

In proverbs 18 we are reminded of many things : a fool, the wise, the righteous, a brother, a rich man, the heart of man, the spirit of man , a wife, the power of the tongue, the mighty, the poor . the rich being just a few. Each perhaps warrants attention. Some I give below.

a fool is someone who does stupid things or doesn't think very much before doing something. Unfortunately it also could describe a person who chooses to act in a wrong way despite knowing better. This last type can contain all of us. Therefore we might all rightly be called fools.

the wise are those who generally do think before acting or doing something not only in relation to themselves but also how such action could affect others. those wise in God's ways and knowledge tend to use this awareness to govern what they choose to do. in this they show possession of the all important understanding encountered in the earlier chapters of proverbs. people who walk with these steps are likely to be found as the righteous. it should be noted that Ezekiel 18 speaks of righteousness and wickedness as opposites but also states that human beings can and do move between the two.

Paul in Romans 7 speaks of this from verse 14 For we know that the law is spiritual but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not for what I would that do I not but what I hate that do I . If then I do that which I would not I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it but sin that dwelleth in me.

v18 For I know that in me that is in my flesh dwelleth no good thing for to will is present in me but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not but the evil which I would not that I do. v20 Now if I do that I would not it is no more I that do it but sin that dwelleth in me. v21 8 I find then a law , that when I would do good , evil is present in me . v22 for I delight in the law of God after the inward man v23 but I see another law in my members , warring against the law of my mind and bringing me in

captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.v24 O wretched man that I am ! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? v25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God but with the flesh the law of sin.

The import of these considerations helps clarify how to determine who a good friend is. In the world in which we live there are many people who might be called friends they may do good things for us however if they do not know Gods truth can only have a limited help for us God is the principal friend .

Jesus our elder brother and given the words of Paul in verse25 quoted above our true help in times of need.

his actions enabling to be put on the right path to salvation.

John chapter10 .

What can we do to be good friends one with another?

Do unto others as you would have done unto you.

Jesus sums the law and the prophets as Love the lord god with all your heart mind and being and your neighbour as yourself!