

Wisdom Nourishes

Description

Proverbs 10:14-23

Proverbs 10 contrasts the wise and fools. We learn that fools live only for the now, because fools hate knowledge (1:22). To know enough for today is sufficient! We learn that the wise store up knowledge (10:14). They live with an eye for its use in the future.

Proverbs 10 speaks several times of the mouth, the lips, the tongue, and the heart. The mouth of a fool, that is, his speech, leads to ruin (v. 14), but the lips of the righteous [or the wise] nourish many (v. 21).

The lying lips of a fool spread slander (v. 18), but the prudent [or the wise] hold their tongues (v. 19).

The tongue of the righteous [or the wise] is choice silver. That is, each word that the righteous/wise person chooses and speaks has great value. In contrast, the heart of the wicked [or the fool] is of little value (v. 20). Heart is a metaphor for character. One cannot rely on the fool.

Proverbs 10:23 says, Just as a fool doing wickedness acts with laughter, so a person of understanding acts with wisdom (author's paraphrase).

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