

# Proverbs - Be a Wise Guy for God God and Man

Week 3

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.* Proverbs 3:5

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Class Topics

Week 1	Purposes of Proverbs
Week 2	The Simple, the Mocker and the Fool
Week 3	God and Man
Week 4	All in the Family
Week 5	Win Friends and Influence People
Week 6	Hard Work Versus Laziness

The Simple, the Mocker and the Fool - Review

Wisdom is more than ordinary insight and understanding - Skill in living  
Wisdom was a critical component for government advisors (24:3-6, 15:22)  
Wisdom's rewards include (3:1-10, 16-18)

Long Life and Prosperity	Favor with God and Man
God's Guidance in Life	Good Health
Success and Wealth	Peaceful Paths

The unwise will eat the fruit of their ways and be destroyed (1:29-32)

The Simple lacks wisdom and doesn't care or know any better (1:22)  
Primary Problems - The Simple is inexperienced (7:7), gullible (14:15) and careless (22:3)

The Mocker lacks wisdom, is proud of it and ridicules the wise (21:24)  
The Mocker cannot be corrected (9:7-8) and should be avoided (22:10)

The Fool can't focus (17:24), lacks judgment (12:11), speaks without thinking (18:6-7),  
despises discipline (1:7), won't compromise (18:2), has a bad temper (29:11), loves evil (10:23)  
The Fool should be avoided (13:20; 17:12)  
Parents use discipline to remove folly from children (22:15)

God's Characteristics

God is *omniscient* = Knows everything, all perceiving  
Proverbs 5:21 = *A man's ways are in full view of the Lord and He examines all his paths*  
Proverbs 15:11 = He knows our hearts

God is *omnipresent* = Present everywhere  
Proverbs 15:3 = His eyes are everywhere

God is *omnipotent* = All powerful  
Proverbs 19:21 = His purpose prevails – despite our plans  
Proverbs 21:30 = Nothing can succeed against Him

God is *sovereign* = In charge of everything  
Proverbs 16:4 = *The Lord works out everything for His own ends*  
Proverbs 16:9 = *A man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps*  
Proverbs 16:33 = Even "random" dice throws are determined by God  
Proverbs 21:1 = God directs the hearts of leaders as He pleases

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## God and Man

What is our relationship with God?

Proverbs 22:2 = He is our maker

How is wisdom involved in this relationship?

Proverbs 3:19-20 = He created us and all things by His wisdom, understanding and knowledge

What has God given us so that we may obtain His wisdom?

Proverbs 30:5-6 = His truths in His Word, the Bible

## What God Sees in Man

How much does God know about us?

Proverbs 15:3 = *The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good*

What unwise ways of man does God see that really bother Him? = List on board

Proverbs 6:16-17 = *Haughty eyes (pride), Lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood*

Proverbs 6:18 = *A heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil*

Proverbs 6:19 = *A false witness who pours out lies, a man who stirs up dissension*

How else does God judge man besides by his behavior?

Proverbs 16:2 = He weighs our motives

Proverbs 17:3 (21:2) = He tests the heart

Proverbs 20:27 = He searches our spirit, our inmost being

## How is Man to Respond to God?

How does God want us to respond to Him?

Proverbs 3:7 (8:13) = Fear the Lord and shun evil (*To fear the Lord is to hate evil*)

Why should we Fear the Lord?

Proverbs 10:27 = *Adds length to life*

Proverbs 14:26-27 = *A secure fortress, a refuge, a fountain of life*

Proverbs 19:23 = *Leads to life - content, untouched by trouble*

How else does God want us to respond to Him?

Proverbs 3:5 (22:19) = Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding

Why should we Trust the Lord?

Proverbs 3:5-6 = *He will make your paths straight*

Proverbs 28:25 = *Will prosper*

Proverbs 29:25 = *Kept safe*

What does it mean to both fear and trust the Lord? How do they differ?

## Those Who Fear and Trust in God

What type of people fear and trust in the Lord?

Proverbs 18:10 (10:29) = *The righteous run to the Lord and are saved*

How does God feel about those who fear and trust in Him?

Proverbs 15:9 (15:29) = *He loves them and hears their prayers*

How does God especially bless those who fear and trust in Him?

Proverbs 12:28 (11:4, 19, 30) = *With life, eternal life*

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## Expectations for the Righteous and the Wicked

What does Solomon expect for the Righteous?

Proverbs 2:7-8 = Victory (successful results), Shielded, Guarded course, Protected way

Proverbs 3:25-26 = *The Lord will be your confidence and will keep you from getting trapped*

Proverbs 10:3 = Won't go hungry (needs met)

Proverbs 10:7 = Be remembered

Proverbs 11:5 = Straight path (success without obstacles)

Proverbs 11:28 = *Thrive like a green leaf* (nourished and healthy)

Proverbs 13:9 = Light shines brightly (joy and prosperity in life)

Proverbs 21:21 = *Life, Prosperity and Honor*

What does Solomon promise to the wicked?

Proverbs 21:12 = *The Righteous One brings the wicked to ruin*

Proverbs 22:5 = Thorns and snares in their paths

Proverbs 22:8 = Reaps trouble

Proverbs 26:27 = Trouble he causes bounces back on him

Proverbs 28:1 = Paranoia

## The Doctrine of Retribution

Do you agree with the Doctrine of Retribution?

Proverbs 12:21 = *No harm befalls the righteous, but the wicked have their fill of trouble*

(see also Proverbs 3:33; 10:6, 16, 24, 27; 11:8, 21, 31; 12:7; 13:9, 21, 25)

What are some clearer ways to understand these proverbs?

Proverbs 29:6 (11:6) = The wicked are caught up in sin, but the righteous are set free from it

Proverbs 11:18 = Sinful success is deceptive while righteous success is real

Proverbs 13:6 = *Righteousness guards the man of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner*

What is the real reason that bad things happen to righteous people?

Proverbs 20:6 (Romans 3:10-12) = We may claim to be righteous, but no one is righteous

What else should we remember during times of trouble?

Proverbs 3:11-12 = *The Lord disciplines those He loves*

## The Importance of Righteousness

So if we are sure to see troubles in this life, why should we bother with striving to be faithful and righteous?

Proverbs 10:28 = *The prospect of the righteous is joy, but the hopes of the wicked come to nothing*

Does God just want us to come to church and give offerings each week?

Proverbs 21:3 (21:27) = *To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice*

How does righteousness relate to what we call success in life?

Proverbs 16:8 = *Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice*

How does righteousness relate to our society and even our government?

Proverbs 14:34 = *Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people*

Proverbs 16:12 (20:26) = *Kings detest wrongdoing, for a throne is established through righteousness*

Proverbs 28:15-16 (29:2, 12) = *Wicked rulers are vicious beasts, A tyrannical ruler lacks judgment*

Proverbs 21:27 = *The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable*

Proverbial Quiz (page 4) = Go over answers

Closing Prayer

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## Proverbial Quiz

### 1. Match the two Bible Proverb halves in each grouping:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. There is a way that seems right to a man, but             | a. lean not on your own understanding; (3:5)                   |
| 2. Trust in the LORD with all your heart and                 | b. fear the LORD and shun evil. (3:7)                          |
| 3. A man's wisdom gives him patience;                        | c. in the end it leads to death. (14:12)                       |
| 4. Do not be wise in your own eyes;                          | d. it is to his glory to overlook an offense. (19:11)          |
| = 1c, 2a, 3d, 4b   |  |
| 5. Speak up and judge fairly;                                | e. bind them around your neck, write them on your heart. (3:3) |
| 6. Do not swerve to the right or the left;                   | f. it is attained by a righteous life. (16:31)                 |
| 7. Gray hair is a crown of splendor;                         | g. keep your foot from evil. (4:27)                            |
| 8. Let love and faithfulness never leave you;                | h. defend the rights of the poor and needy. (31:9)             |
| = 5h, 6g, 7f, 8e   |  |
| 9. The wicked man flees though no one pursues,               | i. but the righteous give without sparing. (21:26)             |
| 10. Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint, | j. but the righteous are as bold as a lion. (28:1)             |
| 11. When words are many, sin is not absent,                  | k. but blessed is he who keeps the law. (29:18)                |
| 12. All day long he craves for more,                         | l. but he who holds his tongue is wise. (10:19)                |
| = 9j, 10k, 11l, 12i  |  |
| 13. He who pursues righteousness and love,                   | m. yet a man will do wrong for a piece of bread. (28:21)       |
| 14. For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and       | n. finds life, prosperity and honor. (21:21)                   |
| 15. Many are the plans in a man's heart, but                 | o. He examines all his paths. (5:21)                           |
| 16. To show partiality is not good,                          | p. it is the Lord's purpose that prevails. (19:21)             |
| = 13n, 14o, 15p, 16m   |  |

### 2. Fill in the blanks of these English proverbs:

Cleanliness is next to godliness

Count your blessings

Everybody wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to die

Faith will move mountains

God helps those who help themselves

Good fences make good neighbors

If you can't be good, be careful

It's better to give than to receive

One good turn deserves another

The family that prays together stays together

There but for the grace of God go I

To err is human, to forgive divine