

June 15 Answers

- 1) The last of Solomon's proverbs. Solomon dedicated many of his proverbs to a description of the person he called "a **fool**" (Prov 26:1, 3–12). He warned us that we should be careful how we speak to fools. We need to know when answering a fool according to his folly would **lower** us to his level, and when answering a fool according to his folly would **keep** him from being wise in his own eyes! (2 Cor 11:17–21). Why should we try to keep a fool from becoming wise in his own eyes? Because God said, "Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more **hope** for a fool than for him" (Prov 26:12). How then should fools be handled? "A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a **rod** for the back of fools" (Prov 26:3). Clearly, the only thing that will separate a fool from his folly is the rod of **discipline**. How is it that people become fools? Solomon told us this earlier: "Folly is bound up in the heart of a **child**, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him" (Prov 22:15). We all come into this world as fools! That's why it's so important to discipline our children and rebuke them for their folly. What happens if we don't keep our children from their foolishness? They grow up to become a **shame** and a **reproach**. Honor is not fitting for them (Prov 26:1) and wisdom cannot instruct or guide them (Prov 26:7, 9). They learn nothing from their mistakes—they only repeat their folly (Prov 26:11). How tragic to see an **adult** who is nothing more than a foolish child who has grown up!