

Proverbs 1:4. “To give prudence to the simple.” (read vs. 1-4)

Prudence comes from a Hebrew word for trickery. On the positive side, it can be translated discretion. A discreet person is cautious and discerning. He is the person who, as we used to say, was “not born yesterday.” He is clever. A simple person is the opposite. He is childlike or naïve. A simple person is impressionable, but to bad people and bad influences. You might say he doesn’t know enough to get mixed up. A simple person lacks maturity. In Proverbs, the simple (or simple-minded) person has no incentive for change. When left to his lack of interest he drifts into indecision regarding eternal truth. Simple people who remain that way refuse to take a stand for truth; they are content not to know. Their simplicity is an excuse for remaining where they are and not moving forward in knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. The irony is that Proverbs was written to give prudence to the very people who are so willing to reject it. To be simple is appropriate for a child, but not for an adult. A grown person who chooses to remain simple does not want to face life and refuses to examine the truths of God. The Hebrew word for simple means silly or seducible. The sin for the person who chooses to remain simple is that he wants to be seduced. This leads to error and eternal lostness if not corrected. The simple person is content not to know, even if it leads him to hell.