

# Proverbs Week #58 (6:12-14)

---

*“A worthless person, a wicked man, is the one who walks with a perverse mouth, who winks with his eyes, who signals with his feet, who points with his fingers; who with perversity in his heart continually devises evil, who spreads strife.” Prov 6:12-14*

One of our goals in studying Proverbs is to increase our understanding of the world that God created. Our Creator has revealed the truth about Himself in what He has created and also through His people. The scriptures we read and study can teach us if God is gracious to us and allows us to learn. From our perspective, we must have a proper fear of the Lord and seek Him to be assured that He will teach us wisdom. If we lack wisdom we are to ask God for wisdom (James 1:5).

*“Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name. They will be Mine,” says the LORD of hosts, “on the day that I prepare My own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.” So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.” Mal. 3.16-18*

I want today’s verses from Proverbs to help us “distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.” We are going to describe a person and put a label on them so they can be easily identified.

Before we attach a label on this person let us look at what this person does. The actions we will focus on involve how this person uses his mouth, his eyes, his feet, and his fingers. They use their mouths to speak about things that are perverse. We have already been warned in Proverbs 4:24 to keep our mouths free from perversity (things that are crooked, false, or twisted). Next, this person winks, signals, and points with the intention of carrying out the evil that their heart continually desires. They apparently are not acting alone. They are making plans to do something (something not good) and have developed a code system to covertly carry out their plans. These people spread strife. They are called worthless and wicked by the scriptures we have read today.

What makes their actions so evil is that they are playing on people’s trust. They are not what they appear and they have enlisted others to join them in their schemes. They have developed a system of codes that can be communicated through a wink, or a signal with a foot or finger. This person and those who have joined them seem to be just like the rest of us, but secretly they have entirely different plans.

Do our children or we have a secret life where we plan to stir up strife and cause trouble? Adults, as a child did you ever do something wrong and when discovered blame it on a brother or sister? Worse yet, did you gang up on a brother or sister and blame them for the wrong – maybe using a wink or finger signal? This kind of behavior might not seem bad if someone is getting falsely blamed for a mess on the carpet but what about when these learned behaviors mature into adult problems? The main point of this lesson is not to make us “worthless person” inspectors with a rubber stamp in hand to plaster “Worthless Person” on the forehead of everyone we can identify. The main point is for us to learn to not be worthless ourselves.

**As individuals and families how can we guard against being like these people? From a heart of faithfulness to God use our mouths and bodies to:**

1. Speak God’s words - put His words on your lips by speaking them out loud (Psa 1)
2. Praise and worship God - use your mouth to praise and worship God (Psa 33)
3. Encourage someone to do what is good– help someone with your words (Heb 10:24)
4. Don’t slander (repeat stories that defame others) – to forget this and do it is a crime in God’s eyes (Lev 19:16, Prov 11:13)
5. Don’t be a complainer – if you do you may be counted with the ungodly of the world (Jude 16; Num 14:27)
6. Be thankful – “in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in the Messiah Yeshua” (1 Thes 5:18)