



# Lesson 3

## Theology of Proverbs

*Weekly Memory Verses*  
*Proverbs 1: 1-9*

*Continue to Review Verses 1-9 this week.*

Please remember that to get the most out of this study you need to seek to work on it a little bit every day. You will get out of it what you put into it. So, invest deeply and be blessed by an increase in the wisdom of our Savior!

1. Read Proverbs 21-31 this week. This swath includes proverbs of Solomon, 30 saying of the wise, and Proverbs of Agur and Lemuel.
2. Work each day this week on reviewing Proverbs 1:1-9.
3. The book of Proverbs is rich in painting a picture of the attributes of God, just as the prophets do. Compare the following references and list what you learn about God from the different wise men of the Lord:

Deuteronomy 10:14, Proverbs 3:19-20—

Deuteronomy 4:32, Isaiah 42:5, Proverbs 14:31; 29:13—

Deuteronomy 32:35, 40-41, Nahum 1:2, Proverbs 5:21-22—

Deuteronomy 23:14-15, Jeremiah 16:17, Proverbs 5:21; 15:3

Deuteronomy 4:19; 29:4, 26, Isaiah 45:1-13, Proverbs 16:1-9, 33; 19:21; 20:24—

Deuteronomy 11:13-17, Haggai 1:10-11, Proverbs 3:9-10—

Deuteronomy 8:5, Isaiah 1:4-6, Proverbs 3:11-12—

Deuteronomy 4:29-31, Isaiah 56:7, Proverbs 15:8, 29—

Deuteronomy 4:31, Isaiah 63:7, Proverbs 28:13—

Deuteronomy 10:17, Isaiah 1:16-17, Proverbs 11:1; 17:15—

Deuteronomy 22:4-11; 23:10-14, Jeremiah 32:35, Proverbs 3:32; 6:16-19; 11:20; 15:9—

4. The Proverbs specify many rich rewards that the wise of heart receive. Look up the following verses and summarize in a few words what each action/reward is.

Proverbs 1:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 1:4; 8:12 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 9:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 10:5, 19; 15:24 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 10:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 10:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 11:29 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 12:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 13:1; 12:5; 18:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 13:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 13:20 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 14:8; 2:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 15:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 15:20; 23:24 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 15:21; 20:5 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 22:17, 1:6 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 26:5, 1-12, 16 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 29:11 \_\_\_\_\_

5. There are many synonyms for the fool, each with a slightly different nuance. Make a list of the other words for fool from the following verses:

Proverbs 6:32 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 7:7; 8:5; 9:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 9:12 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 10:26 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 12:27 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 24:30 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Wise is to foolish as righteous is to:

Proverbs 1:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 3:34; 19:29 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 11:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 15:9 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 16:30 \_\_\_\_\_

7. In study we mentioned that Proverbs isn't as much a how-to book as it is a how-to-be book. Using reference books or online resources search for and list two or more Proverbs for each that address the following issues on how we are to BE wise. If you have extra time, find a correlating New Testament passage:

Wise words:

Wise thinking:

Wise feeling:

Wise desires:

Wise friendships:

Self-controlled:

Financially savvy:

Sexually pure:

8. What Proverb lists the motivation for all of the above pursuits?

### **Hidden Treasures Optional Homework:**

Read pages 17-21 (If you have children at home, do the treasure hunt and reading with them)

Read pages 116-124 Take some time to consider how you will incorporate Proverbs into your daily family life. We look forward to gleaning ideas from each other!

Page 19 gives ideas of how to work through Hidden Treasures one per day, but we will have weekly assignments to spread it out throughout the year as you study Proverbs more slowly here with this study.

## Theology of Proverbs - Teaching Notes

### Problem with Seeing Proverbs as Truisms

It would be senseless to be called to follow a righteous God with all of your heart who "usually, but not always" keeps His promises.

1. They are partially validated by experience.
2. Counter-proverbs qualify the promises.
3. Proverbs focuses on a future when the righteous rise, not on a present when they fall.

*"God develops the character of his saints by calling them to suffer for the sake of righteousness while living in the hope of eternal life. In this way he teaches them virtue while upholding justice." Waltke.  
Rom 5:3-4, 2 Peter 2:3-11*

### Wisdom of The World vs God's Wisdom

Kidner describes the utter usefulness of Proverbs in this way that I love:

*"There are details of character small enough to escape the mesh of the law and the broadsides of the prophets, and yet decisive in personal dealings. Proverbs moves in this realm, asking what a person is like to live with, or to employ; how he manages his affairs, his time and himself."*

So when we look into the wisdom in Proverbs we see it includes:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

The Old Testament's pages are penned by three kinds of men.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

The priest's authority was in the \_\_\_\_\_.

The prophet's was in \_\_\_\_\_.

The sage's authority came from:

Proverbs 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is he who keeps the law."

*"It is interesting to note that where Proverbs uses periods, Job and Ecclesiastes use question marks,"* says Kidner. As we read through the wisdom books we see that everything is clear cut in Proverbs, dark in Job and pointless in Ecclesiastes.

So the Prophet, priest and sage are not competitors, but \_\_\_\_\_ .

The wise men of the ancient world no doubt borrowed from each other.

The world seeks wisdom, but true wisdom is found in the fear of the Lord. We don't want to just be wiser like the ancient Pharaoh, but godlier!

#### **Proverbs Quoted in the New Testament:**

Mark 14:7-11/Proverbs 25:6-7

Luke 2:52/Proverbs 3:4

Romans 12:16/Proverbs 3:7a

Romans 12:20/Proverbs 25:21-22

1 Peter 5:5b/Proverbs 3:34

1 Peter 4:8/Proverbs 10:12

2 Peter 2:22/Proverbs 26:11

James 4:6/Proverbs 3:34

Hebrews 12:5-6/Proverbs 3:11-12

Also, Christ came asserting He was greater than Solomon and the fulfillment of the law and prophets:

Matthew 5:17; 12:42

Luke 11:31

1 Corinthians 1:24, 30

Colossians 2:3

## The Heart, Soul and Spirit

*"A person could memorize the book of Proverbs and still lack wisdom if it did not affect his heart, which informs behavior."*

Bruce Waltke

### In Hebrew we have the following three distinctions:

- **Heart-** lēb - \_\_\_\_\_ times in Proverbs(858 in OT)
  - NT calls this the \_\_\_\_\_. 10:13; 6:9, 14, 18; for evil 5:12; or good 20:9; or wise 14:33
  - God rules-\_\_\_\_\_ yet
- **Soul-** nepesh - \_\_\_\_\_ times in Proverbs.
  - 4:23-watch over it as it is the center of one's \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ activity 13:19, 16:24, 3:22, 23:2
- **Spirit-** r.ah - \_\_\_\_\_ times in Proverbs
  - 
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### Obedience Brings Blessing/The Foolish and the Wise

Let us mark the flow of true happiness throughout the whole sphere of godliness.

In Proverbs we see man in relationship to man, yet God is never far away.

Solomon has given us a how-to-be book, not a how-to book.

### The Proverbs denote two classes of people.

The wise or righteous ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) vs. the fool or wicked ( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

#### The Wise:

Proverbs 26:5, 1-12, 16 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 10:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 13:1; 12:5; 18:15 \_\_\_\_\_

More from Homework

**The Fool:**

Endless references throughout Proverbs.

We must grow in wisdom.

Titus 3:3.

**Fear of the Lord: Proverbs 1:7, 9:10**

Synonyms-

Psalm 19

*(A standard of moral conduct known and accepted by men in general, motivating men to right behavior even when a state does not force moral sanctions. Gen 20:10, Ex. 1:7) Whybray*

Isaiah 29:13

Deuteronomy 6:2, 5; Joshua 24:14

Proverbs 2:1-5

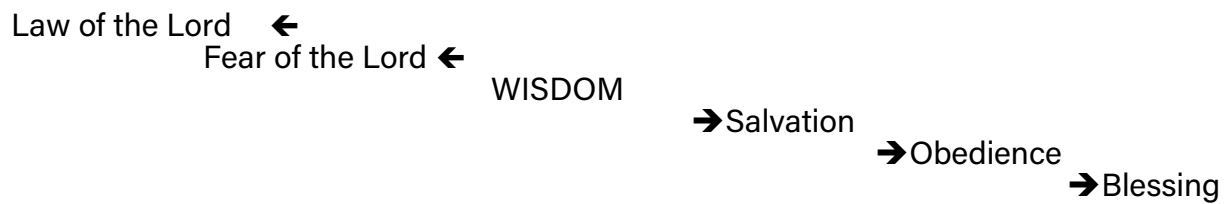
Proverbs 15:33; 22:4

Ed Welch has created the following continuum to help us understand how fear of God must lead to worship.

Terror→Dread→Trembling→Astonishment→Awe→Reverence→Devotion→Trust→Worship



So let's construct a thorough description of our hermeneutical key:  
Whitney Oxford has constructed the following flow of Truth:



Who is Sufficient?

Proverbs 3:5-6