

A hallway with patterned wallpaper and several doors, one of which is yellow.

A TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES ON
THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

WISDOM FROM PROVERBS

A PUBLICATION OF RAY REYNOLDS RAP

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

Prepared by Ray Reynolds, Ph.D.



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Introduction Lesson – Approaching the Proverbs

Lesson Outline :

I. What Is A Proverb?

- A. A proverb is something that contains a timeless truth.
 1. It is very much like the law of gravity in that it is unalterable.
 2. The truths contained in the proverbs are just as true today.
 3. It is amazing that God's word can be applied in every age, every culture, and in every tongue that they are read.
- B. A proverb is based on real-life experiences.
 1. It is divine truth that has been verified by the experience of the author.
 2. Proverbs has been called "A Laboratory Manual on Life."
 3. It is not merely a theological treatise or a book of wise sayings.
- C. A proverb is morally and ethically sound.
 1. It provides guidance in making godly choices in difficult situations.
 2. It instructs the believer on how to conduct himself/herself in the world.
- D. A proverb is a general statement of truth that allows for, but does not condone, exceptions to the rule.
 1. The statement "Smoking is harmful to your health" is generally true.
 2. However, occasionally a smoker may live to be 90 years old.
 3. This is very similar to the proverbs.
 4. The proverb "*the fear of the Lord prolongs days, but the years of the wicked shall be shortened*" (Proverbs 10:27) is also true.
 5. However, occasionally the good die young and the wicked live a long life.
- E. A proverb is a statement that will help us to understand life and the world.
 1. The great thing about the book of Proverbs is that it contains every element to help us understand, interpret, and apply the others.
 2. If we will read them, and rightly divide them, we will have a better outlook on life.
 3. We can learn from the experience of Solomon and other wise men.
 4. There is no need to go through the "trial and error" in order to gain the wisdom in the book of Proverbs.

II. What Is Wisdom?

- A. "Wisdom . . . may be defined as a realistic approach to the problems of life."
- 20th Century Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge
- B. "Wisdom is insight into the underlying causes and significance or consequence of things, which insight enables one to apply to the best end the knowledge he has." (Homer Hailey)
- C. Wisdom is available to all who read and apply the book of Proverbs.

III. Why Study The Proverbs?

- A. The Proverbs are the Christian's guide to wisdom.
 - 1. Some people do not like to study the proverbs because they seem like 138 random thoughts.
 - 2. In all actuality the proverbs show careful consideration, arrangement and grouping by the writers in an organized manner.
 - 3. They can be arranged as follows: Chapters 1-8 deal with the youth, chapters 10-24 deal with the godly and ungodly, chapters 25-26 deal with relationships, chapters 27-29 deal with everyday activities, chapter 30 is the wisdom of Agur, and chapter 31 is the wisdom of King Lamuel.
 - 4. James Burton Coffman says that like the Pentateuch and the Psalms, Proverbs is divided into five parts: (1) The proverbs of Solomon (1-9); (2) more proverbs of Solomon (10-24); (3) the proverbs of Solomon copied by Hezekiah (25-29); (4) the words of Agur (30); and (5) a mother's counsel (31).
 - 5. The best study of proverbs is not a verse by verse, or even chapter by chapter study, but a topical study.
- B. The Proverbs help a Christian understand the importance of God and His Word.
 - 1. The proverbs offer practical advice on our relationship with God.
 - 2. They teach us how to fear God, understand His word, and apply it to life.
 - 3. We can gain insight into who God truly is:
 - a. His eyes – 5:21, 15:3
 - b. His strength – 3:25-26, 10:29, 21:31
 - c. His justice – 1:30-31, 2:7-9, 3:22, 12:14, 13:15, 24:12
 - d. His hatred – 3:32, 6:16-19, 11:1-20, 12:22, 15:8, 20:10, 20:23
 - e. His mercy – 15:29, 16:2-6, 28:13
 - f. His creativity – 14:27, 22:2, 29:13
 - 4. We also can see what He desires for us to do:
 - a. His desire for respect – 1:7, 3:7-8, 9:10, 10:27
 - b. His desire for our wisdom – 1:25-26, 2:5-6, 8:22-36
 - c. His blessings for wisdom – 1:7-33, 3:13-26, 4:7, 9:10
- C. The Proverbs help a Christian understand the importance of family.
 - 1. The proverbs deal with advice in selecting a spouse.
 - 2. They deal with being a good spouse.
 - 3. They also deal with child rearing, discipline, and family relationships.
- D. The Proverbs help a Christian understand the importance of friendship.
 - 1. The proverbs deal with all kinds of relationships and companionship.
 - 2. They even give warning on how to deal with your enemies.
 - 3. They give advice on what to do, and what not to do, with your friends.
- E. The Proverbs help a Christian understand the importance of business and work.
 - 1. The proverbs teach that a man must work and provide for his family.
 - 2. At the same time they warn us to be careful of our priorities.
 - 3. Therefore, they warn about money, greed, selfishness, and gambling.
- F. The Proverbs help a Christian understand the heart, tongue, and good character.
 - 1. They warn about discretion, judgment, prudence, pride, and anxiety.
 - 2. They also warn about making foolish vows, speaking lies, and evil words.
 - 3. They also warn about covetousness, laziness, drunkenness, and gluttony.
 - 4. They encourage us to have assurance, love, and not to seek revenge.
- G. The Proverbs help a Christian understand true wisdom.
 - 1. The writers hope to teach the reader how to act wisely.
 - 2. The writers hope to teach the reader how to live a righteous life.
 - 3. The writers hope to teach the reader how to treat others with fairness.
 - 4. They hope to give the ignorant common sense.
 - 5. They hope to give the young sound advice.
 - 6. They hope to give the wise even more wisdom.
 - 7. They hope to inspire all men to live a moral and ethically sound life.

H. The New Testament writers thought highly of the book of Proverbs.

1. Proverbs 3:11-12 is quoted in Hebrews 12:5-6
2. Proverbs 3:34 is quoted in James 4:6
3. Proverbs 4:26 is quoted in Hebrews 12:13
4. Proverbs 11:31 is quoted in I Peter 4:18
5. Proverbs 13:7 is quoted in II Corinthians 6:10
6. Proverbs 22:8 is quoted in II Corinthians 9:7
7. Proverbs 22:8 is quoted in Galatians 6:7
8. Proverbs 24:21 is quoted in I Peter 2:17
9. Proverbs 25:7 is quoted in Luke 14:10
10. Proverbs 25:21 is quoted in Romans 12:20
11. Proverbs 26:11 is quoted in II Peter 2:22
12. Proverbs 27:1 is quoted in James 4:14,16
13. Proverbs 30:4 is quoted in John 3:13

I. Even Jesus' words echo the proverbs.

1. The wise and foolish builders of their houses (Proverbs 14:11).
2. Those taking the chief seats (Proverbs 25:6-7).
3. The mention of the rich fool (Proverbs 27:1).

IV. What Is The Value of Wisdom?

A. We can understand the mind of God.

1. God desires for us to be wise because He is wise (Deuteronomy 29:29).
2. He tells us to keep instruction, fear Him, and seek knowledge.

B. We can also be wise.

1. There are many references to people praying for wisdom in the Bible (Numbers 27:21; Judges 20:18; I Kings 3:7-9; 8:36; II Chronicles 1:10; Job 34:32; Psalm 5:8; 25:4,5; 27:11; 31:3; 39:4; 43:3; 86:11; 90:12; 119:12-171; 139:24; Ephesians 1:16-19; 3:14-19; 6:18-20; Philippians 1:9,10; Colossians 1:9,10; 2:1-3; 4:2-4; II Timothy 2:7; James 1:5).
2. We only have to ask for wisdom in order to receive it.

C. We can avoid the pitfalls of life.

1. It will bless our life if we become wise as we learn from the examples and instruction of others.
2. Instead of wasting our time on earth trying to discover wisdom on our own through the process of "trial and error" we can learn from the Bible.
3. Imagine how many mistakes we could avoid if we all applied the book of Proverbs.

D. We can live a rewarding life.

1. Above all else, the book of Proverbs tells us how to live a blessed life.
2. The life of the righteous is very rewarding.

V. How Are We Going To Study The Book of Proverbs?

Lesson One: *Understanding Wisdom*

Lesson Two: *Teaching Wisdom*

Lesson Three: *The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning Relationships Between Men & Women*

Lesson Four: *The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning Relationships Between Family, Friends, Neighbors, Enemies*

Lesson Five: *The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning Kings, Riches, & Generosity*

Lesson Six: *The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning Righteousness, Foolishness, & Ignorance*

Lesson Seven: *The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning The Heart*

Lesson Eight: *The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning Speech*

Lesson Nine: *The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning Character*

Lesson Ten: *The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning Work & Business*

Lesson Eleven: *The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning Instruction & Counsel*

Lesson Twelve: *The Wisdom of Other Wise Men*

Discussion Questions :

- (1) What is a proverb?
- (2) What is wisdom?
- (3) Why should we study the book of Proverbs?
- (4) How should we approach the book of Proverbs in Bible study?
- (5) What insight can we gain about God from the proverbs?
- (6) What insight can we gain about life from the proverbs?
- (7) What insight can we gain about ourselves from the proverbs?
- (8) Why was the book of Proverbs so respected by the New Testament writers?
- (9) What is the value of wisdom?
- (10) What are the benefits of living a life according to wisdom?
- (11) What will be some of the topics in our series on the book of Proverbs?
- (12) Which of these lessons interests you the most? Why?
- (13) How will we all benefit from this lesson series?
- (14) How will the entire church benefit from our studying the book of Proverbs?



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Lesson One – Understanding Wisdom Proverbs 1-2, 8-9

Lesson Outline :

I. The Beginning of Wisdom (1:1-23)

A. The Knowledge & Instruction of Wisdom (1:1-7)

¹The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: ²To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, ³To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity; ⁴To give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion— ⁵A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel, ⁶To understand a proverb and an enigma, the words of the wise and their riddles. ⁷The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

B. The Counsel of the Wicked (1:8-19)

⁸My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; ⁹For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck. ¹⁰My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. ¹¹If they say, “Come with us, Let us lie in wait to shed blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; ¹²Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, and whole, like those who go down to the Pit; ¹³We shall find all kinds of precious possessions, we shall fill our houses with spoil; ¹⁴Cast in your lot among us, Let us all have one purse”— ¹⁵My son, do not walk in the way with them, keep your foot from their path; ¹⁶For their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. ¹⁷Surely, in vain the net is spread In the sight of any bird; ¹⁸But they lie in wait for their own blood, they lurk secretly for their own lives. ¹⁹So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners.

C. The Call of Wisdom (1:20-33)

²⁰Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. ²¹She cries out in the chief concourses, at the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: ²²“How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge. ²³Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. ²⁴Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, ²⁵Because you disdained all my counsel, and would have none of my rebuke, ²⁶I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, ²⁷When your terror comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. ²⁸Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. ²⁹Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, ³⁰They would have none of my counsel and despised my every rebuke. ³¹Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled to the full with their own fancies. ³²For the turning away of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; ³³But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil.”

II. The Value of Wisdom (2:1-22)

A. Earnestly Seek The Truth of God (vs.1-5)

¹ My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, ² So that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; ³ Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, ⁴ If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; ⁵ Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

B. Earnestly Seek The Promise of God (vs.6-9)

⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; ⁷ He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; ⁸ He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints. ⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path.

C. Earnestly Seek The Wisdom of God (vs.10-22)

¹⁰When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, ¹¹Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, ¹²To deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things, ¹³From those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness; ¹⁴Who rejoice in doing evil, and delight in the perversity of the wicked; ¹⁵Whose ways are crooked, and who are devious in their paths; ¹⁶To deliver you from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words, ¹⁷Who forsakes the companion of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God. ¹⁸For her house leads down to death, and her paths to the dead; ¹⁹None who go to her return, nor do they regain the paths of life— ²⁰So you may walk in the way of goodness, and keep to the paths of righteousness. ²¹For the upright will dwell in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; ²²But the wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.

III. The Excellence of Wisdom (8:1-36)

A. Wisdom Is Ethical & Moral (vs.1-11)

¹Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice? ²She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, beside the way, where the paths meet. ³She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors: ⁴“To you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men. ⁵O you simple ones, understand prudence, and you fools, be of an understanding heart. ⁶Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, and from the opening of my lips will come right things; ⁷For my mouth will speak truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. ⁸All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; nothing crooked or perverse is in them. ⁹They are all plain to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge. ¹⁰Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; ¹¹For wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.

B. Wisdom Is Better Than Money (vs.12-21)

¹²“I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge and discretion. ¹³The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate. ¹⁴Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding, I have strength. ¹⁵By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice. ¹⁶By me princes rule, and nobles, all the judges of the earth. ¹⁷I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me. ¹⁸Riches and honor are with me, enduring riches and righteousness. ¹⁹My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, and my revenue than choice silver. ²⁰I traverse the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of justice, ²¹That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, that I may fill their treasuries.

C. Wisdom Was Before Creation (vs.22-36)

²² “The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. ²³ I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth. ²⁴When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains abounding with water. ²⁵Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth; ²⁶While as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, or the primeval dust of the world. ²⁷When He prepared the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, ²⁸When He

established the clouds above, when He strengthened the fountains of the deep, ²⁹When He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth, ³⁰Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, ³¹Rejoicing in His inhabited world, and my delight was with the sons of men. ³²“Now therefore, listen to me, my children, for blessed are those who keep my ways. ³³Hear instruction and be wise, and do not disdain it. ³⁴Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. ³⁵For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the LORD; ³⁶But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death.”

IV. The Way of Wisdom (9:1-18)

A. The Appeal of the Good Woman (vs.1-6)

¹Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars; ²She has slaughtered her meat, she has mixed her wine, she has also furnished her table. ³She has sent out her maidens, she cries out from the highest places of the city, ⁴“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” As for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, ⁵“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶Forsake foolishness and live, and go in the way of understanding.

B. The Response of a Wise Man (vs.7-12)

⁷“He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, and he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. ⁸Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. ¹⁰“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. ¹¹For by me your days will be multiplied, and years of life will be added to you. ¹²If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, and if you scoff, you will bear it alone.”

C. The Call of Foolishness (vs.13-18)

¹³A foolish woman is clamorous; She is simple, and knows nothing. ¹⁴For she sits at the door of her house, On a seat by the highest places of the city, ¹⁵To call to those who pass by, who go straight on their way: ¹⁶“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here”; and as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, ¹⁷“Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.” ¹⁸But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of hell.

Discussion Questions :

- (1) Who wrote the majority of the book of Proverbs? Why did he write it?
- (2) What are some of the key words you have noticed in today's reading?
- (3) Why is it so important for Christians to learn the wisdom of the Proverbs?
- (4) In today's reading what specific things are compared to wisdom?
- (5) What are the dangers of ignoring wisdom?
- (6) Who is the source of wisdom? Why?
- (8) How can you personally benefit from learning the wisdom of the Proverbs?
- (8) How can the church benefit from learning the wisdom of the Proverbs?

- (9) What are some of the key verses, in today's reading, that would be good to learn?
- (11) What specific subjects are you looking forward to studying in the Proverbs?
- (11) According to today's reading what is the path to success?
- (12) How can praying for wisdom help us today?
- (13) How can we earnestly seek after the wisdom of God?
- (14) Is it helpful for the writer to personify wisdom? Explain.
- (15) Which group of people in the church could benefit the most from the Proverbs?
- (16) Why do you think the writer uses a woman to describe wisdom?
- (17) How does a wise man respond to God's instruction?



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Lesson Two – Teaching Wisdom Proverbs 3-4, 6:1-19

Lesson Outline :

I. Wisdom Provides Guidance (3:1-35)

A. Wisdom Will Help Us To Remember God (vs.1-4)

¹My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; ²For length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. ³Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, ⁴And so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.

B. Wisdom Will Help Us To Trust God (vs.5-6)

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

C. Wisdom Will Help Us To Fear God (vs.7-8)

⁷Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. ⁸It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.

D. Wisdom Will Help Us To Honor God (vs.9-12)

⁹Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; ¹⁰So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine. ¹¹My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor detest His correction. ¹²For whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.

E. Wisdom Will Help Us To Obey God (vs.13-20)

¹³Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; ¹⁴For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold. ¹⁵She is more precious than rubies, and all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. ¹⁶Length of days is in her right hand, in her left hand riches and honor. ¹⁷Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. ¹⁸She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who retain her. ¹⁹The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens; ²⁰By His knowledge the depths were broken up, and clouds drop down the dew.

F. Wisdom Will Help Us To Believe God (vs.21-26)

²¹My son, let them not depart from your eyes— Keep sound wisdom and discretion. ²²So they will be life to your soul and grace to your neck. ²³Then you will walk safely in your way, and your foot will not stumble. ²⁴When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet. ²⁵Do not be afraid of sudden terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; ²⁶For the LORD will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught.

G. Wisdom Will Help Us To Serve God (vs.27-35)

²⁷Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so. ²⁸Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it,” When you have it with you. ²⁹Do not devise evil against your neighbor, for he dwells by you for safety’s sake. ³⁰Do not strive with a man without cause, if he has done you no harm. ³¹Do not envy the oppressor, and choose none of his ways; ³²For the perverse person is an abomination to the LORD, but His secret counsel is with the upright. ³³The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, but He blesses the home of the just. ³⁴Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble. ³⁵The wise shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the legacy of fools.

II. Wisdom Provides Security (4:1-27)

A. Security Is Found In A Satisfied Life (vs.1-13)

¹Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, and give attention to know understanding; ²For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law. ³When I was my father’s son, tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, ⁴He also taught me, and said to me: “Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live. ⁵Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. ⁶Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. ⁷Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. ⁸Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. ⁹She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you.” ¹⁰Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, and the years of your life will be many. ¹¹I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. ¹²When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble. ¹³Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life.

B. Security Is Found In A Righteous Life (vs.14-19)

¹⁴Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil. ¹⁵Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on. ¹⁶For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. ¹⁷For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. ¹⁸But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. ¹⁹The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.

C. Security Is Found In A Faithful Life (vs.20-27)

²⁰My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. ²¹Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; ²²For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. ²³Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. ²⁴Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put perverse lips far from you. ²⁵Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you. ²⁶Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. ²⁷Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

III. Wisdom Provides Action (6:1-19)

A. The Wisdom We Gain Will Lead Us To Use Good Judgment (vs.1-5)

¹My son, if you become surety for your friend, if you have shaken hands in pledge for a stranger, ²You are snared by the words of your mouth; You are taken by the words of your mouth. ³So do this, my son, and deliver yourself; For you have come into the hand of your friend: Go and humble yourself; Plead with your friend. ⁴Give no sleep to your eyes, nor slumber to your eyelids. ⁵Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, and like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

B. The Wisdom We Gain Will Lead Us To Have Working Hands (vs.6-11)

⁶Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, ⁷which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, ⁸provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest. ⁹How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? ¹⁰A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep—¹¹So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, and your need like an armed man.

C. The Wisdom We Gain Will Lead Us To Practice Godliness (vs.12-19)

¹²A worthless person, a wicked man, walks with a perverse mouth; ¹³He winks with his eyes, he shuffles his feet, he points with his fingers; ¹⁴Perversity is in his heart, he devises evil continually, he sows discord. ¹⁵Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly; Suddenly he shall be broken without remedy.

D. The Wisdom We Gain Will Lead Us Away From Abominations (vs.12-19)

¹⁶These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, ¹⁹a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.

Discussion Questions :

- (1) It what ways does wisdom provide guidance?
- (2) Why do people refuse to heed the instruction and the wisdom of God?
- (3) Why do people refuse to teach their wisdom to others?
- (4) What would happen if the church taught more on how to be wise?
- (5) How can wisdom help us to remember God?
- (6) How can wisdom help us to trust God more?
- (7) Why does wisdom help us to fear God?
- (8) How can wisdom help us to honor God and give Him the glory He deserves?
- (9) Why do wise people obey God?
- (10) When we believe in God we show wisdom. How can we make application?
- (11) How can wisdom help us to serve God better?

- (12) Security provides us with so many blessings in life. Why?
- (13) Why aren't people more interested in using wisdom to satisfy their lives?
- (14) How can living a righteous and faithful life give us security?
- (15) Why aren't more people seeing the faithful life of Christianity appealing?
- (16) How can wisdom help us to use good judgment?
- (17) How will wisdom help us to have working hands?
- (18) Why does wisdom lead people to live a godly life?
- (19) God is waiting to grant us wisdom. Why don't we pray for it more?
- (20) In what ways can we teach people wisdom?



A TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

A Publication of Ray Reynolds Rap
Prepared by Ray Reynolds, Ph.D.

Lesson Three – The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning Relationships Between Men & Women Proverbs 5, 6:20-35, 7

Lesson Outline :

I. A Good Woman & A Foolish Adulteress (5:1-23)

A. The Works of An Immoral Woman (vs.1-4)

¹My son, pay attention to my wisdom; Lend your ear to my understanding, ²That you may preserve discretion, and your lips may keep knowledge. ³For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil; ⁴But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.

B. The Snares of An Immoral Woman (vs.5-14)

⁵Her feet go down to death, her steps lay hold of hell. ⁶Lest you ponder her path of life—Her ways are unstable; You do not know them. ⁷Therefore hear me now, my children, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. ⁸Remove your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, ⁹Lest you give your honor to others, and your years to the cruel one; ¹⁰Lest aliens be filled with your wealth, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner; ¹¹And you mourn at last, when your flesh and your body are consumed, ¹²And say: “How I have hated instruction, and my heart despised correction! ¹³I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me! ¹⁴I was on the verge of total ruin, in the midst of the assembly and congregation.”

C. The Blessing of True Love (vs.15-20)

¹⁵Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well. ¹⁶Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets? ¹⁷Let them be only your own, and not for strangers with you. ¹⁸Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. ¹⁹As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love. ²⁰For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, and be embraced in the arms of a seductress?

D. The Folly of An Immoral Life (vs.21-23)

²¹For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and He ponders all his paths. ²²His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin. ²³He shall die for lack of instruction, and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

II. Good Advice & Foolish Actions (6:20-35)

A. The Instruction of Godly Parents Concerning Adultery (vs.20-23)

²⁰My son, keep your father's command, and do not forsake the law of your mother. ²¹Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck. ²²When you roam, they will lead you; When you sleep, they will keep you; And when you awake, they will speak with you. ²³For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life.

B. The Inescapable Results of Adultery (vs.24-29)

²⁴To keep you from the evil woman, from the flattering tongue of a seductress. ²⁵Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, nor let her allure you with her eyelids. ²⁶For by means of a harlot a man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. ²⁷Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? ²⁸Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be seared? ²⁹So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent.

C. The Inevitable Consequences of Adultery (vs.30-35)

³⁰People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving. ³¹Yet when he is found, he must restore sevenfold; He may have to give up all the substance of his house. ³²Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul. ³³Wounds and dishonor he will get, and his reproach will not be wiped away. ³⁴For jealousy is a husband's fury; Therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. ³⁵He will accept no recompense, nor will he be appeased though you give many gifts.

III. A Good Man & A Foolish Seductress (7:1-27)

A. Understanding The Wisdom of the Scriptures (vs.1-5)

¹My son, keep my words, and treasure my commands within you. ²Keep my commands and live, and my law as the apple of your eye. ³Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your nearest kin, ⁵That they may keep you from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words.

B. Understanding The Work of the Seductress (vs.6-23)

⁶For at the window of my house I looked through my lattice, ⁷And saw among the simple, I perceived among the youths, a young man devoid of understanding, ⁸Passing along the street near her corner; And he took the path to her house ⁹In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night. ¹⁰And there a woman met him, with the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart. ¹¹She was loud and rebellious, her feet would not stay at home. ¹²At times she was outside, at times in the open square, lurking at every corner. ¹³So she caught him and kissed him; With an impudent face she said to him: ¹⁴"I have peace offerings with me; Today I have paid my vows. ¹⁵So I came out to meet you, diligently to seek your face, and I have found you. ¹⁶I have spread my bed with tapestry, colored coverings of Egyptian linen. ¹⁷I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. ¹⁸Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; Let us delight ourselves with love. ¹⁹For my husband is not at home; He has gone on a long journey; ²⁰He has taken a bag of money with him, and will come home on the appointed day." ²¹With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, with her flattering lips she seduced him. ²²Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, ²³Till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, he did not know it would cost his life.

C. Understanding The Consequences (vs.24-27)

²⁴Now therefore, listen to me, my children; Pay attention to the words of my mouth: ²⁵Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths; ²⁶For she has cast down many wounded, and all who were slain by her were strong men. ²⁷Her house is the way to hell, descending to the chambers of death.

IV. Various Proverbs on the Relationship Between Men & Women

^{11:16}A gracious woman retains honor, but ruthless men retain riches.

^{11:22}As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, so is a lovely woman who lacks discretion.

^{21:9} Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, than in a house shared with a contentious woman (also 25:24).

^{21:19} Better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and angry woman.

^{22:14}The mouth of an immoral woman is a deep pit; He who is abhorred by the LORD will fall there.

^{27:15}A continual dripping on a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike; ¹⁶Whoever restrains her restrains the wind, and grasps oil with his right hand.

Discussion Questions :

- (1) Why has God condemned adultery throughout the Bible?
- (2) Why does the Bible use adultery as a metaphor for foolishness, worldliness, and ignorance?
- (3) Why is it important to have wisdom concerning our relationships?
- (4) Why is it important to understand relationships between men and women?
- (5) What does God say about adultery in the Old Testament? New Testament?
- (6) Why are we afraid to study on the subject of adultery?
- (7) Why is it tempting for some men to commit adultery with harlots?
- (8) Why are people easily led astray into immoral acts?
- (9) Why are people easily led astray into an immoral lifestyle?
- (10) What are some of the works of an immoral woman?
- (11) What are some of the snares of an immoral woman?
- (12) Men can be just as immoral as women, why are they not mentioned specifically as deceivers in these proverbs?
- (13) How can true love combat adultery and immoral actions?

- (14) What does it mean to drink water from your own well?
- (15) What are the results and consequences of an immoral life?
- (16) How can parents better prepare their children to understand the subjects of love, sex, fornication, and adultery?
- (17) Is it possible to escape the adulteress? Explain.
- (18) What are the results and consequences of adultery?
- (19) How can good Christian people apply the wisdom in these proverbs?
- (20) What can we learn about Satan from these tactics he uses against us?



A TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

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Lesson Four – The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning Relationships Between Family, Friends, Neighbors, & Enemies **Various Proverbs**

Lesson Outline :

I. Proverbs Concerning Relationships With Family

- 10:1 The Proverbs of Solomon: A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is the grief of his mother.*
- 11:29 He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise of heart.*
- 12:4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.*
- 13:1 A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.*
- 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.*
- 14:1 The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands.*
- 15:5 A fool despises his father's instruction, but he who receives correction is prudent.*
- 15:10 Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, and he who hates correction will die.*
- 15:20 A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother.*
- 17: 2 A wise servant will rule over a son who causes shame, and will share an inheritance among the brothers.*
- 17:6 Children's children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father.*
- 17:21 He who begets a scoffer does so to his sorrow, and the father of a fool has no joy.*
- 17:25 A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him.*
- 18:19 A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle.*
- 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.*
- 19:13 A foolish son is the ruin of his father, and the contentions of a wife are a continual dripping.*
- 19:14 Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.*
- 19:18 Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction.*
- 19:26 He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother is a son who causes shame and brings reproach.*
- 20:11 Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right.*
- 20:20 Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in deep darkness.*
- 20:29 The glory of young men is their strength, and the splendor of old men is their gray head.*
- 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*
- 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.*
- 27:11 My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him who reproaches me.*
- 28:7 Whoever keeps the law is a discerning son, but a companion of gluttons shames his father.*

^{28:24}Whoever robs his father or his mother, and says, "It is no transgression," the same is companion to a destroyer.

^{29:3}Whoever loves wisdom makes his father rejoice, but a companion of harlots wastes his wealth.

^{29:15}The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

^{29:17}Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul.

^{29:21}He who pampers his servant from childhood will have him as a son in the end.

II. Proverbs Concerning Relationships With Friends

^{12:26}The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.

^{13:20}He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.

^{14: 20}The poor man is hated even by his own neighbor, but the rich has many friends.

^{16:28}A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends.

^{17:9}He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.

^{17:17}A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

^{17:18}A man devoid of understanding shakes hands in a pledge, and becomes surety for his friend.

^{18:24}A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

^{27:9}Ointment and perfume delight the heart, and the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel.

^{27:10}Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, nor go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; Better is a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.

^{27:14}He who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it will be counted a curse to him.

^{27:17}As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

III. Proverbs Concerning Relationships With Neighbors

^{14:21}He who despises his neighbor sins; But he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.

^{16:29}A violent man entices his neighbor, and leads him in a way that is not good.

^{21:10}The soul of the wicked desires evil; His neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.

^{25:8}Do not go hastily to court; For what will you do in the end, when your neighbor has put you to shame?

⁹Debate your case with your neighbor, and do not disclose the secret to another; ¹⁰Lest he who hears it expose your shame, and your reputation be ruined. ¹¹A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. ¹²Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear. ¹³Like the cold of snow in time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him, for he refreshes the soul of his masters. ¹⁴Whoever falsely boasts of giving is like clouds and wind without rain. ¹⁵By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, and a gentle tongue breaks a bone. ¹⁶Have you found honey? Eat only as much as you need, lest you be filled with it and vomit. ¹⁷Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house, lest he become weary of you and hate you. ¹⁸A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow. ¹⁹Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint. ²⁰Like one who takes away a garment in cold weather, and like vinegar on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

^{26: 18}Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, ¹⁹Is the man who deceives his neighbor, and says, "I was only joking!"

^{29:5}A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.

III. Proverbs Concerning Relationships With Enemies

^{16:7}*When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.*

^{21:31}*The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the LORD.*

^{25:21}*If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; ²²For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the LORD will reward you. ²³The north wind brings forth rain, and a backbiting tongue an angry countenance.*

^{27:6}*Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.*

^{28:17}*A man burdened with bloodshed will flee into a pit; Let no one help him.*

^{29:10}*The bloodthirsty hate the blameless, but the upright seek his well-being.*

Discussion Questions :

- (1) Why is it important to have wisdom concerning our relationships?
- (2) What would happen if we had no guidelines in dealing with people?
- (3) How has God proved His interest in preserving relationships?
- (4) Why is it important to understand relationships with family members?
- (5) How can applying these proverbs help us to be better spouses?
- (6) How can applying these proverbs help us to be better parents?
- (7) Why did the Lord give us so many proverbs on the subject of discipline?
- (8) Why is it important to understand relationships between people?
- (9) How can our differences help us to respect one another?
- (10) What are some New Testament passages that compliment these proverbs?
- (11) How can these proverbs help us to respect godly people?
- (12) Why is it important to understand relationships with our friends and neighbors?
- (13) Why do we need to treat our friends and neighbors with respect?
- (14) Are there any examples in the Bible that exemplify these teachings? Explain.
- (15) Why is it important to understand relationships with our enemies?
- (16) How can these proverbs help us to see that our enemies are humans too?

- (17) How can we learn to pray for our enemies and love them?
- (18) Why would God give us commands on how to treat our enemies?
- (19) How can studying about relationships help us in our relationship with God?
- (20) What would happen if the world lived by these standards?



A TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

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Prepared by Ray Reynolds, Ph.D.*

Lesson Five – The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning Kings, Riches, & Generosity Various Proverbs

Lesson Outline :

I. Proverbs Concerning Kings

^{14: 28} *In a multitude of people is a king's honor, but in the lack of people is the downfall of a prince.*

^{14: 35} *The king's favor is toward a wise servant, but his wrath is against him who causes shame.*

^{16: 10} *Divination is on the lips of the king; His mouth must not transgress in judgment.*

^{16: 12} *It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, for a throne is established by righteousness. ¹³Righteous lips are the delight of kings, and they love him who speaks what is right. ¹⁴As messengers of death is the king's wrath, but a wise man will appease it. ¹⁵In the light of the king's face is life, and his favor is like a cloud of the latter rain.*

^{19: 10} *Luxury is not fitting for a fool, much less for a servant to rule over princes.*

^{19: 12} *The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.*

^{20: 2} *The wrath of a king is like the roaring of a lion; Whoever provokes him to anger sins against his own life.*

^{20: 8} *A king who sits on the throne of judgment scatters all evil with his eyes.*

^{20: 26} *A wise king sifts out the wicked, and brings the threshing wheel over them.*

^{20: 28} *Mercy and truth preserve the king, and by lovingkindness he upholds his throne.*

^{21: 1} *The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.*

^{22: 11} *He who loves purity of heart and has grace on his lips, the king will be his friend.*

^{25: 1} *These also are proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied: ²It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter. ³As the heavens for height and the earth for depth, so the heart of kings is unsearchable. ⁴Take away the dross from silver, and it will go to the silversmith for jewelry. ⁵Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness. ⁶Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of the great; ⁷For it is better that he say to you, "Come up here," than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, whom your eyes have seen.*

^{27: 18} *Whoever keeps the fig tree will eat its fruit; So he who waits on his master will be honored.*

^{29: 2} *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.*

^{29: 4} *The king establishes the land by justice, but he who receives bribes overthrows it.*

^{29: 12} *If a ruler pays attention to lies, all his servants become wicked.*

^{29: 14} *The king who judges the poor with truth, His throne will be established forever.*

II. Proverbs Concerning Riches

- ^{10:15} *The rich man's wealth is his strong city; The destruction of the poor is their poverty.*
- ^{10:22} *The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.*
- ^{11:4} *Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.*
- ^{11:28} *He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage.*
- ^{13:7} *There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.*
⁸ *The ransom of a man's life is his riches, but the poor does not hear rebuke.*
- ^{13:11} *Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, but he who gathers by labor will increase.*
- ^{13:18} *Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, but he who regards a rebuke will be honored.*
- ^{13:22} *A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.* ²³ *Much food is in the fallow ground of the poor, and for lack of justice there is waste.*
- ^{14:24} *The crown of the wise is their riches, but the foolishness of fools is folly.*
- ^{14:31} *He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.*
- ^{15:6} *In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but in the revenue of the wicked is trouble.*
- ^{16:16} *How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.*
- ^{17:5} *He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; He who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.*
- ^{18:11} *The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his own esteem.*
- ^{18:23} *The poor man uses entreaties, but the rich answers roughly.*
- ^{19:4} *Wealth makes many friends, but the poor is separated from his friend.*
- ^{19:6} *Many entreat the favor of the nobility, and every man is a friend to one who gives gifts.* ⁷ *All the brothers of the poor hate him; How much more do his friends go far from him! He may pursue them with words, yet they abandon him.*
- ^{21:17} *He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; He who loves wine and oil will not be rich.*
- ^{21:20} *There is desirable treasure, and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man squanders it.*
- ^{22:1} *A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.*
- ^{22:2} *The rich and the poor have this in common, the LORD is the maker of them all.*
- ^{22:7} *The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.*
- ^{22:16} *He who oppresses the poor to increase his riches, and he who gives to the rich, will surely come to poverty.*
- ^{27:21} *The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, and a man is valued by what others say of him.*
- ^{27:23} *Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds;* ²⁴ *For riches are not forever, nor does a crown endure to all generations.* ²⁵ *When the hay is removed, and the tender grass shows itself, and the herbs of the mountains are gathered in,* ²⁶ *The lambs will provide your clothing, and the goats the price of a field;* ²⁷ *You shall have enough goats' milk for your food, for the food of your household, and the nourishment of your maidservants.*
- ^{28:3} *A poor man who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain which leaves no food.*
- ^{28:6} *Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than one perverse in his ways, though he be rich.*
- ^{28:8} *One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion gathers it for him who will pity the poor.*
- ^{28:11} *The rich man is wise in his own eyes, but the poor who has understanding searches him out.*
- ^{28:20} *A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.*
- ^{28:22} *A man with an evil eye hastens after riches, and does not consider that poverty will come upon him.*
- ^{29:13} *The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: The LORD gives light to the eyes of both.*

III. Proverbs Concerning Generosity

^{11:24}There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. ²⁵The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself. ²⁶The people will curse him who withholds grain, but blessing will be on the head of him who sells it.

^{17: 8}A present is a precious stone in the eyes of its possessor; Wherever he turns, he prospers.

^{18:16}A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.

^{19:17}He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given.

^{21:13}Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard.

^{22:9}He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor.

^{28:27}He who gives to the poor will not lack, but he who hides his eyes will have many curses.

^{29:7}The righteous considers the cause of the poor, but the wicked does not understand such knowledge.

Discussion Questions :

- (1) Why is it important to have wisdom concerning those who rule over us?
- (2) What would happen if we had no guidelines in dealing with our government?
- (3) How has God proved His interest in preserving this relationship?
- (4) Why is it important to understand relationships with those in authority?
- (5) How can these proverbs help us to be better citizens?
- (6) Why do we need passages to tell us how to handle money?
- (21) Isn't it our money anyway? Explain.
- (22) Do we need to be good stewards with what God has given us?
- (23) Why do we need to be good stewards?
- (24) How can these proverbs help us to be better stewards?
- (25) How can these proverbs help us to respect godly leaders?
- (26) What are some New Testament passages that compliment these proverbs?
- (27) Why is it so important to be generous?
- (28) What are the dangers of not laying up treasures in heaven?
- (29) How can our wealth make us stronger as Christians?

- (30) How can our wealth make us weaker as Christians?
- (31) Why should we pray for our government?
- (32) Why should we pray for our economy?
- (33) Why is giving nearly always acquainted with righteousness?
- (34) Why is it such a sin to oppress the poor?



A TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

A Publication of Ray Reynolds Rap
Prepared by Ray Reynolds, Ph.D.

Lesson Six – The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning Righteousness, Foolishness, & Ignorance Various Proverbs

Lesson Outline :

I. Proverbs Concerning Righteousness & Wickedness

- ^{10:2}Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, but righteousness delivers from death. ³The LORD will not allow the righteous soul to famish, but He casts away the desire of the wicked. ⁴He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. ⁵He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame. ⁶Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked. ⁷The memory of the righteous is blessed, but the name of the wicked will rot.
- ^{10:16}The labor of the righteous leads to life, the wages of the wicked to sin.
- ^{10:24}The fear of the wicked will come upon him, and the desire of the righteous will be granted.
- ^{10:28}The hope of the righteous will be gladness, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.
- ^{10:30}The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not inhabit the earth.
- ^{11:5}The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright, but the wicked will fall by his own wickedness. ⁶The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, but the unfaithful will be caught by their lust. ⁷When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish, and the hope of the unjust perishes. ⁸The righteous is delivered from trouble, and it comes to the wicked instead.
- ^{11:10}When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; and when the wicked perish, there is jubilation. ¹¹By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.
- ^{11:18}The wicked man does deceptive work, but he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward. ¹⁹As righteousness leads to life, so he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death.
- ^{11:21}Though they join forces, the wicked will not go unpunished; but the posterity of the righteous will be delivered.
- ^{11:23}The desire of the righteous is only good, but the expectation of the wicked is wrath.
- ^{11:30}The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise. ³¹If the righteous will be recompensed on the earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner.
- ^{12:3}A man is not established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous cannot be moved.
- ^{12:5}The thoughts of the righteous are right, but the counsels of the wicked are deceitful. ⁶The words of the wicked are, "Lie in wait for blood," but the mouth of the upright will deliver them. ⁷The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand.

^{12:12} *The wicked covet the catch of evil men, but the root of the righteous yields fruit.*
^{12:21} *No grave trouble will overtake the righteous, but the wicked shall be filled with evil.*
^{12:28} *In the way of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.*
^{13:6} *Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.*
^{13:9} *The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked will be put out.*
^{13:21} *Evil pursues sinners, but to the righteous, good shall be repaid.*
^{14:2} *He who walks in his uprightness fears the LORD, but he who is perverse in his ways despises Him.*
^{14:11} *The house of the wicked will be overthrown, but the tent of the upright will flourish.*
^{14:19} *The evil will bow before the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.*
^{14:32} *The wicked is banished in his wickedness, but the righteous has a refuge in his death.*
^{14:34} *Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.*
^{15:9} *The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but He loves him who follows righteousness.*
^{16:8} *Better is a little with righteousness, than vast revenues without justice.*
^{16:17} *The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; He who keeps his way preserves his soul.*
^{16:31} *The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness.*
^{17:15} *He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.*
^{20:6} *Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a faithful man?*
^{20:7} *The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him.*
^{21:18} *The wicked shall be a ransom for the righteous, and the unfaithful for the upright.*
^{28:10} *Whoever causes the upright to go astray in an evil way, he himself will fall into his own pit; But the blameless will inherit good.*
^{28:12} *When the righteous rejoice, there is great glory; But when the wicked arise, men hide themselves.*
^{28:18} *Whoever walks blamelessly will be saved, but he who is perverse in his ways will suddenly fall.*
^{28:28} *When the wicked arise, men hide themselves; But when they perish, the righteous increase.*
^{29:16} *When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases; But the righteous will see their fall.*
^{29:27} *An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous, and he who is upright in the way is an abomination to the wicked.*

II. Proverbs Concerning Foolishness & Wisdom

^{10:23} *To do evil is like sport to a fool, but a man of understanding has wisdom.*
^{12:15} *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise.*
^{12:16} *A fool's wrath is known at once, but a prudent man covers shame.*
^{12:6} *A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not find it, but knowledge is easy to him who understands. ⁷Go from the presence of a foolish man, when you do not perceive in him the lips of knowledge. ⁸The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way, but the folly of fools is deceit. ⁹Fools mock at sin, but among the upright there is favor.*
^{15:21} *Folly is joy to him who is destitute of discernment, but a man of understanding walks uprightly.*
^{17:12} *Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, rather than a fool in his folly.*
^{18:2} *A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart.*
^{18:7} *A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.*

^{26:1}As snow in summer and rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool. ²Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, so a curse without cause shall not alight. ³A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the fool's back. ⁴Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him. ⁵Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes. ⁶He who sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off his own feet and drinks violence. ⁷Like the legs of the lame that hang limp is a proverb in the mouth of fools. ⁸Like one who binds a stone in a sling is he who gives honor to a fool. ⁹Like a thorn that goes into the hand of a drunkard is a proverb in the mouth of fools. ¹⁰The great God who formed everything gives the fool his hire and the transgressor his wages. ¹¹As a dog returns to his own vomit, so a fool repeats his folly. ¹²Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him. ^{17:16}Why is there in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom, since he has no heart for it? ^{17:24}Wisdom is in the sight of him who has understanding, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.

III. Proverbs Concerning Lack of Wisdom & Ignorance

^{10:13}Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding, but a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding. ^{10:21}The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of wisdom. ^{10:12}He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his peace. ^{14:33}Wisdom rests in the heart of him who has understanding, but what is in the heart of fools is made known.

Discussion Questions :

- (1) Why are there so many proverbs concerning righteousness?
- (2) What are the benefits of being named among the righteous?
- (3) What are some of the characteristics given of the righteous?
- (4) Who makes the righteous to be righteous?
- (5) Why is appealing to try and appear to be righteous?
- (6) How can you tell if a person is really righteous?
- (7) Can you be completely righteous? Explain.
- (8) Why are there so many proverbs concerning foolishness?
- (9) Why are people foolish according to these proverbs?
- (10) Are people born foolish or made to be foolish? Explain.
- (11) Why is Solomon so hard on foolish people?
- (12) What are some of the characteristics given of the foolish?

- (13) How can you tell if a person is foolish?
- (14) How can people overcome foolishness?
- (15) What can we do for people who lack wisdom?
- (16) What can we do for people that suffer from ignorance?
- (17) What can we do for people who refuse to understand God's word?
- (18) In what ways can we receive wisdom from God's word?
- (19) Why has God given us the Holy Scriptures?
- (20) Why do people refuse to read, study, and apply God's Word?



A TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

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Lesson Seven – The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning The Heart Various Proverbs

Lesson Outline :

I. Proverbs Concerning Happiness, Love, Desire, & Hatred

^{10:12} Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.

^{13:19} A desire accomplished is sweet to the soul, but it is an abomination to fools to depart from evil.

^{14:10} The heart knows its own bitterness, and a stranger does not share its joy.

^{14:17} A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, and a man of wicked intentions is hated.

^{14:30} A sound heart is life to the body, but envy is rottenness to the bones.

^{15:13} A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

^{15:15} All the days of the afflicted are evil, but he who is of a merry heart has a continual feast.

^{15:17} Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted calf with hatred.

^{17:22} A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.

^{18:1} A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment.

^{19:22} What is desired in a man is kindness, and a poor man is better than a liar.

^{20:27} The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart.

^{26:24} He who hates, disguises it with his lips, and lays up deceit within himself; ²⁵ When he speaks kindly, do not believe him, for there are seven abominations in his heart. ²⁶ Though his hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.

^{27:19} As in water face reflects face, so a man's heart reveals the man.

^{28:14} Happy is the man who is always reverent, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

II. Proverbs Concerning Assurance, Surety, & Security

^{11:15} He who is surety for a stranger will suffer, but one who hates being surety is secure.

^{20:16} Take the garment of one who is surety for a stranger, and hold it as a pledge when it is for a seductress.

^{27:7} A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb, but to a hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

^{27:8} Like a bird that wanders from its nest is a man who wanders from his place.

^{27:13} Take the garment of him who is surety for a stranger, and hold it in pledge when he is surety for a seductress.

^{28:1} The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

III. Proverbs Concerning Anger, Strife, Violence, & Deception

- 12:20 Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but counselors of peace have joy.*
- 14:29 He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, but he who is impulsive exalts folly.*
- 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*
- 15:18 A wrathful man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger allays contention.*
- 16:32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.*
- 17:1 Better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife.*
- 17:14 The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.*
- 17:19 He who loves transgression loves strife, and he who exalts his gate seeks destruction.*
- 17:20 He who has a deceitful heart finds no good, and he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil.*
- 17:26 Also, to punish the righteous is not good, nor to strike princes for their uprightness.*
- 19:3 The foolishness of a man twists his way, and his heart frets against the LORD.*
- 19:11 The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory is to overlook a transgression.*
- 19:19 A man of great wrath will suffer punishment; for if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.*
- 20:3 It is honorable for a man to stop striving, since any fool can start a quarrel.*
- 20:17 Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.*
- 21:7 The violence of the wicked will destroy them, because they refuse to do justice.*
- 22:8 He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow, and the rod of his anger will fail.*
- 22:10 Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; yes, strife and reproach will cease.*
- 26:17 He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a dog by the ears.*
- 26:21 As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindle strife.*
- 27:3 A stone is heavy and sand is weighty, but a fool's wrath is heavier than both of them.*
- 27:4 Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, but who is able to stand before jealousy?*
- 29:8 Scoffers set a city aflame, but wise men turn away wrath.*
- 29:9 If a wise man contends with a foolish man, whether the fool rages or laughs, there is no peace.*
- 29:22 An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression.*

IV. Proverbs Concerning Heartfelt Wisdom, Knowledge, & Strength

- 10:8 The wise in heart will receive commands, but a prating fool will fall.*
- 11:20 Those who are of a perverse heart are an abomination to the LORD, but the blameless in their ways are His delight.*
- 12:8 A man will be commended according to his wisdom, but he who is of a perverse heart will be despised.*
- 13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.*
- 15:14 The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.*
- 15:30 The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and a good report makes the bones healthy.*
- 16:9 A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.*
- 20:9 Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin"?*
- 21:22 A wise man scales the city of the mighty, and brings down the trusted stronghold.*

Discussion Questions :

- (1) Why is it important to have wisdom concerning the heart?
- (2) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on happiness and desire?

- (3) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on love and hatred?
- (4) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on assurance, surety, and security?
- (5) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on anger, strife, violence, and deception?
- (6) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on heartfelt wisdom, knowledge, and strength?
- (7) In what ways can you see the heart of a person through their actions?
- (8) What benefit do you think the writers gained from writing these proverbs?
- (9) Which of these proverbs do you find most helpful?
- (10) Why do people have difficulties showing love?
- (11) Why is it so difficult to let go of our anger and hatred?
- (12) Who wants us to harbor evil thoughts and seek revenge?
- (13) How will hatred and anger lead us to wrath and violence?
- (14) Why are people in the world deceptive?
- (15) How can our desire to achieve something dominate our life?
- (16) How can assurance and security be a negative thing?
- (17) How can assurance and security be a positive thing?
- (18) When our heart is right we achieve wisdom, knowledge, and strength. Why?
- (19) What will happen when we do all the wrong things to achieve the right goal?
- (20) Who can give us all the wisdom, knowledge, and strength we need?
- (21) Why do we depend on the world when we know it will let us down?
- (22) How can we gain more wisdom concerning our heart?



A TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

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Lesson Eight – The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning Speech Various Proverbs

Lesson Outline :

I. Proverbs Concerning The Mouth, The Lips, & The Tongue

- 10:11 The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.*
- 10:14 Wise people store up knowledge, but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.*
- 10:18 Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.*
- 10:19 In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.*
- 10:20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is worth little.*
- 10:31 The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut out.*
- 10:32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.*
- 11:9 The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.*
- 12:13 The wicked is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous will come through trouble.*
- 12:14 A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth, and the recompense of a man's hands will be rendered to him.*
- 12:18 There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise promotes health.*
- 13:2 A man shall eat well by the fruit of his mouth, but the soul of the unfaithful feeds on violence.*
- 13:3 He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.*
- 14:3 In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride, but the lips of the wise will preserve them.*
- 15:2 The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.*
- 15:4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.*
- 15:7 The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, but the heart of the fool does not do so.*
- 15:23 A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!*
- 15:26 The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD, but the words of the pure are pleasant.*
- 15:28 The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.*
- 16:24 Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.*
- 17:28 Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.*
- 18:4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook.*
- 18:6 A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calls for blows.*
- 18:20 A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth, from the produce of his lips he shall be filled.*
- 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*
- 20:15 There is gold and a multitude of rubies, but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.*

- 21:23 Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.*
27:2 Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.
28:13 He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.
29:20 Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

II. Proverbs Concerning Lying, Talebearing, & Giving A False Witness

- 11:13 A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.*
12:17 He who speaks truth declares righteousness, but a false witness, deceit.
12:19 The truthful lip shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.
12:22 Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight.
13:5 A righteous man hates lying, but a wicked man is loathsome and comes to shame.
14:5 A faithful witness does not lie, but a false witness will utter lies.
14:25 A true witness delivers souls, but a deceitful witness speaks lies.
16:27 An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire.
17:4 An evildoer gives heed to false lips; a liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.
17:7 Excellent speech is not becoming to a fool, much less lying lips to a prince.
18:8 The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body.
19:5 A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will not escape.
19:9 A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies shall perish.
19:28 A disreputable witness scorns justice, and the mouth of the wicked devours iniquity.
20:19 He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.
21:6 Getting treasures by a lying tongue is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death.
21:28 A false witness shall perish, but the man who hears him will speak endlessly.
26:20 Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.
26:22 The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body.
26:23 Ferment lips with a wicked heart are like earthenware covered with silver dross.
26:28 A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

III. Proverbs Concerning Vows & Discretion

- 16:1 The preparations of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.*
16:23 The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips.
20:25 It is a snare for a man to devote rashly something as holy, and afterward to reconsider his vows.
25:28 Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.
26:27 Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.
29:11 A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back.

Discussion Questions :

- (1) Why is it important to have wisdom concerning our speech?
- (2) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on the proper use of the mouth, the lips, and the tongue?

- (3) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on lying, talebearing, and giving a false witness?
- (4) What is the difference between lying, talebearing, and giving a false witness?
- (5) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on vows and discretion?
- (6) How can our tongue get us into trouble?
- (7) Why does God command confession as a part of salvation if the tongue is evil?
- (8) In what ways can we use the tongue and our lips for good things?
- (9) Why is wickedness closely associated with lying and a false witness?
- (10) How can we destroy our lives with improper use of our speech?
- (11) How can we build up our lives with proper use of our speech?
- (12) Can we tame our tongue? Explain.
- (13) Why is our speech such a concern anyway?
- (14) What is the difference between a little white lie and any other lie?
- (15) Why have people made a lie a smaller sin than any other?
- (16) What are the dangers of being a false witness?
- (17) Why are there commands on giving foolish and ignorant vows?
- (18) Is there any danger in making foolish vows today? Explain.
- (19) How can discretion help us in many aspects of Christian living?
- (20) How can we gain more wisdom concerning our speech?



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Lesson Nine – The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning Character Various Proverbs

Lesson Outline :

I. Proverbs Concerning Integrity, Pride, & Honor

- 10:9 He who walks with integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known.*
11:2 When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom.
11:3 The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.
13:10 By pride comes nothing but strife, but with the well-advised is wisdom.
15:25 The LORD will destroy the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the widow.
16:5 Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; though they join forces, none will go unpunished.
16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.
16:19 Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.
18:3 When the wicked comes, contempt comes also; and with dishonor comes reproach.
18:12 Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, and before honor is humility.
19:1 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.
21:4 A haughty look, a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked are sin.
21:21 He who follows righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness and honor.
21:24 A proud and haughty man—"Scoffer" is his name; he acts with arrogant pride.
28:25 He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, but he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered.
29:23 A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.

II. Proverbs Concerning Judgment, Prudence, & Decision Making

- 12:23 A prudent man conceals knowledge, but the heart of fools proclaims foolishness.*
13:16 Every prudent man acts with knowledge, but a fool lays open his folly.
14:15 The simple believes every word, but the prudent considers well his steps.
14:18 The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.
15:11 Hell and Destruction are before the LORD; so how much more the hearts of the sons of men.
16:21 The wise in heart will be called prudent, and sweetness of the lips increases learning.
17:13 Whoever rewards evil for good, evil will not depart from his house.
18:5 It is not good to show partiality to the wicked, or to overthrow the righteous in judgment.
18:13 He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.
18:15 The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

18:17 The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him.
19:29 Judgments are prepared for scoffers, and beatings for the backs of fools.
20:22 Do not say, "I will recompense evil"; wait for the LORD, and He will save you.
21:15 It is a joy for the just to do justice, but destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.
22:3 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.
27:12 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself; the simple pass on and are punished.
27:22 Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his foolishness will not depart from him.
28:21 To show partiality is not good, because for a piece of bread a man will transgress.
29:19 A servant will not be corrected by mere words; for though he understands, he will not respond.

III. Proverbs Concerning Doing Good, Showing Mercy & Justice, Rebuking

11:17 The merciful man does good for his own soul, but he who is cruel troubles his own flesh.
11:27 He who earnestly seeks good finds favor, but trouble will come to him who seeks evil.
12:2 A good man obtains favor from the LORD, but a man of wicked intentions He will condemn.
14:22 Do they not go astray who devise evil? but mercy and truth belong to those who devise good.
15:12 A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, nor will he go to the wise.
15:31 The ear that hears the rebukes of life will abide among the wise.
15:32 He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.
16:6 In mercy and truth atonement is provided for iniquity; and by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.
17:10 Rebuke is more effective for a wise man than a hundred blows on a fool.
19:25 Strike a scoffer, and the simple will become wary; rebuke one who has understanding, and he will discern knowledge.
20:30 Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as do stripes the inner depths of the heart.
21:3 To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.
27:5 Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed.
28:5 Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand all.
28:23 He who rebukes a man will find more favor afterward than he who flatters with the tongue.
29:1 He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.
29:26 Many seek the ruler's favor, but justice for man comes from the LORD.

IV. Proverbs Concerning Anxiety, Trials, & Frustration

10:10 He who winks with the eye causes trouble, but a prating fool will fall.
10:25 When the whirlwind passes by, the wicked is no more, but the righteous has an everlasting foundation.
12:25 Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad.
14:13 Even in laughter the heart may sorrow, and the end of mirth may be grief.
17:3 The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the hearts.
18:14 The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, but who can bear a broken spirit?
22:5 Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; he who guards his soul will be far from them.
29:6 By transgression an evil man is snared, but the righteous sings and rejoices.

Discussion Questions :

- (1) Why is it important to have wisdom concerning our character?
- (2) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on integrity, pride, arrogance, and honor?
- (3) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on judgment, prudence, and decision making?
- (4) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on doing good to others, showing mercy and justice, and also rebuke?
- (5) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on anxiety, trials, and frustration?
- (6) How can integrity be our strongest asset?
- (7) How can pride lead to our downfall?
- (8) Why do people seek honor from the world?
- (9) How can a Christian use proper judgment and make proper decisions?
- (10) How does the judgment of God affect our actions?
- (11) How can a prudent lifestyle and behavior help us in this life?
- (12) Why are we supposed to be so different from the world?
- (13) How can doing good make us better servants of God?
- (14) Why are we commanded to show mercy and justice?
- (15) What do we do when we cannot depend on our judicial system today?
- (16) How should we react when ungodliness is all around us?
- (17) What can you do to make this world a better place?
- (18) How does the world react when they are rebuked?
- (19) How should a Christian react when they are rebuked?
- (20) How can we gain more wisdom concerning our character?



A TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

*A Publication of Ray Reynolds Rap
Prepared by Ray Reynolds, Ph.D.*

Lesson Ten – The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning Work & Business Various Proverbs

Lesson Outline :

I. Proverbs Concerning Work, Labor, & Laziness

- 10:26 As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the lazy man to those who send him.*
- 12:11 He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread, but he who follows frivolity is devoid of understanding.*
- 12:24 The hand of the diligent will rule, but the lazy man will be put to forced labor.*
- 12:27 The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, but diligence is man's precious possession.*
- 13:4 The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.*
- 14:4 Where no oxen are, the trough is clean; but much increase comes by the strength of an ox.*
- 14:23 In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty.*
- 15:19 The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns, but the way of the upright is a highway.*
- 16:26 The person who labors, labors for himself, for his hungry mouth drives him on.*
- 18:9 He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.*
- 19:15 Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.*
- 19:24 A lazy man buries his hand in the bowl, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.*
- 20:4 The lazy man will not plow because of winter; he will beg during harvest and have nothing.*
- 20:13 Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread.*
- 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.*
- 21:25 The desire of the lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labor.*
- 22:13 The lazy man says, "There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!"*
- 26:13 The lazy man says, "There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion is in the streets!"*
- 26:14 As a door turns on its hinges, so does the lazy man on his bed.*
- 26:15 The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl; it wearies him to bring it back to his mouth.*
- 26:16 The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.*

II. Proverbs Concerning Greediness, Gambling, & Business Ethics

- 11:1 Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is His delight.*
- 12:9 Better is the one who is slighted but has a servant, than he who honors himself but lacks bread.*
- 12:10 A righteous man regards the life of his animal, but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.*
- 15:27 He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live.*
- 16:11 Honest weights and scales are the LORD's; all the weights in the bag are His work.*

^{16:30}He winks his eye to devise perverse things; he purses his lips and brings about evil.
^{16:33}The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.
^{17:23}A wicked man accepts a bribe behind the back to pervert the ways of justice.
^{18:18}Casting lots causes contentions to cease, and keeps the mighty apart.
^{20:10}Diverse weights and diverse measures, they are both alike, an abomination to the LORD.
^{20:14}"It is good for nothing," cries the buyer; but when he has gone his way, then he boasts.
^{20:21}An inheritance gained hastily at the beginning will not be blessed at the end.
^{20:23}Diverse weights are an abomination to the LORD, and dishonest scales are not good.
^{21:14}A gift in secret pacifies anger, and a bribe behind the back, strong wrath.
^{21:26}He covets greedily all day long, but the righteous gives and does not spare.
^{21:27}The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with wicked intent!
^{25:26}A righteous man who falters before the wicked is like a murky spring and a polluted well.
^{27:1}Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.
^{27:20}Hell and Destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.
^{28:15}Like a roaring lion and a charging bear is a wicked ruler over poor people.
^{28:16}A ruler who lacks understanding is a great oppressor, but he who hates covetousness will prolong his days.
^{28:19}He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows frivolity will have poverty enough!
^{29:24}Whoever is a partner with a thief hates his own life; he swears to tell the truth, but reveals nothing.

III. Proverbs Concerning Food, Gluttony, & Wine

^{13:25}The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul, but the stomach of the wicked shall be in want.
^{20:1}Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.
^{25:27}It is not good to eat much honey; so to seek one's own glory is not glory.
 * It would be wise to consider Proverbs 23:29-25, 31:4-7 even though these verses will be considered in a future lesson.
^{23:29}Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?³⁰Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine.³¹Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly;³²At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper.³³Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things.³⁴Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying:³⁵"They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?"
^{31:4}It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink;⁵Lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the justice of all the afflicted.⁶Give strong drink to him who is perishing, and wine to those who are bitter of heart.⁷Let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.

Discussion Questions :

- (1) Why is it important to have wisdom concerning work and business?
- (2) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on work and labor?
- (3) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on laziness?

- (4) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on greediness, gambling, and business ethics?
- (5) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on food, gluttony, and drinking wine?
- (6) Why are we commanded to work?
- (7) What does the Bible say about those who do not work?
- (8) Why does the Bible discourage laziness?
- (9) What are some problems associated with greediness?
- (10) How can covetousness hinder our Christian walk?
- (11) Why is gambling discouraged in the Bible?
- (12) Why do people refuse to trust in God concerning their finances?
- (13) Why does the Bible speak of ethics in business?
- (14) What will happen to business people who ignore these proverbs?
- (15) Why does the Bible deal with the problem of gluttony?
- (16) How can we avoid a gluttonous lifestyle?
- (17) What does the Bible say about becoming intoxicated?
- (18) Who was discouraged from even being around wine and strong drink?
- (19) How can the abuse of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco hinder a Christian?
- (20) How can we gain more wisdom concerning work and business?



A TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

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Lesson Eleven – The Wisdom of Solomon Concerning Instruction & Counsel Various Proverbs

Lesson Outline :

I. Proverbs Concerning Proper Instruction & Knowledge

- 10:17 He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, but he who refuses correction goes astray.*
12:1 Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.
13:15 Good understanding gains favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard.
14:16 A wise man fears and departs from evil, but a fool rages and is self-confident.
15:24 The way of life winds upward for the wise, that he may turn away from hell below.
16:22 Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has it. but the correction of fools is folly.
17:27 He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.
19:2 Also it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, and he sins who hastens with his feet.
19:8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will find good.
19:27 Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.
21:11 When the scoffer is punished, the simple is made wise; but when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.
21:16 A man who wanders from the way of understanding will rest in the assembly of the dead.

II. Proverbs Concerning Proper Counsel, Good Messengers, & Taking Advice

- 11:14 Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.*
13:17 A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a faithful ambassador brings health.
15:22 Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.
17:11 An evil man seeks only rebellion; therefore a cruel messenger will be sent against him.
19:20 Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.
19:21 There are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless the LORD's counsel—that will stand.
20:5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.
20:18 Plans are established by counsel; by wise counsel wage war.
25:25 As cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country.

III. Proverbs Concerning The Fear of the Lord & Following His Ways

- 10:27 The fear of the LORD prolongs days, but the years of the wicked will be shortened.*
10:29 The way of the LORD is strength for the upright, but destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.

13:13 He who despises the word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded.

13:14 The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death.

14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

14:14 The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, but a good man will be satisfied from above.

14:26 In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge.

14:27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death.

15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

15:16 Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, than great treasure with trouble.

15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.

15:33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility.

16:2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits.

16:3 Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established.

16:4 The LORD has made all for Himself, yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.

16:20 He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.

16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

18:10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

19:16 He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is careless of his ways will die.

19:23 The fear of the LORD leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; he will not be visited with evil.

20:12 The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made them both.

20:24 A man's steps are of the LORD; how then can a man understand his own way?

21:2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts.

21:8 The way of a guilty man is perverse; but as for the pure, his work is right.

21:12 The righteous God wisely considers the house of the wicked, overthrowing the wicked for their wickedness.

21:29 A wicked man hardens his face, but as for the upright, he establishes his way.

21:30 There is no wisdom or understanding or counsel against the LORD.

22:4 By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches and honor and life.

22:12 The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge, but He overthrows the words of the faithless.

28:2 Because of the transgression of a land, many are its princes; but by a man of understanding and knowledge right will be prolonged.

28:4 Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but such as keep the law contend with them.

28:9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

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

29:18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law.

29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

Discussion Questions :

- (1) Why is it important to have wisdom concerning instruction and counsel?
- (2) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on instruction and knowledge?
- (3) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on counsel?

- (4) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on good messengers and advice?
- (5) Why was it important for this book to contain proverbs on the ways of Lord?
- (6) How can proper instruction help us to receive wisdom and knowledge?
- (7) Why do people refuse to trust and obey God?
- (8) How can the right counsel help us to make the proper decisions?
- (9) Why do people refuse to allow the wisdom of God to direct their ways?
- (10) Why do people follow their own paths instead of seeking God's?
- (11) Why is it important to take advice from godly people?
- (12) How can a good messenger be a blessing?
- (13) Why do people want to hear the negative more than the positive?
- (14) What can give us confidence as a Christian?
- (15) In what ways can God's word build us up as a Christian?
- (16) How can the proper perspective make our attitude right?
- (17) What biblical stories could apply to these proverbs?
- (18) Why does God's way seem to be the most difficult way?
- (19) Who benefits from our fearing the Lord and following His way?
- (20) How can we gain more wisdom concerning instruction and counsel?



A TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

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Lesson Twelve – The Wisdom of Other Wise Men Proverbs 22-24, 30-31

Lesson Outline :

I. The Wisdom of Various Wise Men (22:17-24:34)

A. Wisdom From Chapter 22

^{22:17}Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my knowledge; ¹⁸For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you; let them all be fixed upon your lips, ¹⁹So that your trust may be in the LORD; I have instructed you today, even you. ²⁰Have I not written to you excellent things of counsels and knowledge, ²¹That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth, that you may answer words of truth to those who send to you? ²²Do not rob the poor because he is poor, nor oppress the afflicted at the gate; ²³For the LORD will plead their cause, and plunder the soul of those who plunder them. ²⁴Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, ²⁵Lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul. ²⁶Do not be one of those who shakes hands in a pledge, one of those who is surety for debts; ²⁷If you have nothing with which to pay, why should he take away your bed from under you? ²⁸Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set. ²⁹Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men.

B. Wisdom From Chapter 23

^{23:1}When you sit down to eat with a ruler, consider carefully what is before you; ²And put a knife to your throat if you are a man given to appetite. ³Do not desire his delicacies, for they are deceptive food. ⁴Do not overwork to be rich; Because of your own understanding, cease! ⁵Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; They fly away like an eagle toward heaven. ⁶Do not eat the bread of a miser, nor desire his delicacies; ⁷For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. “Eat and drink!” he says to you, but his heart is not with you. ⁸The morsel you have eaten, you will vomit up, and waste your pleasant words. ⁹Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words. ¹⁰Do not remove the ancient landmark, nor enter the fields of the fatherless; ¹¹For their Redeemer is mighty; He will plead their cause against you. ¹²Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to words of knowledge. ¹³Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. ¹⁴You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell. ¹⁵My son, if your heart is wise, my heart will rejoice—indeed, I myself; ¹⁶Yes, my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak right things. ¹⁷Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day; ¹⁸For surely there is a hereafter, and your hope will not be cut off. ¹⁹Hear, my son, and be wise; And guide your heart in the way. ²⁰Do not mix with winebibbers, or with gluttonous eaters of meat; ²¹For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags. ²²Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old. ²³Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding. ²⁴The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise child

will delight in him.²⁵Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice.²⁶My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways. ²⁷For a harlot is a deep pit, and a seductress is a narrow well.²⁸She also lies in wait as for a victim, and increases the unfaithful among men.²⁹Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?³⁰Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine.³¹Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly;³²At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper.³³Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things.³⁴Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying:³⁵“They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?”

C. Wisdom From Chapter 24

^{24:1}Do not be envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them;²For their heart devises violence, and their lips talk of troublemaking.³Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established;⁴By knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.⁵A wise man is strong, yes, a man of knowledge increases strength;⁶For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, and in a multitude of counselors there is safety.⁷Wisdom is too lofty for a fool; He does not open his mouth in the gate.⁸He who plots to do evil will be called a schemer.⁹The devising of foolishness is sin, and the scoffer is an abomination to men.¹⁰If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small.¹¹Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter.¹²If you say, “Surely we did not know this,” does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? and will He not render to each man according to his deeds?¹³My son, eat honey because it is good, and the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste;¹⁴So shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul ;If you have found it, there is a prospect, and your hope will not be cut off.¹⁵Do not lie in wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; Do not plunder his resting place;¹⁶For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity.¹⁷Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles;¹⁸Lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, and He turn away His wrath from him.¹⁹Do not fret because of evildoers, not be envious of the wicked;²⁰For there will be no prospect for the evil man; The lamp of the wicked will be put out.²¹My son, fear the LORD and the king; Do not associate with those given to change;²²For their calamity will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin those two can bring?²³These things also belong to the wise: It is not good to show partiality in judgment.²⁴He who says to the wicked, “You are righteous,” him the people will curse; Nations will abhor him.²⁵But those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them.²⁶He who gives a right answer kisses the lips.²⁷Prepare your outside work, make it fit for yourself in the field; and afterward build your house.²⁸Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, for would you deceive with your lips?²⁹Do not say, “I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work.”³⁰I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding;³¹And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down.³²When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction:³³A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest;

³⁴So shall your poverty come like a prowler, and your need like an armed man.

II. The Wisdom of Agur (30)

¹The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, his utterance. This man declared to Ithiel—to Ithiel and Ucal:²Surely I am more stupid than any man, and do not have the understanding of a man.³I neither learned wisdom nor have knowledge of the Holy One.⁴Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name, If you know?⁵Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.⁶Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.⁷Two things I request of You (Deprive me not before I die):⁸Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches—Feed me with the food allotted to me;⁹Lest I be full and deny You, and say, “Who is the LORD?” Or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God.¹⁰Do not malign a servant to his master, lest he curse you, and you be found guilty.¹¹There is a generation that curses its father, and does not bless its mother.¹²There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, yet is not washed from its filthiness.¹³There is a generation—oh, how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up.¹⁴There is a generation whose teeth are like swords, and whose fangs are like knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.¹⁵The leech has two daughters—Give and Give! There are three things that are never satisfied, four never say, “Enough!”¹⁶The grave, the barren womb, the earth that is not satisfied with water—And the fire never says, “Enough!”¹⁷The eye that mocks his father, and scorns obedience to his mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it.¹⁸There are three things which are too wonderful for me, yes, four which I do not understand:¹⁹The way of an eagle in the air, the way of a serpent on a rock, the way of a ship in the midst of the sea, and the way of a man with a virgin.²⁰This is the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, and says, “I have done no wickedness.”²¹For three things the earth is perturbed, yes, for four it cannot bear up:²²For a servant when he reigns, a fool when he is filled with food,²³A hateful woman when she is married, and a maidservant who succeeds her mistress.²⁴There are four things which are little on the earth, but they are exceedingly wise:²⁵The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their food in the summer;²⁶The rock badgers are a feeble folk, yet they make their homes in the crags;²⁷The locusts have no king, yet they all advance in ranks;²⁸The spider skillfully grasps with its hands, and it is in kings' palaces.²⁹There are three things which are majestic in pace, yes, four which are stately in walk:³⁰A lion, which is mighty among beasts and does not turn away from any;³¹A greyhound, a male goat also, and a king whose troops are with him.³²If you have been foolish in exalting yourself, or if you have devised evil, put your hand on your mouth.³³For as the churning of milk produces butter, and wringing the nose produces blood, so the forcing of wrath produces strife.

III. The Wisdom of King Lemuel (31)

¹The words of King Lemuel, the utterance which his mother taught him:²What, my son? And what, son of my womb? And what, son of my vows?³Do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings.⁴It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink;⁵Lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the justice of all the afflicted.⁶Give strong drink to him who is perishing, and wine to those who are bitter of heart.⁷Let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.⁸Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die.⁹Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.¹⁰Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.¹¹The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.¹²She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.¹³She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands.¹⁴She is like the merchant ships, she brings her food from afar.¹⁵She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants.¹⁶She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard.¹⁷She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms.¹⁸She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night.¹⁹She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle.²⁰She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.²¹She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is

clothed with scarlet.²²She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple.²³Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies sashes for the merchants.²⁵Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come.²⁶She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.²⁷She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.²⁸Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her:²⁹“Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all.”³⁰Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.³¹Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.

Discussion Questions :

- (1) Why were the thoughts of other wise men, besides Solomon, used in this book?
- (2) What are the benefits of having the book of Proverbs in the Bible?
- (3) Do you think we should consider these chapters any less inspired?
- (4) What are some of your favorite Proverbs?
- (5) What have you enjoyed the most from this study?
- (6) What would you have added to this study?
- (7) What do you plan on studying next?