

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#180) The Proverbs of Solomon 26:6-7, 9-10- Misplaced Trust

Proverbs 26:6-7, 9-10:

He who sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off his own feet and drinks violence. Like the legs of the lame that hang limp is a proverb in the mouth of fools... Like a thorn that goes into the hand of a drunkard is a proverb in the mouth of fools. The great God who formed all things Gives the fool his hire and the transgressor his wages.

"Fools" are people who live worldly lives and ignore God's Laws, as Proverbs indicates:

- A wise *man* fears and departs from evil, but a fool rages and is self-confident. ([Proverbs 14:16](#))
- A stone *is* heavy and sand *is* weighty, but a fool's wrath *is* heavier than both of them. ([Proverbs 27:3](#))
- A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise *man* holds them back. ([Proverbs 29:11](#))

A wise man's heart is at his right hand, but a fool's heart at his left. ([Ecclesiastes 10:2](#))

Therefore fools cannot be trusted like someone who is obedient to God:

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him. ([Colossians 3:8-10](#))

Verse 6: After reading about "fools" in the Book of Proverbs, knowing they do not respect God, truth, responsibility, or concern about others, depending upon "a fool" to accurately pass along "a message" makes the sender seem as lame as the message! Such is the stuff of gossip, slander, and libel:

He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips. ([Proverbs 20:19](#))

People who refuse to work are usually guilty of "gossip"
([2 Thessalonians 3:10-12](#)).



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Verse 7: "A proverb" is designed to parallel an earthly truth with heavenly understanding. Solomon said:

And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright-words of truth. ([Ecclesiastes 12:9-10](#))

Jesus said:

"If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?" ([John 3:12](#))

"Lame legs" cannot bear their user, neither can a "proverb" convey truth to "a fool." Jesus used "parables" for that reason ([Matthew 13:10-13](#)).

Verse 9: "A drunkard" has lost sensitivity to pain ([Proverbs 23:35](#)), so would not consciously understand a parable that he/she taught!

Verse 10: ALL of this inequity, uncertainty, and lack of dependability will be paid back, for God will judge and punish "fools" by giving them their "hire" and pay them back what they have earned, for "he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality" ([Colossians 3:25](#)).

"Fools" can be saved, but only if they repent of being foolish. Christians were "once foolish," but saved by the "kindness and love of God our Savior" when they repented and were baptized "for the remission of sins" ([Acts 2:38, 41, 47](#); [Titus 3:3-7](#)). Don't trust in foolishness!

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