

## Proverbs 1

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### *Introduction, Purpose of Proverbs-Proverbs 1:1-6*

**Proverbs 1:1** The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; Clearly Solomon is the author. God loved Solomon (2Sam 12:24). God even named Solomon (1Chr 22:9). Solomon means peace.

**Pro 1:2** To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

Any true wisdom and understanding that we have comes to us through the Word of God. Moses told Israel this in Deu 4:5-6. As Paul tells Timothy:

**2Timothy 3:16** All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

**Pro 1:3** To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

We must receive or allow His Word to come into us.

**Job 22:22** Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.

**Pro 1:4** To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

Subtle (sut-uhl) usually means not obvious, whereas subtil (sub-tuhl) means shrewd or clever. Subtilty can either be good or bad. The devil was subtil in a bad way. We can be subtil in a good way through God's Word.

**Psalm 19:7** The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

Some may view Christians as naive, but God's Word can give even the simplest of us uncommon sense. God's Word can give us discretion, even if we are young or less mature Christians. This is similar to the idea of sober-mindedness that we see in Titus 2 and the cleansing that we see in Psalm 119.

**Psalm 119:9** Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

**Pro 1:5** A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

If we are wise, we will listen to and apply Biblically-based advice and especially to what the Holy Spirit shows us directly in God's Word. Of course, the key here, is that you have to be in God's Word regularly.

As David says in:

**Psalm 119:99-100** I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

And as Christ said:

**Matthew 13:16** But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

**Pro 1:6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.**

We shouldn't get frustrated if we don't fully grasp a proverb the first time we read it. As we apply what the Holy Spirit shows us, we begin to grasp more and more. As Paul says:

**Hebrews 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

Peter cautions us that some things are difficult to understand. He specifically mentions the deep things in Paul's letters. He warns us not to twist their meaning as it can actually harm us.

**2Peter 3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.**

It occurs to me that studying Proverbs regularly can strengthen our foundation and make it easier to understand other parts of scripture.

We saw in Proverbs 1:2 that the purpose of Proverbs is to give us an opportunity to "know wisdom and instruction." Further, in Proverbs 1:3, we saw that on our part, we must "receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment."

According to Proverbs 1:5, not just any man will increase his learning by reading Proverbs.

It is the "wise man" who will hear. The deep wisdom in Proverbs is not apparent or accessible to everyone. Consider the phrase "dark sayings" in Proverbs 1:6. **Proverbs 1:6 "To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings."**

Proverbs is filled with dark sayings, not in the sense of evil or gloomy. Instead, dark means hidden, perplexing, or enigmatic. Paul told the Corinthians, in **1Corinthians 2:7 "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:"**

At this point, our question becomes, how can we add light to those dark sayings. God tells us that to access the deep wisdom of Proverbs, you must have the FEAR of the LORD. In fact, He calls us to do that in Proverbs 1:7-9.

***Call to fear God and believe His Word-Proverbs 1:7-9***

**Pro 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

Psa 111:10 also says the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Job says in Job 28:28 that the fear of the Lord is not just the beginning, but is actually wisdom.

At the end of Solomon's ponderings in Ecclesiastes, he says in 12:13 that the conclusion of the whole matter is to Fear God. Why then don't we all fear and obey? It's because our flesh loves darkness as John says in John 3:19.

There's a trend in many Christian leaders today of diluting the power of what God means by FEAR of the LORD.

In our pleasure-seeking culture today, people want to put a positive spin on things. Some are so good at it that we call them "spin doctors."

What do “spin doctors” do when they are faced with the Fear of the Lord? They spin it into a tasty concoction that has none of the nutritional value that God intended. They tell us to “respect” God. To tell people they should respect God is more palatable than telling them they should be alarmed or even terrified of the power He has.

When reaching out to an unsaved person, it is almost a Catch-22. We desperately want to introduce people to God to give them an opportunity to receive Christ as Savior so they can avoid the terror of Hell. On the other hand, if we approach them ranting about being terrified of God, they will run away instead of being drawn to Him. So we spin it.

I’ll grant you that a person is more likely to consider what you have to say about God if they know you, if you’ve taken the time to form a friendship or at least some mutual respect. Once you’ve done that, if you get your flesh out of the way, the Holy Spirit can guide you in what to say and how best to approach a particular person. You won’t need to spin anything if you let the Holy Spirit do the talking.

How does our pleasure-seeking culture affect the way you approach believers? Does our culture justify the continued coddling of Christians? Is it right or wise to keep telling them there is nothing to fear, they just need to “respect” God? I suggest to you that it is both wrong and unwise. We do them a disservice.

As members of God’s family, we need to know our Father. We need to have an understanding of His power, the power that loves us, the power that can easily squash our enemy like a bug, the power that can also punish us.

Isn’t it your heart’s desire that believers will continue to grow spiritually? That is what I desire for myself, for you, and for all believers. If you agree, then you must admit to yourself and make it clear to others that the only way to keep growing spiritually is to have the FEAR of the Lord, not just respect.

You must have respect plus awe, alarm, and outright terror. Respect can give you a desire to please God. Awe can help you appreciate how amazing He is. Terror makes you realize that when God speaks, it is not a suggestion; it is not a nice to know; it is the Truth; it is a command to do and be as He says.

Paul cautioned the Romans in **Romans 11:22** “Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God...”

Jesus answered Satan in **Luke 4:12** “...It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”  
[It is said = Deu 6:15-16]

**Pro 1:8** My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

Old Testament law actually provided a provision for stoning a rebellious child to death (Deu 21:18-21). The parent child relationship is a picture of our relationship with God.

**1Samuel 2:25** If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him?

When you sin against God as we all do, there's no hope to escape death unless you have accepted Christ as your Mediator.

Pro 1:9 For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

They = instruction and law from verse 8. In other words, instruction in God's Word can become an ornament of grace in your life. While the world looks for the pretty on the outside, God is looking for the pretty on the inside which He puts there Himself if we cooperate.

Remember, what Peter told us in 1Peter 3:4? He told us to adorn ourselves with "...the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

*Sonnet: Caution to Avoid the Enticement of Sinners-Proverbs 1:10-19*

Pro 1:10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

In Judges 16:16-21, Samson allowed Delilah to entice him. It's easy to fall prey to the poor advice of others.

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Pro 1:11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

Pro 1:12 Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

Gang mentality is dangerous. As it says in Psalm 64:5, groups can "encourage themselves in an evil matter" and plan or commune to lay snares. Evil can even lurk within the body of Christ.

Jeremiah 5:26 For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men.

Other examples are Acts 25:3 where the high priest tried to set a trap for Paul and Matthew 26:3-4 where the chief priests schemed to kill Jesus.

Pro 1:13 We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:

Pro 1:14 Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:

Covetousness is dangerous.

Habakkuk 2:9 Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil!

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

It's not money that is the problem, it's the *love* of money that can destroy us.

1Timothy 6:9-10 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Riches can hurt us.

Ecclesiastes 5:13 There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt.

**Pro 1:15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:**

Solomon advises us to be careful in selecting our associates. In Psalms 26:4-5, David tells God,

**"I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers. I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked."**

**Pro 1:16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.**

**Pro 1:17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.**

**Pro 1:18 And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.**

**Pro 1:19 So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.**

Those who set traps for the innocent often fall into their own traps. We saw that with Haman in Esther 7:10 as the king hung him on the gallows he built for Mordecai.

**Psalm 7:15-16 He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made. His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate.**

### ***Monologue: Wisdom Warns Those Who Hate Her-Proverbs 1:20-33***

You're familiar with monologues that talk show hosts do. While sometimes amusing, they can't compare with monologues that wisdom gives us. Let's consider this first monologue: Proverbs 1:20-33.

**Pro 1:20 Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:**

My first thought was, "who is wisdom?" In Matthew 13:54, when Jesus came into his own country, he taught in the synagogue. Those who heard Him said, "...Whence hath this man this wisdom..." Jesus said in Luke 11:49, "Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles..."

This statement was likely confusing to them. It's confusing to anyone unless you realize Christ "is" the wisdom of God.

Paul says in 1Corinthians 1:24 for those who are called, Christ is both the power of God and the wisdom of God. Paul revealed in Colossians 2:3 that the treasures of wisdom are hidden in Christ. In Proverbs, wisdom cries out to anyone who will listen.

Similarly, Jesus cried out in John 7:37 "...If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink."

**Pro 1:21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying,**

**Pro 1:22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scornors delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?**

In Matthew 10:27, Jesus tells us to preach His Word on the housetops. In John 18:20, Jesus tells us that He spoke openly for all to hear.

Most don't hear. God said through Moses to Pharaoh in Exodus 10:3, "how long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me?"

It's easy to allow something or someone to pull you off target. Peter warns us in 2Peter 3:3-4, "there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."

Pro 1:23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

Pro 1:24-25 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

When God calls and we refuse, He brings our fears upon us, Isa 66:4. Sometimes, we put our fingers in our ears because we don't want to listen.

Zech 7:11-12 But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.

Pro 1:26-27 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

If we reject Him, He will laugh at our calamity.

Psa 2:4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

He is slow to anger, but the end of His patience will come.

Nah 1:3 The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked:...

Pro 1:28-30 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

There will come a time when it will be too late.

Mic 3:4 Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

Pro 1:31-33 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

The way in which we reject God will be the way of our punishment. We reap what we sow.

Gal 6:7-8 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

The choice is ours.

Rom 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.