To Proverbs Men

"The Righteous Man vs the Fool"

When I was about 8 years old, I remember my mother reprimanding me for calling someone "a fool". I thought a fool is someone who was foolish and sometimes funny. But my mother understood as Psalms 14:1 & 53:1 states "The fool says in his heart "There is no God"."

The opposite of a fool is a Righteous Man; one who has a relationship with God and Jesus Christ and is growing that relationship. It is foundational and goes back to John 3:16; one who "believes" in Jesus Christ as both LORD and Savior. When the King James translation was written in the early 1600s, the word "believe" meant committed. So John 3:16 is much stronger than the current English understanding; for today people say they believe in the Tooth Fairy, the
Easter Bunny, and Santa Claus. But are they committed to them? Probably not. They would not die for they know it is not the truth.

We do see Christians today that are "committed" to Jesus Christ; some willing to die for that belief. These are the men, women, and children being killed by ISIS and other anti-Christian terrorists. It is also the missionaries in the field and pastors in the pulpit honoring God's WORD. Hopefully, it is also you and I as we share our commitment with family, friends, fellow workers, and strangers.

Proverbs 10 is called the "Proverb of a Righteous Man". There are 32 verses and the words "righteous" and "righteousness" are used 15 times, often with promises (NIV):

"Righteousness delivers from death" v2

"The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry." v3

"Blessing crown the head of the righteous" v6

"The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom" v31

Read them yourself and discover the blessing of Righteous Man. As you read Proverbs, each month you will find other Proverbs to strengthen and guide the Righteous Man:

"Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death." Pr 11:4

"He who pursues righteousness and love, finds life (eternal life), prosperity (peace), and honor." Pr 21:21

"Like a muddied spring or a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way to the wicked." Pr 25:26

"The righteous care about justice for the poor" Pr 29:7

God has asked us to pursue righteousness, a relationship with Him, in order that we may share our love and commitment with others. We conclude with:

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,

James 1:5

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who
and he who wins souls is wise.
Proverbs 11:30

Our fruit is called by God "a tree of life." Paul writes to the Philippians praying that they may be "filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes thru Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God." (Philippians 1:11 NIV) Likewise, may our fruit bring others to Jesus Christ saving them from eternal death.

Proverbially Speaking
by Ed Bolton (Director - Proverbs Men)

"The wisdom of the wise keeps life on track; the foolishness of fools lands them in the ditch."
Proverbs 14:8 - The Message

"The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."
Psalm 14:1a - English Standard Version

"I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE. No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14:6 - English Standard Version

God has given us a great gift in creating us with a sense of humor and the ability to laugh. Scientists have shown that laughter can actually improve one's health. If that's the case, perhaps in many respects, April 1st, i.e. "April Fool's Day" might be the healthiest day of the year, at least for those who laugh while playing a prank on one's neighbor. The custom of setting aside a day for the playing of harmless pranks (key word - "harmless") upon one's neighbor is recognized everywhere. Some precursors of April Fools' Day include the Roman festival of Hilaria, the Holi festival of India, and the Medieval Feast of Fools.

All of us, at one time or another, have fallen victim to the prank of a friend, family member, or associate who duped us.
via a little "white lie" into believing that some incredible act or event was occurring or about to occur. At just the crucial moment when it appeared that the impossible was happening, the infamous phrase "April Fool" was declared and we, indeed, were subjected to laughter and derision. If we're good sports, we can ultimately laugh with the perpetrator(s), get on with our day and perhaps end up a little wiser and even healthier.

Unfortunately, in our culture today, with all of the social media surrounding us, we are subjected to falsehoods of a much more sinister nature. There is much good that can and does come out of such venues as Facebook and email. However, many of the emails and posts we see on either of these and/or on our television sets, can be destructively deceptive and we can end up being "fooled" and, if we're not discerning enough, even we can spread falsehoods that can slander and harm innocent people. The writer of Proverbs makes it clear that to constantly fall for lies and, worse, pass them along, can only result in a broken life. Furthermore, our Lord Jesus Christ, declared that He is the way, the truth, and the life. If we say, right down to our very hearts, that there is no God, and that Jesus is not the way the truth and the life, we, of all people, are fools.

So, this April Fool's Day, if you get caught by that friend, associate, or family member, take your medicine and laugh with them. But learn your lesson; be wise and don't let them catch you the next time. More importantly, however, remember, this April 1st and every day, Jesus is the Truth and no one comes to the Father except through Him. Any other way is the fool's way.

**Daily Proverbs Devotional**

The April Calendar has a devotional to help you each day. Visit [http://proverbsmen.org/Proverbs.html](http://proverbsmen.org/Proverbs.html)

May you and your family celebrate Easter, growing your relationship with God.

Bob Batson
"Building Godly Men, Men of Character, Men of Integrity One Day at a Time"

Each month, we will highlight one of the twelve characteristics of a Proverbs Man here and on our website, so that we may grow and share God's wisdom. This month is....

"Be Righteous"

God tells us to be righteous.

11:4 "Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death."

Read More....

Serving You

Proverbs Men is a service organization. Our purpose is to be a resource for men, churches, Bible studies, and others relating to the Book of Proverbs.

Available at ProverbsMen.org are:

PM Resources - Books to help individuals.
PM Bible Studies - To help churches.

PM T-Shirts - To encourage men.

Let us know how we can serve you, your church, or your men's group better emailing us at ProverbsMen@aol.com

What is a Proverbs Man?

Proverbs Men encourages men to read a Proverb a day. On the first day of the month, we read Proverbs 1; on the second day of the month, we read Proverbs 2 etc. A commentary and the Proverb is available at PM Daily Reading.

Each month, we read Proverbs again, digging deeper for the "hidden treasure" of wisdom. As we "Seek Wisdom", we learn to "Trust God."

Each month we share the wisdom of Proverbs with at least one other person. Then we pray for that person that they may become a Proverbs Man.

"Building Godly Men, Men of Character, Men of Integrity, One Day at a Time"