

**A STUDY ON THE WORD FOOL FROM THE BOOK OF
PROVERBS**

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

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MATTHEW 5:16

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good
works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

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EVIL OR CHESIL?

THE BULL-HEADED FOOL

**[EVIL]
19 TIMES**

THE PIG-HEADED FOOL

**[CHESIL]
42 TIMES**

1. Proverbs 1:7
2. 7:22
3. 10:8, 10, 14
4. 10:21
5. 11:29
6. 12:15
7. 12:16
8. 14:3, 9
9. 15:5
10. 16:22
11. 17:28
12. 20:3
13. 24:7
14. 27:3
15. 27:22
16. 29:9

1. Proverbs 1:22
2. 1:32
3. 3:35
4. 8:5
5. 10:18, 23
6. 12:23
7. 13:16, 19, 20
8. 14:8, 16, 24, 33
9. 15:2, 14
10. 17:10, 12, 16, 21, 24
11. 18:2, 6, 7
12. 19:1, 10, 29
13. 23:9
14. 26:1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
15. 28:26
16. 29:11, 20

LESSON 5

WISDOM: HOW IT ACTS

I. Wisdom Based On **TRUTH**

- A. Concerning Christ (Proverbs 8:14)
- B. Concerning God (Proverbs 9:10)
- C. Concerning Self (Proverbs 14:8)
- D. Concerning The Method Of Gaining Right Information (Proverbs 18:1-2)

II. Wisdom Based On Truth **OBEYED (James 4:17)**

A. Not Truth Alone

B. **WISDOM'S ACTIONS (Proverbs 30:24-28)**

- 1. The Ant - Forethought And Preparation (Proverbs 30:25)
 - a. Prepare the soul
 - b. Prepare the heart
 - c. Prepare the mind
 - 1. History-the sovereignty and providence of God
 - 2. Math-the orderliness and design of a perfect God
 - 3. Psychology-the effects of sin on God's creation
 - 4. Biology-the love, care and omniscience of God

5. **Science-the wisdom and power of God**
 6. **Grammar-the most effective way to communicate this great message to the world**
2. **The Coney - Weakness And Security (Proverbs 30:26)**
 3. **The Locust - Unity And Cooperation (Proverbs 30:27)**
 4. **The Spider - Boldness In Prayer (Proverbs 30:28)**
 - a. **John Bunyan, an English Baptist (1628-1688)**
 - b. **A SPIDER AND A SINNER**
 1. **The spider's venom-a picture of man's sin**
 2. **The spider's web-a picture of the snares and wiles of the devil; a picture of man's best efforts (but cobwebs)**
 3. **The fly in the web-a picture of the sinner in hell**
 4. **The spider in the palace-a picture of the sinner (through Christ) approaching the throne of God**

LESSON 6

WISDOM: THE FOOLISH MAN

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **Several types of men are mentioned in Proverbs: the wise man, the fool, the sluggard, the froward, the perverse, the prudent and so on.**
- B. **The word FOOL, FOOLISH or FOLLY occurs ninety-six times in the book of Proverbs. WISE, WISELY or WISER occurs seventy times. THUS, this book, to a great extent, is a comparison of the wise man and the fool.**

II. TWO KINDS OF FOOLS

Of the ninety-six occurrences of FOOL, there are two Hebrew words used (in all but three of them). A study of these two words reveals that there are two kinds of fools in Proverbs.

A. THE BULL-HEADED FOOL

First, there is the bull-headed fool. The first word for fool is the Hebrew word evil (like our word evil, but pronounced ev-eel'). Its root meaning is **WEAKMINDED**. Yet, the word carries with it the idea of being **STRONG-WILLED, DETERMINED**. Caryl has defined this person as one who:

“Acts without counsel, whose will is too hard for his understanding, who has no reason for what he does, but because he has a mind to do it. ” (Joseph Caryl)

This fool does not want anyone to tell him what to do; he desires to do what he wants to do. He is thus bull-headed and characterized by energy and determination to have his own way.

B. THE PIG-HEADED FOOL

The other kind of fool is the pig-headed fool. The Hebrew word is chesil (kes-eel'). Its root meaning is **FAT**. Thus, the word implies one who is mentally fat, dull, inert, sluggish. Another way of putting it is to say this person, character-wise is a big blob. We are not talking about outward appearance, but character. Here then is our lazy, spoiled, inactive fool.

THUS, we have two fools: one fat, spoiled, self-centered and lazy; the other self-willed, hot-headed, determined and energetic. In other words, we have a bull and a pig.

III. THEIR REACTIONS TO INSTRUCTION AND DISCIPLINE

A. The Bullish Fool (Evil)

- 1. Despises wisdom (Proverbs 16:22)**
- 2. Does not listen to reason (Proverbs 29:9)**
- 3. Will not change (Proverbs 27:22)**

B. The Piggish Fool (Chesil)

- 1. Despises wisdom (Proverbs 1:7, 22)**
- 2. Will not listen to instruction (Proverbs 23:9)**
- 3. Is wasting his time in school (Proverbs 17:16)**
- 4. Repeats his folly; does not learn from past mistakes (Proverbs 26:11)**
 - a. Thus did Pharaoh return from his momentary conviction (Exodus 8:8, 15; 9:27)**
 - b. Ahab from his partial repentance (I Kings 21:27-29)**
 - c. Herod from his make-believe repentance (Mark 6:20-27)**
 - d. Thus do many Christians "clean house," sweep and put away their sin, but soon go back to it with seven times more energy (Matthew 12:43-45)**

IV. **THEIR ATTITUDES**

A. **The Bullish Fool**

1. **Confident (Proverbs 12:15)**
2. **Cockiness**
 - a. **Judges 2:19**
 - b. **Judges 21:25**

B. **The Piggish Fool**

1. **Complacent (Proverbs 1:32)**
2. **Careless (Proverbs 14:16)**
3. **Trusts his own heart (Proverbs 28:26)**
 - a. **The heart-the "Great Imposter" (Jeremiah 17:9)**
 - b. **The pig-headed fool wallows in the mud of his own feelings. Whatever feels right is right, according to this man.**
 - c. **CHARLES BRIDGES SAID, "Any dependence upon one's feelings, impulses, one's own strength or even upon a sincere purpose or conviction is vain confidence."**
 - d. **Peter was an example of one who ran his life by his feelings. As a result, he found himself cursing and denying his Lord before he learned his bitter lesson.**
 - e. **THUS**, we find our piggish fool, sitting back contentedly enjoying his selfish life. He does whatever he wants to do, listening to no one or nothing but his own fleshly desires and heart.

V. THEIR MOUTH

It is interesting to note that the piggish fool uses his mouth more than the bullish fool. The evil fool's mouth is mentioned only twice in Proverbs, while the chesil fool's mouth is mentioned ten times. How like these two animals- the bull and the pig. The bull is known for his energetic action, the pig for his sluggish grunting.

A. The Bullish Fool

- 1. Blames the Lord (and any other authority) for his failures (Proverbs 19:3)**
- 2. Quarrels, argues (Proverbs 20:3)**
 - a. Though the bullish fool does not use his mouth as much as his actions, nevertheless, when he does use his mouth, he does so in a hot, angry way. His speech is characterized by attacks on someone else. He has a short temper and it shows in his speech.**
 - b. Every failure is because of someone else. The bull never does anything wrong, or if he does, it really is not his fault.**
 - c. The word meddling means quarreling.**
 - d. The fool enjoys arguing. He wants to argue about rules, about standards, about the Bible. Watch for this characteristic-it is the sign of the bull.**

B. The Piggish Fool

- 2. Spreads slander (Proverbs 10:18)**
- 3. Spouts folly (Proverbs 15:2, 14)**
- 4. Does not spread knowledge (Proverbs 15:7)**

5. Says what he thinks (Proverbs 12:23; 29:11)
6. Causes strife (Proverbs 18:6,7)
7. Brags (Proverbs 14:33)
8. Expresses his opinions rather than the Word (Proverbs 18:2)
9. Lies (Proverbs 19:1)
 - a. There are two ways to lie (according to Proverbs 10:18): by hating someone while pretending to like him, and by slanting or twisting what someone did to make it seem wrong. Slander is telling a half-truth, twisting the truth or not telling all the truth so a wrong impression is given. The piggish fool is a master at this. He can either 1) pretend to love those he hates, or he can 2) tell lies about them by leaving out those facts that do not help his case.
 - b. The piggish fool is discovered by the things he talks about. You will note that his talk 1) never increases one's knowledge (it is always empty talk), and it is little more than 2) folly (HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED PEOPLE WHO NEVER TALK ABOUT ANYTHING SERIOUSLY, BUT THEY ONLY JOKE AND ACT FOOLISHLY?) is usually 3) self-centered, calling attention to one's personal accomplishments, and is 4) opinion-centered. This person is always saying, "Well, I think. . . ." but he can never give Scripture for his beliefs.
 - c. Proverbs 13:16 says, "A fool layeth open his folly." That is, you can tell whether a man is a fool or not by observing his characteristics. Watch how men act, observe their speech; and you will see many bulls and scores of pigs.
 - d. The piggish fool delights in saying what he thinks. After all, he is secure in his little world. He has everything

going his way. He does not worry about what anybody thinks or says. Complacency and carelessness mark this person. Who cares how his words hurt or harm?

- e. **Finally**, you will note that his words cause strife. Some people have a way with words. They can divide a church in a minute with a few well-chosen words. His mouth "calleth for strokes" (Proverbs 18:6). He can make people mad enough to fight. Then he laughs at their "sin."

VI. **THEIR SIN**

A. **The Bullish Fool**

1. **The bullish fool is mentioned only once regarding sin (Proverbs 14:9).**
2. **Mocks at sin**
3. **The bullish fool thinks sin is funny. He does not fear it; he likes it. In fact, he enjoys seeing the righteous shocked by his sin. He thinks they are dumb to think he is a bad sinner.**

B. **The Piggish Fool**

1. **Enjoys sin (like a sport or game) (Proverbs 10:23)**
2. **Thinks it a sin not to sin (Proverbs 13:19)**
3. **Never considers the consequences (Proverbs 14:8)**

The piggish fool, careless and complacent (as we have already seen), trusting only his own feelings, enjoys sin to the hilt. Sin is his sport, his fun, his entertainment. In fact, it is a sin (abomination) not to sin!

5. **But how can men regard sin as a sport if they have seen sin as heaven sees it? Sin brought death into our world. Is that a joking matter? Sin nailed our Saviour to the cross. Is that something to take lightly? Sin causes every funeral, every disease, every tragedy, every broken home in the world. Is that something to laugh about? Let the sinner go to Gethsemane and see Christ's tears. Let him stand at Calvary and see Christ's agony and blood. Let him visit hell and see sin's wages.**
6. **If sin is sport to you, remember that hell's sport is the burning of sinners. Oh, dear ones, consider the consequences. Do not play the fool!**

LESSON 7

WISDOM: THE WISE MAN AND THE FOOLISH MAN

I. Review

- A. **Proverbs 13:16 says a fool "layeth open his folly. "**
- B. **That is, "you can tell a fool by the way he acts. "**

II. HIS FRIENDS

A. The Bullish Fool (Evil)

1. **Gets his friends in trouble (Proverbs 17:12)**
2. **The Bullish Fool is more dangerous than a bear whose cubs have been stolen.**
 - a. **We are to beware of this individual.**
 - b. **You can be friendly to the bullish fool, but you cannot become his close buddy.**
 - c. **To do so is to ask for destruction.**

B. The Piggish Fool (Chesil)

1. Gets his friends in trouble (Proverbs 13:20)

a. Proverbs 13:20 reveals that we can tell a wise man by the friends he chooses.

b. **THE WISE MAN WILL WALK WITH WISE MEN.**

c. Therefore, a wise person will not run with those who have the characteristics of the fool.

d. To do so invites trouble.

2. LOOK AT PSALM 119:63.

a. How would you characterize your best friends?

b. Do they fear the Lord?

c. Do they live pure, holy lives?

d. Do they love to talk about the things of the Lord?

e. Do they witness?

f. Are they faithful in church?

g. Do they listen?

h. Are they growing in the things of the Lord?

i. Or, are they bullish or piggish?

3. Look at Joash and 2 Chronicles 24.

4. If we can...
 - a. Live in a worldly environment without feeling out of place
 - b. Run with the ungodly without missing a spiritual atmosphere
 - c. Talk about the things of the world without a desire to talk about the Lord
 - d. Run with those who violate God's Word without feeling guilty...
 - e. **THEN WE'D BETTER BE CONCERNED ABOUT OUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION.**
5. **REMEMBER**, 1 Corinthians 15: 33 tells us that **BAD COMPANY CORRUPTS GOOD MORALS.**
6. When God saves our souls, He saves us not only from hell and for His glory, but He saves us from sinful company (Acts 2:40).

III. HIS HOME

A. The Bullish Fool

1. Destructive influence (Proverbs 14:1)
2. Rejects his father's discipline (Proverbs 15:5)
3. Subjection to parents is also the law of God.
 - a. When God gave the ten commandments, He divided them into two divisions:

b. The first four deal with **MAN'S
RELATIONSHIP TO GOD**

c. The last six deal with **MAN'S
RELATIONSHIP TO MAN.**

1. The final five commandments are based on the
**PARENT-CHILD
RELATIONSHIP.**

2. God's law demands that we subject ourselves to
our parents.

a. **AND HOW IS THIS DONE?**

b. First, by making sure that the spirit of the
first four commandments is true in our
lives-that we have a right relationship
with the Lord.

c. Next, by making sure that our obedience
is not just outward, but inward.

1. The word honour deals with our
inward subjection.

2. We are not to just go through the
motions of obedience, we are to
truly respect, love and want to
honour our parents.

4. Ephesians 6:1-3 gives further insight to this law by adding two things:

a. **OBEDIENCE IS RIGHT** (Ephesians 6:1)

1 Obedience is outward righteousness and is expected by God.

2. **NO CHILD CAN BE RIGHT WITH GOD AND DISOBEDIENT TO HIS PARENTS.**

3. His relationship to his parents will be but a mirror of his relationship to his God.

b. **HONOURING PARENTS CARRIES A PROMISE** (Ephesians 6:2-3)

1. The fifth commandment is the first commandment that carries with it a promise.

2. God has promised to bless any child who will honour his parents.

3. Furthermore, God brought great pain and sorrow into the lives of those who refused to honour and obey their parents (I SAMUEL 2:22-25).

4. You cannot disobey your parents without disobeying the Lord, for it is God who has commanded you to obey them.

a. Thus, we see how foolish it is to disobey your parents.

- b. You are disobeying both the law of nature and the law of God, you are setting aside a promise of blessing, and you are asking for punishment both from your parents and from God.**
- c. Only the fool would make such a choice.**

B. The Piggish Fool

- 1. Despises his mother (Proverbs 15:20)**
- 2. Destroys his father (Proverbs 19:13)**
- 3. Brings grief and hurt to his parents (Proverbs 17:21, 25)**
 - a. Many are the miseries of life, but none like those that come from one's children. There is no love on earth closer to God's love than that of a mother. Yet, the piggish, spoiled, fat fool could not care less. He steps all over his mother's heart. He destroys his dad with equal carelessness. Jacob's children caused him great pain and grief. He once told them that they would bring his gray hairs "with sorrow to the grave" (Genesis 42:38).**
 - b. Surely, "a foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him" (Proverbs 17:25). Absalom was named "His father's peace", yet he was the cause of his father's most painful grief.**
 - c. What have you done to your parents? Are they proud of you? Are you a source of real joy and peace in their hearts? Do you live to honour them? Or are you adding to their anxieties and worries?**

IV. HIS GOALS

A. The Bullish Fool

- 1. You will note that the bull-headed fool has no problem in this area.**
- 2. Why?**
- 3. Because he is full of goals.**
- 4. His goals are not wholesome, but his energetic strong-willed approach to life affords him many goals.**

B. The Piggish Fool

- 1. The pig-headed fool, however, has a problem with goals and Solomon has a proverb for it.**
- 2. He has no goals (Proverbs 17:24)**
 - a. The pig-headed fool-as might be expected of one so inwardly fat, lazy and contented-has no goals. His eyes are constantly wandering-his thoughts are never concentrated on any one thing-his desires are temporary. He just does according to his feelings, which may change from day to day. He has no definite objective in life, no settled principles, no certain rules. Talent, cultivation of his mind and improvement of his character are the least of his concerns.**

- b. Do you have definite goals in life? Are these goals Godly? Are they Biblical? Have these goals and purposes come through prayer and a study of the Word? Or, are you like the jellyfish, floating with the tide, taking whatever comes along? Are you purposefully **STEERING** or are you **DRIFTING**? (Remember Bill Borden!)

V. HIS RESOURCES

A. The Bullish Fool (These areas do not apply to the bullish fool.)

B. The Piggish Fool

- 1. Again, it is the chesil piggish fool in view. The energetic, strong-willed fool takes advantage of his opportunities. He may have great purpose in life and so will not be wasteful, but it is a different story with the pig-headed fool.

2. **WASTES OR SQUANDERS HIS RESOURCES** (Proverbs 21:20)

- a. Time
- b. Opportunities
- c. Institutions

VI. HIS ANGER

A. The Bullish Fool

- 1. Uncontrolled (Proverbs 14:17)
- 2. Quick to lose his temper (Proverbs 14:29)
- 3. Lingers in his anger (Proverbs 27:3)
 - a. We have not had much to say about the bull-headed fool lately. However, when we come to the subject of

anger, he is the star. Snorting and stomping is his nature. Thus, Proverbs has more to say of his anger than that of our pig-headed fool.

- b. How can you tell a fool? He is “soon angry” (Proverbs 14:17) . His temper flares out of control at the slightest provocation.**
- c. SEE Bridges on Proverbs, pp. 189-190.**
- d. THUS, we find that a strong-willed person is a prime target for making a fool of himself in front of everyone else.**
- e. Moses, the meekest man on earth, was condemned because of a quick temper.**
- f. Consider what the Bible says about a quick, uncontrolled temper:**
 - 1. It gives the devil an opportunity (Ephesians 4:26-27)**
 - 2. It grieves the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30)**
 - 3. It is contrary to the mind and example of Christ (Matthew 11:29; Philippians 2:3-5).**
 - 4. It is inconsistent with the gospel of salvation (Col. 3:8,12,13).**
 - 5. It is degrading to human nature (Proverbs 17:12; 25:8; 29:20).**
 - 6. It is a work of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21).**

7. It condemns to hell (Matthew 5:22)

8. **SURELY, THEN WE SHOULD STRIVE TO BE SLOW TO ANGER.**

g. But the bull-headed fool not only loses his temper quickly, he also stays mad for some time, Like a rock or a bag of sand tied to the foot of one in the water, the anger of a fool lingers and drags one lower and lower, An angry fool stays sullen for a long time. Absalom kept his anger for two years (2 Samuel 13:22-23). Yet, David's anger melted away at the first words of reproof (1 Samuel 25:32-33), **THUS, WE CAN TELL THE CHRISTIAN'S ANGER FROM THE UNGODLY, FOOLISH ANGER.**

The child of God may sin and become angry, **BUT** it is soon over. The fool, however, harbors his anger, lets it burn and seethe until bitterness develops.

B. The Piggish Fool

1. Uncontrolled (Proverbs 12:16)

2. The chesil fool is mentioned only once in Proverbs concerning anger: "A fool's wrath is presently known." This selfish, lazy, spoiled fool has a temper, too, While not as volatile as the bull, nevertheless his sordid, sottish mind explodes with anger anytime he cannot have his selfish way, His wrath is "presently known" (i. e. "known at once"). Someone has said, "An unbridled tongue is the proof of an unrenewed heart." The piggish fool has no command of himself. On the first rising, he bursts out with an uncontrollable impulse. His passions get hold of him, trample reason under foot, change his whole appearance and conquer his mind with temporary insanity. This kind of selfish anger was seen in Saul's attacks against David, and in Jezebel's boiling rage against Elijah (1 Kings 19: 1-2). **THEY WERE PIGS!**

3. Yet, far more grievous is the pig and bull's anger in a child of God, as we noted in Moses, the meekest of men (Numbers 20:10-11), in David, the man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 25:21-22), in Asa, whose heart was "completely" with God all his days (2 Chronicles 16:10). Nothing will more excite the ungodly to scoff at a child of God and scream "hypocrite" than to see a Christian lose his temper.

4. **DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR TEMPER?** Perhaps it is because there is still 1) a strong self-will that has not been humbled before God, or perhaps you are 2) fat and self-centered, filled with piggish pride. Go to God in prayer and ask Him, who calms the storms, to calm the storm within your soul. Keep your eyes on His example who "being reviled, reviled not again."

VII. HIS ORIGIN AND CURE

A. The Bullish Fool

1. Born a fool, cured by the
2. **ROD** (Proverbs 22:15)

B. The Piggish Fool

1. Cured by the **ROD** (Proverbs 26:3)
2. Fools are born. But are some born fools and others not? All men are born fools. All children are born with either pig-headed or bull-headed tendencies bound in them. Have you ever noticed that you do not have to teach a child to be selfish, to lie, to take what is not his? Man is born a sinner, a fool. The very root and fruit of sin is inborn in all of us. **SIN IS WILLFULNESS, THE DETERMINATION TO HAVE OUR WAY, THE UTTER REBELLION AGAINST ALL RULES AND LAWS AND AUTHORITY.** No one is exempt from

these tendencies.

3. How then can we be cured? The answer is the same for both the evil and the chesil-the rod! Learn now that the discipline of your father and mother is your greatest good. Over and over God urges the use of the rod (Proverbs 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 26:3; 29:15, 17; Hebrews 12:10).
4. The rod is not a symbol of hatred or of a parent's selfishness, but a sign of love. Note Proverbs 13:24. Why is the rod used? Because it is God's instrument for removing men from sin. Note 2 Chronicles 33:12-13.
5. Sometimes God uses the rod. **WHEN** parents do not use it, **GOD WILL. WHEN** parents use it sparingly, **GOD WILL** use it heavily-**LATER**. It may be ten years down the road, but God will use it.
6. How can we avoid it? By applying the principles of God's Word in our lives...By applying our hearts to wisdom. Only then will foolishness dissolve without the rod. **THIS STUDY CAN SAVE YOU MANY TEARS, MANY FAILURES AND MANY STRIPES.**
Do you see characteristics of the **chesil** or the **evil** in your life? Apply the instrument of God's wisdom to them immediately. Submit yourself to His Word and will, and walk thereby.