

# Proverbs

## Introduction

In 1 Kings 4:32, the Bible says that Solomon, “spoke 3000 proverbs, and his songs were 1005.” Many of these proverbs and songs are found in the 3 books of the Bible that Solomon wrote – Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. We will examine these at this point in our chronological study.

Hebrew Proverbs are wise sayings that have been condensed into dramatic scenes or contrasts that are easily remembered. The central message is that Godliness is practical. Almost every aspect of life is touched upon: our duty to God, our parents, children, neighbors, and work. However, Proverbs are guidelines for living, NOT guarantees for life – Example Proverbs 3:2, 11:8

The Word Proverbs is composed of 2 Latin words – pro- “instead of” and verba – “words”. So literally, proverb means a short statement that is used “instead of many words” so that it may be easily remembered.

**Key Chapter** – Chapter 8 - The Value of Wisdom

**Key Word** – Wisdom, used over 140 times

**Key Phrase** – The fear of the Lord – used over 40 times

## Comparison with Psalms:

Proverbs deals with the Christian on their feet. In Psalms we see the Christian on their knees. He that would be wise, let them read Proverbs. He that would be holy, let them read Psalms

<u>Psalms</u>	<u>Proverbs</u>
Devotion	Duty
Knees	Feet
Prayer and Praise	Practice

## What is Godly Wisdom?

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for wise is used to describe people skillful in working with their hands, such as artisans who helped build the temple. Wisdom, then, is the ability to use knowledge by putting what you know to good use. The book of Proverbs deals with how to be successful in THIS life. Wisdom is based on:

1. Knowledge – If I’d only known I would have .....
2. Perspective – If I’d only seen it that way, I would have.....
3. Experience – If I’d been through that, I would have.....

Our wisdom is limited in all 3 areas. But God is **UNLIMITED** in all 3. He has all knowledge – (Nothing has ever occurred to God). He has the eternal perspective - knowing even the future. He has unlimited experience – In the beginning God.

## Why would we want wisdom?

The alternative to Godly wisdom is a wasted life. If we want to use our lives in the best way possible and not waste it on things that don’t matter then we need wisdom. The pages of history are filled with the names of brilliant and gifted people who were smart enough to make a successful living, but not wise enough to make a satisfying life.

### How do we get wisdom?

1. Wisdom is the fruit of a right relationship with God. Proverbs 1:7 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,"
2. True wisdom comes from God. □ "To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his." (Job 12:13) □
3. God gives wisdom when we ask. "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God. Who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." (Jas.1:5) □

### Practical Application:

If we want to be truly successful and skillful in this life, it will come in direct proportion to our relationship with God. You may ask the question – What does God have to do with \_\_\_\_\_? Issues such as marriage, parenting, relationships, finances, and work are all directly related to our relationship with our God. The answer is, "God has everything to do with every area of our lives!"

## What does Proverbs say?

### In the family...

- Love your spouse loyally
- A Godly spouse is a gift from God to be treasured (Proverbs 12:4, 18:22, 19:14, 31)
- God hates marital unfaithfulness (Proverbs 2,5,6,7,9 all have direct warnings about adultery)
  
- Instruct your children intentionally (13:24, 22:6, 23:13- 14 )
- If we love our children we must discipline them so that they will not rebel against man and ultimately God

### Among Friends

- Avoid **evil** company. (24:1)
- Promote **good** companionship (17:17)

### With words...

- Guard what you **say** (10:18-20, 18:21)
- Guard what you **hear** (15:22, 27:17)

### With wealth...

- Hard **work** is valuable (24:30-34, 28:19)
- Helping the **needy** is vital (19:17, 28:27, 29:7)
- **Extreme** wealth and extreme poverty both appear undesirable (30:7-9)

### Practical Advice

There are 31 chapters in the book of Proverbs – one for each day of the month. We would be wise to read one chapter every day. Many successful and skillful men and women of God have committed to read the Proverb chapter correlating to the day of the month.