Introduction

In this lesson, we consider the text of Proverbs 1:20-33, which discusses the futility of foxhole conversions. With bullets flying and bombs exploding, a soldier may fervently pray, “Lord, if you get me out of this fix, I will faithfully serve You in the future.” Yet, after the crisis is past, such promises are oft forgotten. The God of Heaven and Earth, the Sovereign Creator of the Universe, demands our respect and obedience. We must not think of Him as a genie who dwells in a magic lamp, one who can be summoned to help us in our time of need, but safely ignored at other times – out of sight and out of mind.

Sinful Man’s Status

Naïve ones love being simpleminded (Prov. 14:15; 22:3; 27:12). When used in this context, the word “naïve” refers to one who is deficient in worldly wisdom or informed judgment [Webster].

Scoffers delight themselves in scoffing (Prov. 9:7-12; 13:1; 15:12). Webster defines scoff as “to show contempt by derisive acts or language; to treat or address with derision: i.e., to jeer, mock, scorn, sneer, etc.”

Fools hate knowledge (Prov. 5:7-14; Hos. 4:6-10; John 3:19-21). From a biblical standpoint, a fool is one who, denying the reality of God, rejects His rule and revelation.

Our Rightful Duty

We should turn at God’s rebuke and reproof (vs. 23). We should hear and heed His call (vs. 24). We should value His counsel and correction (vs. 25).

God’s Righteous Response

When we rebel, He will laugh and mock (Psa. 2:1-6; 37:12-15; 59:6-8). He will not answer or help (Psa. 66:18; Prov. 28:9; Isa. 1:10-15).

When we repent, He will listen and answer (Psa. 55:16-19; Prov. 3:34). He will bless and help (Isa. 1:16-20; 30:18-22).

Conclusion

We will face the consequences of our actions (Prov. 9:12; 11:18-19; 22:8-9). As we sow, so shall we reap (Hos. 8:1-7; 10:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10-11).