

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity
April 22, 2024 | “Foolproof” | **Proverbs 17:1–28**

Five Exhortations to Foolproof Your Life:

- 1) Put your _____ in _____
(17:1–6)

- 2) Be a _____ of _____
(17:7–16)

- 3) Keep your _____
(17:17–22)

- 4) Don't _____
(17:23–26)

- 5) Choose your _____
(17:27–28)

Questions for further application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Proverbs 17:1–28. How is foolishness described in this chapter? What is foolishness contrasted with in this passage (e.g. good speech, teachability, wisdom, justice)?

What does integrity look like according to Solomon? Give some examples of behavior that lacks integrity. Is integrity an outworking of wisdom and the fear of the Lord? If so, how so?

Why is it abominable to the Lord for the wicked to be justified and the righteous to be punished (17:15)? Why is injustice so bothersome to the Lord and to Solomon (see 17:26)? How could the Lord be satisfied when we, as sinners, are justified? Does justification (in Christ) mean that our sins go unpunished?

GET PERSONAL

Read Proverbs 17:3. How does the Lord test hearts? What does he test (e.g. sincerity, loyalty, commitment)? What are some examples of people being tested in the Scriptures? How has he tested you? How has character been formed and refined in your life through trials?

Read Proverbs 17:17. Give an example of a faithful friend who stood by you through adversity. What does a biblical friendship look like? How did some of your closest friendships form? How did they grow? What do you find most difficult in forging real friendships? Is it possible to forge real friendships without an investment of time? What does biblical brotherhood/sisterhood look like? In what ways can your friendships become more spiritually edifying?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Read Proverbs 17:9. How does this passage reinforce the biblical theme of forgiveness? Why is forgiveness necessary for relationships? Are there people in your life that you need to forgive? Are you reminding them of their mistakes and repeating them to others?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18–25. Why did the Apostle Paul use the term “foolishness” (or “folly”) for the cross? Paul could have used any number of words to positively describe the cross. Why this word? Was he being ironic? Was he contrasting the cross with “worldly wisdom”? What’s the difference between God’s wisdom and the world’s wisdom?