the hasty path. **21:5**

Wisdom does not act in a hasty way. In fact, if one acts in a hasty way, he can err (19:2); he can end up punished (28:20); and he can end up hopeless (29-30). Two paths are given in this verse on which one may walk. Path #1 features those who want to get rich quick. Path #2 features those who are careful planners and hard workers. Those that do things on the spur of the moment usually do things wrong. Those who carefully plan and then diligently make an effort to carry out the plan will discover that success will happen in due time.

PATH #3 – The wise path is not the deceptive path. **21:6**

It is clear from this proverb that many people will use lying as a means of attaining things. However, the second part of the proverb indicates one who does this will: 1) End up empty; 2) Place him on a course of death.

PATH #4 – The wise path is not the violent path. **21:7**

What is described here is a person who will use any method to get as much as possible, including violence.

PATH #5 – The wise path is not the crooked path. **21:8**

This proverb is teaching that the way of the fool is twisted and wicked and will leave one burdened with guilt; but the one who is pure and clean has a life that is free from deformity, not a tangled, burdened mess.