Proverbs 1-9 • The Naive, the Scoffer & the Fool

1. (1:20-22) Three types:
   a. The naïve are easily led astray because they have no discernment. (Prov. 14:15)
   b. Scoffers will not listen because they are ruled by pride. (Prov. 13:1; 21:24)
   c. Fools are know-it-alls guided by their own emotions and sense of things. (Prov. 18:2; Ecc. 10:2)
   d. This goes a long way toward understanding that their common condition is not primarily attributed to being deceived or resulting from a chance circumstance—it is something they have embraced and actively pursue; it’s both a lifestyle and a way of thinking in place of biblical faith.

2. (8:4-5) The “naïve” and the “fool” could make a correction by the acceptance of God’s Word because they are simply ignoring or overlooking it. A scoffer’s behavior precludes the acceptance of God’s Word from the outset because they actively demean and reject it.

3. (9:4-6) Unlike the others, the naïve are not engaged in behavior which actively prevents the possibility of adopting the needed change to begin to accept God’s Word and ways.

4. (1:23-25) The Lord’s initial, good faith efforts to reach those practicing these behaviors is through His discipline.

5. (1:26-27) As a final effort, the Lord will attempt to reach those practicing these behaviors by bringing about some kind of “rock bottom” experience.

6. (1:28-32) In the ultimate consequences of “reaping what you sow”, these behaviors, if consistently pursued, will unavoidably lead to destruction.

7. (1 Co. 2:6-13) No unregenerate person will ever understand it as anything more than an academic exercise according to their earthly thinking. But neither will those who do not crucify the old life and live in obedience to God’s Word and ways, as exhibited by the naïve, the fool and the scoffer who never turn back from their ways.