

HOPE SABBATH SCHOOL

Proverbs - Part 10

Abandoning the Mask: living with transparency

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on Proverbs. Our topic today: Abandoning the Mask: living with transparency.

Scripture Theme Song: "Listen to Counsel" – Proverbs 19:20

- 1) Learning from the wise
 - a) Proverbs 9:10, James 1:5, and Proverbs 25:2a
 - i) If God is the source of all wisdom, and offers wisdom to those who ask, why He does conceal certain things from us? (John 16:12)
 - b) Psalm 32:8
- 2) Avoiding foolish decisions and foolish behavior
 - a) Proverbs 26:11 - Why do fools repeat their folly?
 - (1) Failure to learn from mistakes
 - (2) Seek counsel from other fools – Proverbs 26:8
 - (3) Seek counsel from no one - Judges 21:25
 - b) Proverbs 26:12 - How can we avoid foolish decisions and foolish behavior?
 - c) Should we only seek wisdom from God and godly counselors, or can we also seek wisdom from secular sources?
- 3) Heeding counsel about laziness – Proverbs 26:13-16
 - a) What is the message contained in v. 13?
 - i) What are some other excuses lazy people make?
 - b) What message is contained in v.14?
 - i) Lazy people always look for the easiest option, which is usually to do nothing.
 - ii) Give an example of a difficult option you have taken that was actually the best choice.
 - c) What message is contained in v.15?
 - i) A person's laziness not only affects others in a negative way. It hurts the lazy person as well.
 - ii) How has laziness negatively affected you or someone you love?
 - d) What message is contained in v. 16?
 - i) Why does a lazy person consider himself/herself wiser than seven sensible people?
- 4) Caring enough to speak the truth
 - a) Proverbs 27:5-6
 - b) How is it possible to speak painful truth to people without hurting their feelings? Ephesians 4:15
 - c) Share a time when someone spoke the truth in love to you. How did you know they were speaking with love in their hearts?
 - d) Share a time when you spoke the truth in love to someone. How was that message received?
- 5) Warnings about foolish speech
 - a) Proverbs 26:17 – why is this foolish speech?
 - b) Proverbs 26:18-19 – Why would anyone act so foolishly?
 - c) Proverbs 26:20-23 – What practical lesson can we learn from these proverbs?