

Welcome & Announcements

***Song:** 1,3,6 “Lift Up Your Heads”

***Call** ([Ps 100](#))

“Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!”

***Greeting**

Grace to you and peace from God the Father,

and from the Lord Jesus Christ,

in the fellowship and power of the Spirit.

***Confessing the Faith:** Apostles Creed

***Song:** 164 “God Himself is With Us”

Congregational Prayer:

Offering: General Fund

***Song of Prep:** 292 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Pre-Reading

1. Turn to [Prov 13](#)
2. This morning — first half of the verse
 - a. Focused on becoming wise
3. Tonight — second half
 - a. Skirting danger

Reading:

Proverbs 13:20 *ESV*

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise,

but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Introduction

1. Basically, a fool —
 - a. One who thinks/acts without sound judgment.
 - i. NOTE: not necessarily a matter of intelligence;
 1. **Illust.** — Gerolamo Cardano (1501-1576) — wrote first Latin treatise on Algebra; studied probabilities.
 - a. Yet so addicted to gambling, pawned wife's jewelry/family furniture; entered poorhouse.
 - ii. More to do with lack of foresight/will
 1. Trivial — [Mt 25](#), five fools went out at night with lamps but no oil.
 2. Catastrophic — [Mt 7](#), foolish man who built his house on the sand.
2. NOTE: we all exhibit foolishness at times
 - a. **Illust.** — placing things on roof of car; keep doing it.
 - i. But [Prov 13](#) concerns people characterized a fools.
 1. Lives defined by unwise decisions that harm selves/others.
3. **v.20** — Presents a principle:
 - a. **v.20**, “the companion of fools will suffer harm.”

Headings (3)

1. Who are the “fools” of [Prov 13](#)?

1. **Illust.** — cancer — one root manifests multiple places

a. The fool is one who manifests, not all, but any of the following spiritual symptoms.

2. Little/no reverence for God

a. cf. [Prov 14:1](#), "The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

i. NOTE: in his heart (if not his creed);

3. No felt need for Jesus & his benefits

a. cf. [1Cor. 2:6](#), "Among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. 7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory." — i.e., Christ crucified for sinners.

4. Preoccupied with things of this world

a. **Illust.** — cf. [Luke 12:20](#) — man who built barn — "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'" — was not rich toward God.

i. cf. [Rom 1:20](#), "Although they knew God, they did not *honor him* as God or *give thanks* to him, but they became *futile in their thinking*, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools... 25, [for] they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator..."

5. Little regard for knowing/doing God's will (as such)

a. cf. [Prov. 14:16](#), "One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless."

i. **Illust.** — [Prov 7](#) — put themselves in the path of likely temptation.

6. Self-assured / headstrong

a. cf. [Prov. 12:15](#), "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice."

7. Nursing contempt

a. cf. [Prov. 10:18](#) "The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever utters slander is a fool."

8. Obviously, more could be added

a. Basically, the fool of [Prov 13](#) is anyone who persists in unbelief/unrepentance.

2. What does it mean to be their “companion”?

1. Typically entails frequent/prolonged exposure
 - a. Though sometimes not apparent
 - i. NOTE: danger of books/devices — conceals who one’s companions are.
2. "companion" — esp. gets at formation of personal bond/participation
 - a. cf. [Prov 28](#) — "a companion of gluttons shames his father."
 - i. NOTE: wouldn’t shame his father if he were just there teaching moderation!
 - b. cf. [Prov 29](#) — "a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth."
 - i. Implies intimacy/exchange
3. Symptoms of becoming the companion of fools
 - a. To crave their company
 - b. To seek their approval
 - c. To voluntarily give them your choicest time/attention
 - i. NOTE: entertainment in this category.
 - d. To feel at ease among them in their sins — cf. Lot’s “soul was vexed every day.”
 - i. Basically, by words/actions to say, "these are my people"

3. Principle itself

v.20, “the *companion of fools will suffer harm*”

1. Forms of harm too various to list exhaustively (ponder)

- a. Normalizing error/evil — cf. [Prov. 14:7](#), “Leave the presence of a fool, for there you do not meet words of knowledge.”
- b. Stifling conviction / enticing to sin
 - i. cf. [Prov 1:10](#), “My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. 11 If they say, “Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason... we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; 14 throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse” **v.18**, “these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives.”
- c. Wounded conscience/character
 - i. cf. [Prov 22:24](#), “Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.”
 - ii. **Illust.** — [Augustine on Alypius](#) — *Confessions, Book 6* — “although he had been utterly opposed to such spectacles and detested them, one day he met by chance a company of his acquaintances and fellow students returning from dinner; and, with a friendly violence, they drew him, resisting and objecting vehemently, into the amphitheater, on a day of those cruel and murderous shows. He protested to them: “Though you drag my body to that place and set me down there, you cannot force me to give my mind or lend my eyes to these shows. Thus I will be absent while present, and so overcome both you and them.” When they heard this, they dragged him on in, probably interested to see whether he could do as he said. When they got to the arena, and had taken what seats they could get, the whole place became a tumult of inhuman frenzy. But Alypius kept his eyes closed and forbade his mind to roam abroad after such wickedness. Would that he had shut his ears also! For when one of the combatants fell in the fight, a mighty cry from the whole audience stirred him so strongly that, overcome by curiosity and still prepared (as he thought) to despise and rise superior to it no matter what it was, he opened his eyes and was struck with a deeper wound in his soul than the victim whom he desired to see had been in his body. Thus he fell more miserably than the one whose fall had raised that mighty clamor which had entered through his ears and unlocked his eyes to make way for the wounding and beating down of his soul, which was more audacious than truly valiant -- also it was weaker because it presumed on its own strength when it ought to have depended on Thee. For, as soon as he saw the blood, he drank in with it a savage temper, and he did not turn away, but fixed his eyes on the bloody pastime, unwittingly drinking in the madness -- delighted with the wicked contest and drunk with blood lust. He was now no longer the same man who came in, but was one of the mob he came into, a true companion of those who had brought him thither. Why need I say more? He looked, he shouted, he was excited, and he took away with him the madness that would stimulate him to come again: not only with those who first enticed him, but even without them; indeed, dragging in others besides.”
- d. Death & hell!

2. Let not the variety, but the certainty of the principle sink in:

- a. v.20, “the *companion of fools will suffer harm*”
 - i. To one degree or another — if only lingering spiritual miasma that follows misspent time.
- b. Don’t bank on being an exception—it’s foolish
 - i. cf. [Prov. 1:32](#), “the complacency of fools destroys them.”

Conclusion: Practical Reflections

1. Recall symptoms of companionship —
 - a. Voluntarily giving your choicest time/attention
 - b. Feel at ease among them in their sins
 - c. Beginning to imitate their thinking/words/dress/actions
2. Reflect on the past year — who did you spend your time with?
 - a. In person
 - b. By way of media — films/websites/books
3. Remember that Christ restores fools
 - a. cf. [Titus 3:3](#), “For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another...”
 - b. cf. **1 Cor 30**, "because of [God] you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption..."
4. Resolve — to turn away from fools/walk with the wise
 - a. cf. [Psalm 1:1](#), “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, or set foot on the path of sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers. **2** But his delight is in the Law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night.”
5. PARENTS: — keep close eye on children’ companions
 - a. cf. [Prov 22:15](#), “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child”

Closing of Service

***Song: [stand to receive blessing]**

Blessing:

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord shine his face upon you and be gracious to you

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

***Song:** 567 Doxology