I. Proverbs 26 focuses upon a fool, a sluggard and a gossip.

A. The Bible teaches us how to recognize a fool—ourselves or others.

1. Psalm 14:1; cf. Matt 5:22

B. One of the Bible’s famous “contradictions” is found in 26:4,5.

C. 28:26 is the Bible’s famous self-test for foolishness.

D. Laziness and Loose Lips are addressed in 26.

II. Proverbs 27-29 utilize the former patterns of Proverbs’ Books One and Two

A. Getting our “but’s” in the right place is a test of wisdom.

B. Point and counterpoint, thesis and antithesis are basic patterns of wise

thinking.

C. If Hamlet had known the scriptures, he need not ask, “To be or not to be…”

1. Philippians 1:21, “…and to die is gain.”

D. The Apostle Paul’s reconstituted wisdom speaks volumes to us.

1. Compare once more 1 Corinthians 1-3.

E. Consider at all times 1 Corinthians 15’s argument for the cynic.

III. The wise person distinguishes between the singular and plural of spiritual terms.

A. Sins vs. Sin

1. 1 Peter 2:24; 2 Corinthians 5:21

B. Words vs. Word

1. Psalm 199:130 vs. John 1:1-14

IV. The impact of the Christmas incarnation is declared in the letters of Paul.

A. Colossians 2 tells the story

V. Christmas from the top down is a picture of war.

VI. Christmas from the bottom up is a sweet little Jesus Boy.

VII. Wisdom teaches us to recognize the difference.