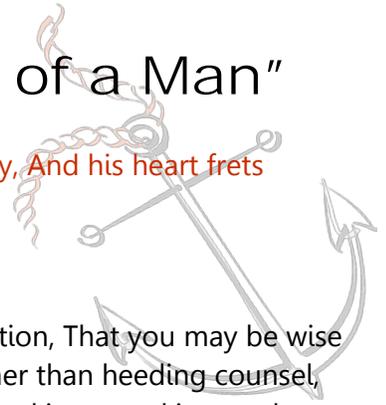




## "The Foolishness of a Man"

"The foolishness of a man twists his way, And his heart frets against the LORD" (Prov. 19:3).



Opposed to Proverbs 19:20, "Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days," this person twists and perverts his way. Rather than heeding counsel, this person does his own thing. He *twists his way*; his living, decision making, speaking, and pursuits are upside down and inside out. He has made his life crooked with sin. A similar person is described as the person to be delivered from in this same book:

"To deliver you...From the man who speaks perverse things, From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; Who rejoice in doing evil, And delight in the perversity of the wicked; Whose ways are crooked, And who are devious in their paths; To deliver you from the immoral woman, From the seductress who flatters with her words, Who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God" (Prov. 2:12-17, NKJV).

When this person reaps his crooked ways, when twisted thistles are brought to fruition, when he has destroyed everything beautiful that once surrounded him, he *frets against God*—that is, he begins to blame God for the misery his life is filled with. "The stupidity of a person turns his life upside down, and his heart rages against the LORD" (see *God's Word* version). Has anything changed in 3000 years? Even the writer of Proverbs filled his life with the love of many women, which also cluttered his faith with strange religions, doctrines, and gods (1 Kin. 11:1-8; Neh. 12:26). These eventually worked the ruin of his love for the true God and wrecked his kingdom.

While Christianity extends hope, security, and blessings to those who are "grounded and steadfast," it also calls us to accept reality!

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

The next time we are tempted to sin, let us ask, "What does the field of reaping look like? If I run with thieves, I cannot expect to find honor among them. If I run with those who shed innocent blood, I can expect to have mine shed. If I party with drunks, how blurred will my thinking be? If I sever covenants of trust, can I expect my own family to remain upright?" We are given a picture of the rewards of life's decision making, "For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life" (Gal. 6:8). What can be more contrasted with "corruption" than "everlasting life"?

How sweet our time is when we learn from the word of the Holy Spirit! Rather than the temporary pursuits of things which fade, let us work for an incorruptible weight in glory. *Pressings, perplexity, and persecution* we may be rewarded for living a life that is right, but we are not crushed and forsaken by them (2 Cor. 4:8ff).



—Steven J. Wallace