

# PROVERBS

## PROVERBS 1:28-33

Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices. For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster. — Proverbs 1:28-33

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. — Proverbs 1:7

You have available within the Bible a collection of sayings that lead you to wisdom in all things. Here are four things you will find in Proverbs:

1. Instruction that, when combined with a specific mindset, makes us wise. Start with the mindset (verse seven) and revisit it. Read and re-read Proverbs.
2. There are some instinctive ways of thinking we must avoid if we are to be wise. Beware of what “works.”
3. Wisdom is readily available to us but we must seek it by enduring and carefully pondering the unpleasant.
4. Willfulness and complacency are fatal to wisdom.

## **PROVERBS 5-7**

Sexual sin (sex outside of God's design) is destructive. While it presents an image of joy, life and pleasure, it actually brings bitterness, darkness, death and wandering. We need wisdom!

So... here is God's instruction:

- Draw the line sooner.
- Enjoy sex within God's boundaries.
- Healing is possible!

Because:

- Yahweh sees.
- Sexual sin is destructive.

## **PROVERBS 15:31-33**

The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise. Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence. The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor. — Proverbs 15:31-33

If you want to be wise, you need to be able to listen to correction. Your response in a moment of rebuke can radically alter the course that the rest of your life takes.

1. Embracing rebuke as life-giving, no matter how it is delivered, will build “the good life” in you.
2. Ignoring rebuke is a sign of insecurity and self-hatred.
3. “The good life” starts with trusting God enough to open yourself to Him without reservation. Divine correction weans you from you so that you can be you.

## **PROVERBS 16:8,16,19,32**

8 Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice. 16 How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver. 19 It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud. 32 Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.— Proverbs 16:8,16,19,32

NOTES

## **PROVERBS 24:3-4**

By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches (Proverbs 24:3-4).

NOTES

## **PROVERBS 26:13-16**

The sluggard says, “There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!” As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed. The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth. The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly. — Proverbs 26:13-16

The point of “the sluggard” is to instruct us about our own strains and seasons of “sluggardness.” Here are four characteristics of the sluggard:

1. He won’t begin things. He uses fear, deceit, blame-shifting and whatever else it takes to not do something.
2. He is lazy, useless and restless.
3. He won’t finish things. He relies on impulse and craving and therefore lacks the strength brought by discipline and discretion.
4. He won’t face things. He thinks he alone has the real perspective.

## PROVERBS 31

Proverbs is God's advice on real-life-stuff made available in writing. But its rather loud message is that learning wisdom does not rescue humanity.

1. Our good intentions and our knowledge of what is wise prove no match in real life for the allure of foolishness.
2. Solomon joins the great cast of the characters in God's book whose lives prove we need Jesus' death and His Spirit to live.
3. Wisdom takes root only where "the fear of the Lord" is practiced (trust/submission to His desire).

Suggestions for the practice of the fear of the Lord.

- Join the ranks of those who call to God, "How do I do this?"
- Establish Sabbaths — personal timeouts to refocus on Him.
- Look for yourself continually in Scripture, for comfort and conviction!
- Keep on repenting — saying to God, "I was wrong!"
- Lock arms with others who have made progress in the journey of faith.
- Catch yourself making "I wanna" decisions, and do as He advises.