

HOW NOT TO BE A FOOL **Your Choices Determine Your Destination in Life**

Doing wrong is fun for a fool, while wise conduct is a pleasure to the wise. Wise people think before they act; fools don't and even brag about it! The wise look ahead to see what is coming, but fools deceive themselves. Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions (Proverbs 10:23, 13:16, 14:8, 18:2).

HELP FOR BAD DECISIONS . . .

1. As you grow, so do the consequences of your CHOICES.

- Getting older doesn't make you a better decision-maker—getting older just means the stakes are higher.
- If you learn to choose well now, you will be prepared to choose well later.

2. As you make choices, you don't plan to make choices you will REGRET.

- You have something in common with every addict, dropout, and alcoholic, as well as every other person you have ever met whose life you don't envy.
- Most people don't plan to mess up their lives—they just don't plan not to.

3. As you make choices, don't ask, "Is there anything WRONG WITH THIS?"

- Our assumption is, "If it's not wrong, then it must be right."
- Every *harmful* decision begins with a series of "there's nothing wrong with it" choices.
- The "there's nothing wrong with it" approach leads us right up to the edge of poor decisions.
- Without ever realizing it, you are really asking this question: "How close can I get to sin without actually sinning?"

The MORE IMPORTANT Question: "What is the WISE thing to do?"

He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but he who walks wisely will be delivered (Proverbs 28:26).

Learning: You can't trust your HEART.

THE PROMISE FOR GOOD DECISIONS . . .

1. Walk wisely and be RESCUED.

If you live a life guided by wisdom, you won't limp or stumble as you run (Proverbs 4:12).

2. Rescue yourself from choices that lead to REGRET.

Wisdom is the most important thing; so get wisdom . . . throw your arms around her [wisdom] believe me, you won't regret it; never let her go—she'll make your life glorious (Proverbs 4:7).

The wise see danger ahead and avoid it, but fools keep going and get into trouble (Proverbs 27:12).