

Scriptural Absolutes and Foundational Principles for Life

(part 2)

Text - Proverbs 12:12-28

XI. A contrast between the wicked and the righteous (12:12-14)

A. The _____ of the wicked, and the _____ of the righteous (12:12)

¹² **The wicked** [*ungodly; guilty of the law*] _____ [*covets; plunders; takes pleasure in*] **the net** [*riches ensnared by the net*] **of evil men: but the** _____ [*base; sure foundation*] **of the righteous** [*just; lawful*] **yieldeth fruit** [*gives; offers; pays*].

B. The _____ of the wicked and the righteous (12:13-14)

¹³ **The wicked** [*evil; bad*] **is** _____ [*trapped; caught*] **by the transgression** [*trespass; sin; guilt; rebellion*] **of his lips** [*the lips of an evil man will eventually ensnare him*]: **but the just** [*righteous; lawful*] **shall come out** [*come forth; move away*] **of** _____ [*distress; adversity*].

1. The wicked are inevitably _____ by their words. (12:13a)
2. The wheels of _____ sometimes turn so slowly, that we wonder if God hears our cry for vindication.

¹⁴ **A man shall be** _____ [*full; have plenty; nourished*] **with good** [*favor*] **by the fruit** [*benefits; reward*] **of his mouth** [*speech; good words yield satisfaction; no regrets*]: **and the** _____ [*reward; benefit*] **of a man's hands** [*labor; work*] **shall be rendered** [*lit. return again and again*] **unto him**.

XII. The way of a fool, contrasted with a wise man (12:15-16)

¹⁵ **The way** [*road; path; manner*] **of a fool is** _____ [*morally justified*] **in his own eyes** [*opinion; understanding*]: **but he that** _____ [*listens; obeys; hears*] **unto counsel is wise** [*clever; prudent*].

A. A fool is _____. (12:15a)

B. A wise man seeks, hears, and heeds _____. (12:15b; 1 Kings 12:6-8)

XIII. A man's response to _____ reveals what manner of man he is. (12:16)

A. A fool is easily provoked to _____. (12:16a)

¹⁶ **A fool's** _____ [*anger; indignation*] **is presently known** [*discovered; exposed*]: **but a prudent** [*cunning; subtile; crafty*] **man** _____ [*conceals; overlooks; forgives*] **shame** [*dishonor; disgrace; insult*].

B. A wise man is willing to _____ injustices, and _____ slights. (12:16b)

XIV. The character of a man is revealed in his _____. (12:17-19)

A. A righteous man is _____; an unrighteous man _____ and _____. (12:17)

¹⁷ **He that speaketh** [utters; breathe; fans] _____ [faithfulness to the way of righteousness] **sheweth forth** [declares; expounds; makes known] **righteousness** [justice]: **but a false** [deceitful; lying] **witness** _____ [fraud; guile; lies to your face while stabbing you in the back].

B. Words are _____, and can _____ or _____. (12:18)

¹⁸ **There is** [There exists] **that speaketh** [voice in anger; speak rashly] **like the** _____ [wounds; stabs] **of a sword** [dagger; knife]: **but the tongue** [language; speech] **of the wise** [skilled in the use of knowledge] **is** _____ [medicine; healing; soothing].”.

C. The words of a righteous man are _____, but the words of a liar _____ with him. (12:19)

¹⁹ **The lip** [language; speech] **of truth** [right; faithful; trustworthiness] **shall be established** [right; certain; fixed] **for ever** [eternity; perpetuity; “Truth” is timeless]: **but a lying** [false; deceitful] **tongue is but for a moment** [an instant; lies will be exposed].

D. A man’s _____, like a farmer’s field, will inevitably reveal what has been _____. (12:20)

²⁰ **Deceit** [fraud; guile] **is in the heart** [mind; understanding] **of them that imagine** [plan; devise; fabricate; plow; engrave] **evil** [sin; wickedness; trouble]: **but to the counsellors** [advisors; consultants] **of peace** [“shalom”; wholeness in health; prosperity] **is joy** [rejoicing; gladness].

XV. Choices have _____ . (12:21-24)

A. Happiness, and contentment are derived from one’s spiritual _____. (12:21)

1. Question – Do **bad** things happen to **good** people?

²¹ **There shall no** _____ [wickedness; mischief; trouble] **happen** [befall; meet] **to the just** [lawful; righteous]: **but the wicked** [ungodly; guilty of breaking the Law] **shall be filled** [overflow; be full] **with** _____ [evil; wickedness; trouble].”

2. How can we explain Proverbs 12:21? (Psalm 91:9-10, 15)

B. God places a premium on _____. (12:22-23)

²² **Lying** [false; deceitful] **lips** [language; speech] **are abomination** [loathsome; detestable] **to the LORD: but they that deal** [make; create; prepare; press; squeeze; fashion] **truly** [faithfully; verily] **are his delight** [favor; pleasure].

Isaiah 63:8 - ⁸For he said, Surely they are my people, Children that will not lie: So he was their Saviour.

C. _____ separates the wise, from the foolish. (12:23)

²³ **A prudent** [*sensible; shrewd*] **man** _____ [*covers; hides*] **knowledge** [*cunning; perception*]: **but the heart** [*mind; wisdom; understanding*] **of fools** [*silly; stupid; one who hates knowledge*] _____ [*calls; proclaims*] **foolishness**.

1. A **wise man** does not declare all that he _____.

Ecclesiastes 3:7 - ⁷A time to rend, and a time to sew; **A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;**

2. A **fool** opens his mouth, and reveals to all his _____.

Ecclesiastes 10:14 - ¹⁴**A fool also is full of** [*multiplies*] **words**: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him?

D. _____ **and** _____ **are the reward of hard work.** (12:24)

²⁴ **“The hand** [*power; rule*] **of the diligent** [*determined; sharp; decisive*] **shall bear rule** [*govern; reign; rule over; have dominion*]: **but the slothful** [*slack; idle; deceitful*] **shall be under tribute** [*taskmasters; forced labor; serving a superior*].”

1. The path to success is paved with _____. (12:24a)
2. The lazy, slothful man spends his life in _____ [*doing the bidding of others*]. (12:24b)

XVI. The _____ **of the tongue** (12:25)

²⁵ _____ [*anxiety; sorrow; worry*] **in the heart** [*mind; will; thoughts*] **of man maketh it stoop** [*depressed*]: **but a** _____ [*pleasant; cheerful; encouraging*] _____ [*saying; counsel; message*] **maketh it glad** [*merry; rejoice*].

XVII. The powerful effect of one’s _____ (12:26)

²⁶ **The righteous is more** _____ [*seeks; searches out; explores*] **than his neighbour** [*friend; companion*]: **but the way** [*road; path*] **of the wicked** _____ **them**. [*deceives; makes the neighbor err*]

XVIII. When opportunity knocks, who answers the door? (12:27)

²⁷ **The slothful man** [*slack; idle; deceitful*] _____ [*fry; stir; cook; gain*] _____ **that which he took in hunting** [*too lazy to dress and prepare for dinner what he has killed in the hunt*]: **but the** _____ [*reward; wealth; property*] **of a diligent** [*determined; enthusiastic*] **man is precious**. [*rare; honorable; excellent; valuable*].

XIX. The pathway of the righteous is _____ (12:28)

²⁸ **In the way** [*path; manner; course; conduct*] **of righteousness** [*rightness; justice; moral virtue*] **is life** [*nourishment; joy of living; long life*]; **and in the pathway** [*journey; road; path; byway*] **thereof there is no death** [*there is eternal life; immortality*].