

Scripture Reference: Proverbs 13:1

Date: January 6, 2013

Title: "Who's to Blame?"

Focus: It is Foolish to Reject Wisdom.

### **Intro:**

1. It has always been tempting to blame others for our shortfalls. Today this seems to be the norm. Fast food restaurants are blamed when we eat too much, cigarettes when get cancer, alcohol when we're arrested for drunk driving.
2. Why can't we acknowledge that our choices are our own? We are responsible, and no one else.
3. The wisdom God offers through Proverbs remains unprofitable if a person is unwilling to accept it.

### **Body:**

*"A wise son accepts his father's discipline..."*

- Solomon thought it wise to be able to accept correction.
- Why, because a person can learn from the experiences of another, their insights, accomplishments, and mistakes.
- The book of Proverbs was compiled so a person may *"know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding"* so they can *"live securely and will be at ease from the dread of evil."* (Prov. 1:1 & 33)
- Indeed, the entire biblical revelation was given that people might *"know [they] have eternal life."* (1 John 5:13)
- However, the value and wisdom God offers is voided and valueless if a person rejects it.

### It is Profitable to Have a Teachable Spirit.

- The Bible uses the words *"fool"* and *"stupid."* When it does, it references a person who rejects truth.
- We would agree, a person who finds him or herself in a hole is *foolish* to keep digging.
- Likewise, there would be agreement that it is *stupid* to reject what is known to be truth to embrace error.
- Yet, when it comes to the counsel of God, people reject it with regularity.
- Why, because, to varying degrees, they question its truth.
  - It doesn't conform to their plans and values.
  - Emotional reasons (this is never a good thing).
  - They trust contradictory information.
- In lieu of a standard of truth, we believe we have a better answer.

*"... But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke."*

- It is *unwise* to reject something before examining it.
- To dismiss something out of hand happens because we believe what we already possess is true.

- But, what if you are wrong? If a person relies on human knowledge and wisdom, being wrong is possible.
- God invites people to *test*, *try*, and *prove* Him (Malachi 3:10, Isaiah 7:11).
- God's words withstand examination and are found to be true. They are the rock upon which life can be built.

**Closing:**

1. It is foolishness for a person to pass by the very thing they need.
2. On the other hand, it is wise when a person heeds the counsel of one wiser. The ultimate expression of this is God.