



- 1 As snow in summer and rain in harvest,
So honor is not fitting for a fool.
- 2 Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow,
So a curse without cause shall not alight.
- 3 A whip for the horse,
A bridle for the donkey,
And a rod for the fool's back.
- 4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly,
Lest you also be like him.
- 5 Answer a fool according to his folly,
Lest he be wise in his own eyes.
- 6 He who sends a message by the hand of a fool
Cuts off his own feet and drinks violence.
- 7 Like the legs of the lame that hang limp
Is a proverb in the mouth of fools.
- 8 Like one who binds a stone in a sling
Is he who gives honor to a fool.
- 9 Like a thorn that goes into the hand of a drunkard
Is a proverb in the mouth of fools.
- 10 The great God who formed everything
Gives the fool his hire and the transgressor his wages.
- 11 As a dog returns to his own vomit,
So a fool repeats his folly.
- 12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Pastor leads his family in a selection from "the Proverb of the day." In these twelve verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that fools bring misery upon those beneath them, those who entrust things to them, and especially upon themselves. In Christ, God offers forgiveness and repentance from folly, but a proud fool is being hardened to a state that becomes utterly hopeless.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Proverbs 26, verses 1 through 12. These are God's words as snow in summer and rain in harvest. So honor is not fitting for a fool, like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow. So a curse without cause shall not alight a whip for the horse a bridle, for the donkey on the rod for the fools back.

And, or do not answer a fool according to his folly. That you also be like him answer a full, according to his folly less. He be wise in his own eyes, he who sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off his own feet and drinks violence.

Like the legs of the lame that hang limp as a proverb and the mouthfuls, like one who binds a stone in a sling as he who gives honor to a fool.

Like a thorn that goes into the hand of a drunkard is a proverb and the mouthfuls, The great God, who formed, everything gives the fool his higher and the transgressor has wages.

As a dog returns to his own vomit. So, a fool repeats his folly. Do you see a man? Why isn't his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool, then for him.

So, for the reading of God's inspired and inherent work,

One of the worst things you can do, Let's put a full in a position of leadership or authority.

It's inappropriate but also directly harmful verse 1 isn't just describing inconveniences. It's describing what would devastate an agrarian society? They would lose their food. They would have a famine people would die, not quite as devastating, but I once candidated at a church and it was late summer. And I just preached at that church, whatever the next passages were Bethesda, where I was pastoring at the time and there are very encouraging passages.

As I preached, very encouraging servants. And I had asked before the service, what were the concerns of the congregation so that I could lift them on behalf of the congregation in the pastoral prayer? Because I didn't know that congregation. Well, and I said, all while, we're really need rain.

And I prayed for rain, and I don't remember if it had rained immediately after or not, but it didn't rain that much. Over the next several weeks. The congregation thought that they should get beat up well by every sermon. And so, the session who are the search committee invited me back into signed to me very convicting texts.

So that I would preach those as well and beat them up. And then the congregation would feel happy about me being their preacher. I made the mistake of not asking what to pray for beforehand. And I prayed for rain, but by that time, it was time to harvest and one of the farmers, like, the whole country was fall farmers, but one of the men in the congregation afterwards that said Thank you very much, much better.

Sermon which you know, he knew more about me, the more about farming than I did. God bless him for thinking that it's a good sermon. If you get beat up, God have mercy on him. I should say. But then he said, I hope God doesn't answer your prayer because we're drawing to harvest and if it rains it's going to put all the cotton on the ground and we'll be ruined.

Verse one is devastating How sad it would be My dear children. If you came to be a husband or a wife, a father, or a mother, a congregation elder and or a decent in the congregation, young young men, and your family, or your children, or your church will ruined because you were in that position.

So let us careful attention to the rest of the passage. As we learn more, about fools verse 2 is comforting. If you have a full sitting in authority over you like a flitting sparrow like a flying swallow. So a curse without cause shall not alight Fools who are in authority.

They instead of rewarding the good and punishing evil, they often reward the evil and punish the good. I called on a curse upon you but verse 2 of Proverbs, 26 teaches us. Similarly to Romans 13. And that is that the Lord is the one who is in the highest seed of authority.

All magistrates or lesser magistrates. Don't be afraid of the curses and the temporary punishments of earthly masters. If you have a husband who deals unfairly with you, If you have parents who deal unfairly with you, if you have elders, you deal unfairly with you. If you have civil magistrate to deal unjustly with you, and they are fools.

In that case, The curse will not ultimately alight. It won't ultimately land with the force of which you should be afraid of a cursed landing, which is when you deserve it, and they punish you. And then it comes with all the authority and force of heaven, and only the blood of Jesus can wipe away.

Its guilt. The unbeliever who is punished in this world. Is receiving the tiny little tiniest little beginning of adjjustice. That will continue and increase forever. The believer, whose punished in this world. Justly for a sin is receiving the tiniest. Little portion of what his sin deserved and should well up with gratitude that Christ has actually taken the guilt or else.

The portion would never end.

So don't worry about what the foolish magistrate does or says. Now, if you do receive discipline for being a fool, You shouldn't say why me or complain against it? If you're a horse and you say, why are you whipping me? The answer is because you're a horse and you didn't do what you're supposed to do.

And if you're a donkey and you say, why am I bridled? My answer is because you're a donkey and you never do what you're supposed to do. Of course if you're the whole donkey in the prophet and you say, why are you beating me like that? Then you hope God opens a profit size to see the angel who's about to kill you.

But if you're a fool and you get the rod and you have the question, why did I get the rod on my back? The answer is because you're a fool and you're more like the donkey than the horse, but you need both the bridle and the whip. You get the rod Now, verses 4 and 5 confuse a lot of people, but it's really not that complex.

Do not answer a fool according to his folly. LEST You also be like him. The second half of the verse

tells you what the first half of the verse is saying, If a fool is speaking in a particular way, don't speak in the way that he's speaking or you'll be like him.

Don't let a fool bring you down to his level, but don't say nothing either. If it's your responsibility, it to correct the fool in which which is the case when you're in authority, or when you're a brother in Christ and he has caught in his sin. And the way Matthew 18 or Galatians 6, describe answer a fool according to his folly.

Last TBY is in his own eyes. Now obviously this is the kind of fool who will listen to you. This is the kind of fool who has not descended all the way to what we're going to hear about in verse 12. That is frightening. Okay, verse 12. We'll just read that.

Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There's more hope for a fool than for him. There are people who to use the Bibles terms for all practical person purposes are swine and whatever you speak from God's Word. The, you know, though, it be wisely selected and timed and delivered.

You give them that pearl. They're just gonna trample on it So don't give Pearl. Don't cast pearls before swine. And don't give what is holy to dogs someone wise in his own eye, as a swine and a dog and will not receive the correction. But in order to keep those who are under you and your brothers and sisters in Christ who are engaged in some foli or believing some folly from descending to the point of verse 12, You want to answer them, not in the foolish way that they spoke.

But in a wise way that shows why what they said or how they said it is foolish so that you will help him not get down there. Now, what verses 3 and 4. Don't leave room for is answering a fool in order to show everybody else that he's a fool.

Humiliation is not the point of verse 4, helping him not descend through the levels of folly until he's in the position of verse 12 is the point of sorry of verse 5. He who sends a message by the hand of a full cuts off his own feet and drinks violence.

In other words, don't practice the time honored since the 1970s tradition of giving church responsibility to people who are probably not even believers or our irresponsible hoping that they will take some ownership of their part on the church by your giving them this task and trying to suck them in that way.

No! That's how you cut off feet and drink violence.

You give little tasks to those. You have not proven themselves and those who prove themselves in little, you give them more as the Lord. Jesus described about the talents and the minus, like the legs of the lame that hang limp is a proverb in the mouth of fools. You need Proverbs in your heart and in your mind until they have corrected your own folly Before you start running around and telling everybody else.

The, the thing that you have learned that they should do, okay, there are people who get corrected or learn something and they're not, you know, they haven't taken it to heart and meditated upon it. They haven't started to make the the growth in sanctification of their repentance. And they make it the thing that they're going to tell everybody at church this week and they go around and they tell everyone.

The thing that they think is wise and they might not even be right, that it's wise. Don't be like that. You keep it to yourself and you implement it in your life. Lest you be as useful to them with what you say as a cripples legs? The legs are there but they don't do them any good and you might run around saying something that is true but because it's coming from you and you hadn't started to live it yet.

It's not doing anybody. Any good, like one who binds a stone in a sling as he who gives honor to a fool. Okay. That's a repetition of the idea in verse 1 and the idea in verse 6, You want a stone in a sling but you want the stone in the sling in the right way.

If you say, you know what, stones and slings are really good ideas and I know this guy isn't ready to be the the sling yet, I'm gonna use him to deliver the stone. I'm, I'm just gonna help him a little bit to hold on to that stone. That he doesn't know how to hold up.

I'm gonna sow the stone into him. Don't put people in position of responsibility who have not been given the gifts and graces yet that are required for that responsibility like a thorn that goes into the hand of a. Drunkard is a proverb in the mouth of fools, thorns were very useful things.

They were very dry and they contained flammable oil and then you'd use them to start a fire. But if you wanted to carry thorns, it wouldn't put it in the hands of a drunk who doesn't know how, you know, he's, he's lost the use of his senses, to some extent.

He's not carrying it correctly and so it just stabs himself, the great God, who formed, everything gives the fool his higher and the transgressor is wages as a dog returns to his own vomit. So a four repeats as folly, Praise God, we may have grace and mercy and forgiveness for him because that's the only path

out of folly Problem with a fool.

Is he deserves to stay a fool and apart from faith? In Jesus Christ, you will not get rid of your foolishness because God is repaying you with it. And however, well you think you are doing for a time, you will be getting worse in your heart and you will come out worse in the end.

Because God, who formed? Everything gives the full his higher in the transgressor his wages. And that's why the fool keeps repeating his folly. Just like the dog keeps eating his puke. I think we might have better dog hygiene for domesticated pets. Dogs were unclean. They didn't have domesticated bets.

Domesticated dog pets in Israel But the good news is we don't have to get what we deserve. Sophia. Why don't we have to get what we deserve? Why don't we have to go to hell? You.

Yes. Because God died on the cross. He became a man so that he could die and so that he could obey in our place first, and then die in our place. And Jesus dying for us, is why you don't have to go to hell. And Jesus dying for us, is why you don't have to stay foolish.

Even though you deserve it Instead God exercises, his Almighty power, not to give you to stay foolish, which is what you deserve, but to come out of your folly. Now he gives us the privilege of not only helping others. Like we heard in verse 4 and 5, but being helped by them, but there is a kind of person who cannot be helped by the rebuke of his brother and that's the hopeless guy.

In verse 12, His wise in his own eyes can't be corrected from scripture. Can't be told what his brother sees about him that he doesn't see about himself. And really consider, it doesn't mean that everything others tell you about. You is true but it does mean that especially those whom you know to have good biblical wisdom, especially those who are not always picking on you to put it very informally when they come to you with something you need to have humility to be corrected.

And most of all you need to have humility to to be corrected. When you're reading your Bible, when we're having family worship, when you're hitting preaching in the public worship because the Lord is correcting us, and turning us redirecting us to himself. But if you can't be corrected, there's more hope for a fool then, for you.

That's a frightening hardening, isn't it? The full already deserves to be more foolish. The man who is wise in his own eyes is under a judgment that keeps him from turning to the Lord. He's being hardened. So when you recognize pride in your own heart cry out to God for mercy that it would be taken from you.

Maybe read Job 38 through 41, large part, of the point of which is, God has infinite wisdom and even the wisest among men, like Job. Had been before, has the tiniest little part and even as much as Job had when God was done with him, well done with him in this.

Yeah, in chapter 41 not done with him in this life. Well, even as done with him in this life, he still finite is the tiniest little part seek that God would give us humility. Let's ask him for that now. Father, thank you for this instruction about fools. Thank you that you have given us your son.

Our Lord Jesus, to be the king of kings, and Lord of lords. So that we know that he who is the wisdom of God as profit priest and king over his church and over this house and he is the chief magister and every nation and over all the nations.

And so we bless your name for that. We thank you for the gift of your spirit, who increases our love in understanding and knowledge and discernment. Who gives us wisdom from Christ. We pray that you would give us humility so that we are the more enabled to grow in wisdom.

We pray that you would help us to do well, that which has been assigned to us that we would be appropriately. Worthy of receiving more and more important assignment. Pray that you would give us wisdom when we are in authority for how much we give over to others, to do Lord, some of what we have read and heard about from your word, has peaked or concern for your churches.

Raise up. We pray men of humility and wisdom, that would not only have seats of honor and authority in the offices of Elder and Deacon, but who wouldn't be foolish and how they delegate the service of the church, pray that you would help us to not stoop to others level when they speak in a foolish manner.

And that when it is our personal duty to help them out of their folly that you would give us wisdom and how we speak. So that our speech would be more like Christ's to them, then there's to us. Oh, Lord, have mercy on us and don't let us be wise in our own eyes.

Don't let us be hardened. Don't let us come down to that hopeless state, where there's more hope for a fool Then there is for us. Thank you that you have given us much hope in Christ that although we deserve to be made wise in our own eyes. He deserves for us to be humble for us to grow and wisdom for us to be conformed to his image, which we ask you to do today, and every day, the rest of our lives, even in

his own name.

Amen.