I. The pavement on the path to wisdom is discipline. Chapter 12:1 announces this

 message.

 A. Maturity requires time and discipline.

 1. Hebrews 5:11-14 announces the expectation of time.

 2. Galatians 4 helps the mature/wise recognize what’s pitiful over time.

 B. Maturity requires a mindset.

 1. Philippians 3:15 announces the responsibility to disciplining our thoughts.

 2. 2 Corinthians 10:5 expresses clearly the conflict between Folly and Wisdom.

 3. 1 Corinthians 13 is more than a love chapter. See v. 11 cf. 14:20

 C. Maturity requires a willingness to engage in conflict.

 1. Galatians 5:17 announces the presence of conflict as a test of maturity.

 D. Maturity requires a Godly perspective on problems and pain.

 1. Ephesians 6 calls for us to wear armor.

 2. 2 Corinthian 11 and12 paint the picture clearly of the purpose of pain.

 3. James 1:2 gives the battle cry for the mature/wise facing trials.

II. The New Testament takes the principles of Proverbs and uses them to celebrate

 discipline.

 A. Hebrews 12:1-12 is the “locker room” talk for all the mature/wise.

 B. Hebrews 12:1-12 is but a paraphrase of Proverbs 13.

 1. Prudence cannot be separated from knowledge of God’s instructions:

 13-16

III. Proverbs 14 paints the picture that the mature/wise are people who are under

 construction.

 A. No building lasts on a poor foundation. Prov. 14:11

 B. Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount with this same illustration: Matthew

 7:24-26

 C. The mature/wise know that construction is internal and external.

 1. Philippians 3 teaches the mature/wise how the deal with failure.

IV. Proverbs 15 is a short course in theology.

 A. Poetry is a great tool for conveying the theology of God’s attributes.

 1. The mature/wise recognize that God has “eyes” and 20/20 vision. 15:3,11

 B. Hebrews 4:12-13 uses the poetry of a metaphor to expose the truth of Prov. 15:3

 C. Proverbs 15 ends where Proverbs began – The fear of the Lord is the surest

 theology.

 D. The application is the call for the mature/wise to be humble: v. 33

**Opportunities for Study: Monday Men’s Breakfast**, 7 AM, The Landing, Williamsburg

 **Thursday Men’s Breakfast**, 7 AM, Greek Hellenic Center, Newport News