

# HOW TO SPOT A FOOL

*A Study From The Proverbs*

# WHAT IS WISDOM?

[Proverbs 1:2-3]

## ● “TO *KNOW*”

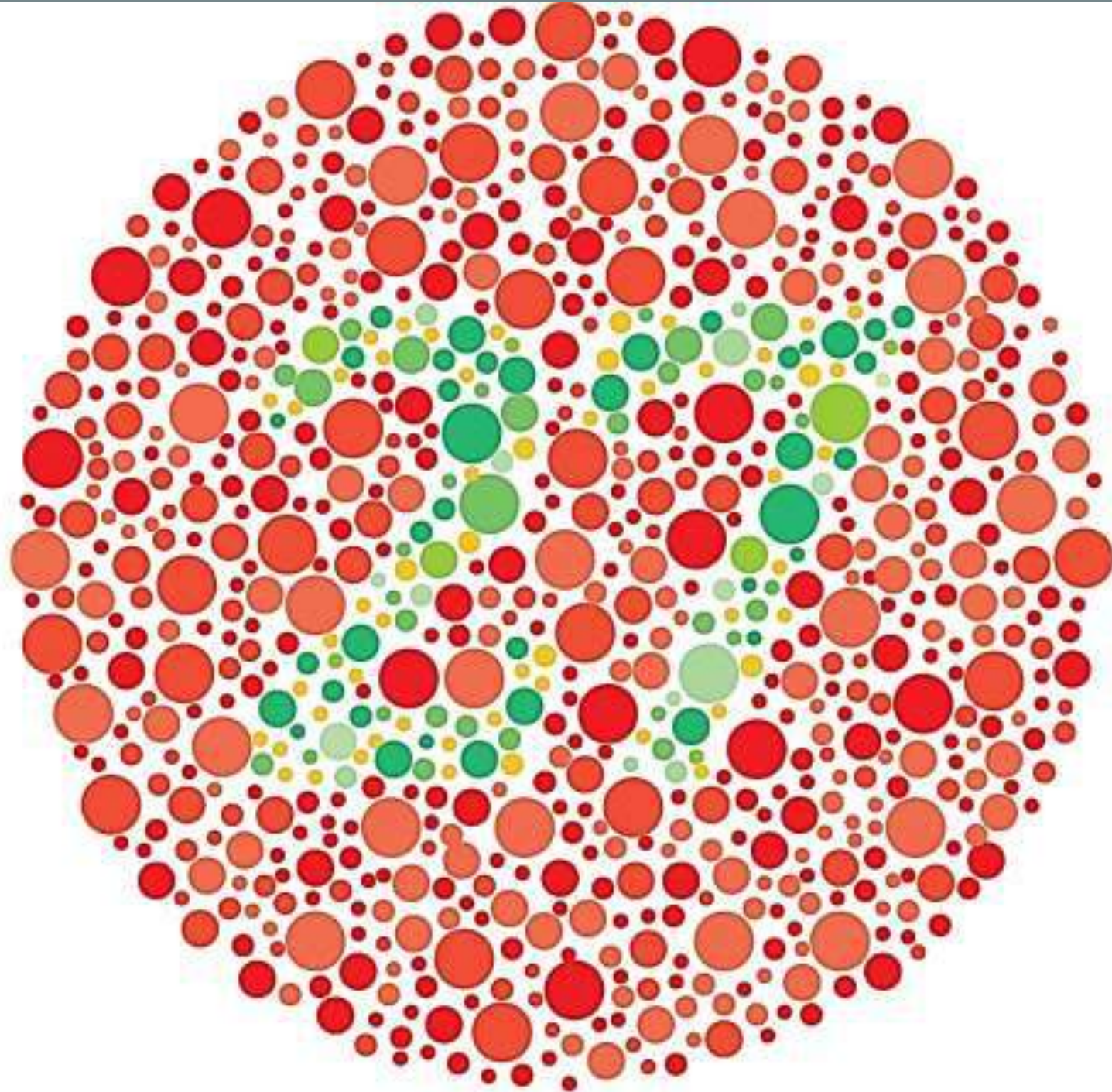
- “To be sensible of, by sight...by touch...but chiefly in the mind; hence to understand ... to mark and observe with a purpose ... that which comes unexpectedly or suddenly men are said not to know [Job 9:5]” (Wilson p.240)
- Sensible of what is going on, what is to come (SIGHT & FORSIGHT)
- Cp “Wicked Steward” of Luke 16.

# WHAT IS WISDOM?

[Proverbs 1:2-3]

- **“ TO PERCEIVE ”**

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- **Cp. With Jesus in wilderness [Mt. 4].**

# WHAT IS WISDOM?

[Proverbs 1:2-3]

- **“RECEIVE The Instruction...”**
  - “Take what is given ... take as a charge” (WWS).  
Word of God is NOT book of suggestions!
  - Cp James 1:21b-22.
    - ***“...Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*”**

WISE MAN or *Fool*?  
Defined By **ACTION!**



## Proverbs 1:20-31 KJV

Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: (21) She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, *saying*, (22) How long, ye simple ones, will ye **love** simplicity? and the scorers **delight** in their scorning, and **fools hate knowledge**? (23) Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. (24) Because I have called, and **ye refused**; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; (25) But ye have **set at nought all my counsel**, and would none of my reproof: (26) I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh... (28) Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: (29) For that they hated knowledge, and **did not choose the fear of the LORD**: (30) They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. (31) Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices



**Five Areas Where “*FOLLY*”**

**Is Made Clear...**

# #1. HOW THEY SPEAK!

- ***“The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.”***

[Proverbs 15:2]

- “Useth knowledge aright” (Cp. Isa. 23:16)—*Skillful playing of harp.*
- “Poureth out” (flow, *belch* -- See Ps. 59:7). *Reckless. Thoughtless.*

## Skillful Use of Language vs. “Running On” At Mouth.

- [10:19-20 RSV] *“When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is prudent ...*
- *The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the mind of the wicked is of little worth.”*

# Skillful Use of Language vs. “Running On” At Mouth.

- [15:28] RSV

“The mind of the righteous ponders (*“studieth” KJV*) how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.”

# Skillful Use of Language vs. “Running On” At Mouth.

- [26:17] RSV

“He who meddles in a quarrel  
not his own is like one who  
takes a *passing dog* by the  
ears.”

# Skillful Use of Language vs. “Running On” At Mouth.

- [18:13]

“He that answereth a matter  
before he heareth *it*, *it is* folly  
and shame unto him.”

# Skillful Use of Language vs. “Running On” At Mouth.

- [17:28]

“Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise:  
and he that shutteth his lips is  
esteemed a man of understanding.”



## #2 HOW *HANDLE* MONEY!

- Covetousness

## ***Believes In “FINANCIAL SECURITY”***

- **Proverbs 23:4-5** *Do not wear yourself out getting rich. Be smart enough to stop. (5) Will you catch only a fleeting glimpse of wealth before it is gone? It makes wings for itself like an eagle flying into the sky.*
- **Proverbs 11:28** *Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.*

***Thinks “Financial Success” IS Success!***

“THOU SHALT  
NOT  
COVET”



M. LEONE  
BRACKER  
1925



# Thinks “Financial Success” IS Success!

- Proverbs 22:1-2 *A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold. (2) The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all.*
- Proverbs 15:16 *Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it.*

## Other Extreme: **CARELESSNESS!**

- **Neglectful [27:23-27]**
  - *“Tend to your business.”*
- **Overextended / Debt**  
[6:1-5] [22:26-27] [22:7]
- **Squander vs. Saving**  
Proverbs 21:20 KJV *There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.*

## Other Extreme: CARELESSNESS!

- Proverbs 28:19 KJV

**He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain *persons* shall have poverty enough.**

- ***“Follows vain pursuits”*** [NAS]

***“Chases fantasies”*** [NIV]



## #3 THEIR *TEMPERAMENT!*

- **[Proverbs 14:17 RSV]** “A man of quick temper acts foolishly, but a man of discretion is patient.”
- **[Proverbs 14:29]** “He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.”
- **[Proverbs 29:11 RSV]** “A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man quietly holds it back.”
- **[Proverbs 20:3 NAS]** “Keeping away from strife is an **HONOR** for a man, but any fool will quarrel.”

# THEIR *TEMPERAMENT!*

- **KEY: Stop at START!**

- [Proverbs 17:14] “*The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.*” [NAS]
- [15:1] “*A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*”
- **If STARTED, STOP!** [30:32-33]
- **All this takes STRENGTH!** [16:32]

## #4 THEIR *FAMILY* LIFE!

- “*Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.” [Proverbs 14:1]
  - **Hâras** (*haw-ras'*) - To *pull down* or in pieces, *break, destroy.*
  - **Cp. Judgment upon Tyre [Ezk. 26:3-4]***

## HOW To Pull Down Own House:

- ***“It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.”***  
**[Proverbs 21:19]**
- ***“A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.”*** **[Proverbs 12:4]**
- ***“As a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.”***  
**[Proverbs 11:22]**

## **MEN** Who Are *Disloyal*:

- [Proverbs 9:13-18] – “*Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.*”
- [Proverbs 5:3-17] – “*Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well...*”
- [Proverbs 6:20-35] – “*To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.*”

## PARENTS Leave Child To SELF!

- **[Proverbs 29:15, 17]** *“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame ...*
- Correct *thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.”*

## #5 HOW THEY VALUE THE *SPIRITUAL AND ETERNAL*

- ***“The Fear Of The Lord.”***

- [1:7] Beginning of KNOWLEDGE.
  - [9:10] Beginning of WISDOM.
  - [15:33] INSTRUCTION of wisdom.
- [16:6] Causes DEPARTURE from evil.
  - [8:13] Causes HATRED of evil.
- [14:2] Keeps us WALKING UPRIGHT.
  - [14:27] It is a FOUNTAIN OF LIFE.



# At Heart Of True Religion Is SPIRITUAL MIND!

- ***“Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day. Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off.” [Proverbs 23: 17-18]***
  - Born of the understanding that there are things HIGHER and more LASTING than this life!
  - It reflects a TRUST in God and PATIENCE to wait for judgment.

# *How To Spot A Fool . . .*

1. By How They **SPEAK**.
2. By How They Handle Their **MONEY**.
3. By How They Handle Their **TEMPER**.
4. By Their Handle Their **FAMILY**.
5. By Whether Have A **SPIRITUAL** Or **CARNAL OUTLOOK**.