***PROVERBS***

Ch. 12:21-28

**Proverbs 12:21**

 A. Righteous persons will experience trouble, yet God will manage the degree, duration, and the depth of the trouble

 B. The wicked will not be rescued from their trouble; because they pursued evil, they will be filled with evil.

**Proverbs 12:22**

 A. God loves the truth and regards those that spread lies as an offense or an abomination

 B. The same God takes delight in those who value and tell the truth

 1. The lesson is plain: stop lying and start telling the truth!

**Proverbs 12:23**

 A. It is a mark of wisdom and prudence to not reveal all that we know, especially if it may harm or disgrace others

 B. It is in the nature of fools to proclaim their foolishness---what is in the heart will eventually be revealed

**Proverbs 12:24**

 A. This is both according to the blessing of God and the nature of the world and society.

 1. Hard working people achieve and come to places of leadership.

 B. The lazy man will be ruled over by others because he is unfit to rule over others or even himself

 1. Stated bluntly, the diligent rise to the top and the lazy sink to the bottom!

**Proverbs 12:25**

 A. Depression may come from fear and anxiety within the heart---This is why we are often told…. **Phil. 4:6**

 B. Encouragement costs little from the one who gives it, but can do enormous good for the one who receives it

 1. Think of the many times Jesus spoke a simple good word and made others glad---**Matt. 9:2; Luke 8:48; John 8:11**

**Proverbs 12:26**

 A. Solomon asserts that those who pursue godliness and truth can provide genuine help for others

 B. Those that are selfish and ungodly will draw people in the wrong direction

 1. A consistent theme of Proverbs is that godly wisdom leads to life and success, while rejecting God leads to disaster

**Proverbs 12:27**

 A. The lazy man does not finish the job and never enjoys the fruit of his work because he is too lazy

 1. “Just as one who might hunt but never cook what he finds, so the lazy person never completes a project.” (Ross)

 B. Many great things are accomplished with little talent, but great diligence

**Proverbs 12:28**

 A. It is a common belief that righteousness is boring or unpleasant---The truth is that in the way of righteousness is life

 B. life righteousness brings is not only for the present but also for eternity.

 1. Those who walk in the way of righteousness will receive and know eternal life, beginning now into eternity.