**Giving and Taking Advice**

**Proverbs 9:7-9**

Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults;

 whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse.

Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you;

 rebuke the wise and they will love you.

Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still;

 teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.

 Note the contrast. The first three lines focus on the reaction of the mocker, while the last three lines describe the reaction of the wise and righteous. We must always remember that Proverbs describe people from a spiritual viewpoint, as believers or unbelievers.

 Note that this is talking about “mockers”, not the more common word “fool”.

 Does it sound strange to be told ***not*** to rebuke mockers? How is that right?

 There are times when we also should rebuke a fellow Christian.

 ***What*** are the situations we should do that?

 ***Why*** do we sometimes refrain from doing that? What do we need to remember?

 ***How*** we do it is important.

 There are times when we are on the receiving end of rebuke and instruction (constructive criticism).

 ***How*** should we respond?

 ***What*** will be the results when we respond that way?

**Proverbs 26:4-5**

Do not answer a fool according to his folly,

 or you yourself will be just like him.

 Answer a fool according to his folly,

 or he will be wise in his own eyes.

 Bible scholars have wrestled with these verses for centuries. There are several different interpretations offered. I think the key is seeing the different ways we can answer.

**Proverbs 27:5-6**

Better is open rebuke

 than hidden love.

Wounds from a friend can be trusted,

 but an enemy multiplies kisses.

 What is *open* rebuke?

 It is a fact that being rebuked, or receiving constructive criticism is painful. How can we tell when the rebuke is from a friend?

 Agree or disagree: sometimes criticism reveals who are our friends?

**Proverbs 12:15**

The way of fools seems right to them,

 but the wise listen to advice.

 “The person who always knows best may be the only one unconscious of his real name.”

**Proverbs 15:22**

Plans fail for lack of counsel,

 but with many advisers they succeed.

**Proverbs 28:23**

Whoever rebukes a person will in the end gain favor

 rather than one who has a flattering tongue.