

Teaching Through Proverbs

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Topic and Chapter</u>
1	The Value of Possessing Wisdom
2	The Profit of Possessing Wisdom
3	The Path of the Just
4	The Foolishness of Folly
5	The Importance and Invitation of Wisdom
6	The Wisdom of Child Training
7	The Wisdom of Temperance
8	The Wisdom of Friendship
9	The Wisdom of God's Word
10	The Wise Use of the Tongue
11	Solomon's Secrets for Securing Wealth
12	Seven Desirable Characteristics for Christians
13	God's Prescription for a Perfect Wife

Lesson 1: The Value of Possessing Wisdom (Proverbs 1-2)

Key Verse: "The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Proverbs 1:7)

Introduction: The Purpose of Proverbs (Proverbs 1:2-6)

Theme: Two Potential Paths--Wisdom or Folly (Proverbs 1:7)

1. The path of wisdom
2. The path of folly

I. The Folly of Unlawful Gain (Proverbs 1:8-19)

- A. Obedience to parental instruction is wise (1:8-9)
- B. Warning against enticement to unlawful gain (1:10-14)
- C. Woeful end of the greedy (1:15-19)

II. Wisdom's Appeal to the Simple (Proverbs 1:20-33)

- A. Wisdom appeals to Mr. Average (1:20-21)
- B. Wisdom appeals to turn from folly (1:22-23)
- C. Wisdom warns against rejection (1:24-33)
 1. She will laugh at calamity (24-27)
 2. She will refuse call for help (28-29)
 3. Rejecters will reap their reward (30-33)

III. Wisdom's Value to the Righteous (Proverbs 2:1-22)

- A. Wisdom is precious: requires diligent search (2:1-5)
- B. Wisdom is given by God (2:6-9)
- C. Wisdom delivers those who possess it (2:10-22)
 1. Wisdom delivers from evil men (12-15)
 2. Wisdom delivers from strange women (16-22)

Lesson 2: The Profit of Possessing Wisdom (Proverbs 3)

Key Verse: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

I. Wisdom Produces Piety and Prosperity (Proverbs 3:1-18)

- A. Wisdom produces profitable piety (3:1-12)
 - 1. Profitable obedience (1-2)
 - 2. Profitable mercy and truth (3-4)
 - 3. Profitable trust (5-6)
 - 4. Profitable reverence (7-8)
 - 5. Profitable stewardship (9-10)
 - 6. Profitable discipline (11-12)
- B. Wisdom provides perfect prosperity (3:13-18)
 - 1. The wealth of greatest value (13-15)
 - 2. The wealth of longevity (16)
 - 3. The wealth of tranquility (17)
 - 4. The wealth of vitality and happiness (18)

II. Wisdom Produces Power and Preservation (Proverbs 3:19-26)

- A. Wisdom participated in God's power (3:19-20)
 - 1. God's power in creation (19)
 - 2. God's power in nature (20)
- B. Wisdom provides man's preservation (3:21-26)
 - 1. Wisdom provides inner vitality, external grace (21-22)
 - 2. Wisdom provides safety and security (23-26)

III. Wisdom Produces Proper Neighbors (Proverbs 3:27-35)

- A. A good neighbor meets immediate needs (3:27-28)
- B. A good neighbor is not a trouble-maker (3:29-30)
- C. A good neighbor does not oppress (3:31)
- D. A bad neighbor is cursed of the LORD (3:32-35)

Lesson 3: The Path of the Just (Proverbs 4-5)

Key Verse: "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." (Proverbs 4:18)

- I. Patiently Pursue Wisdom (Proverbs 4:1-27)
 - A. Pursue wisdom through parental teaching (4:1-4)
 - B. Pursue wisdom through personal diligence (4:5-7)
 - C. Pursue wisdom through prominent exalting (1:8-9)
 - D. Pursue wisdom through persistent instruction (1:10-13)
 - E. Pursue wisdom through protective avoidance (1:14-19)
 - F. Pursue wisdom through proper diligence (1:20-24)
 - G. Pursue wisdom through pondered paths (1:25-27)

- II. Protectively Preserve Marriage (Proverbs 5:1-23)
 - A. Protect marriage from adultery (5:1-14)
 - 1. Protect it from avoiding adulterers (1-6)
 - 2. Protect it from dangers of adultery (7-14)
 - a. The danger of dishonor (9)
 - b. The danger of poverty (10)
 - c. The danger of disease (11)
 - d. The danger of remorse (12-14)
 - B. Preserve marriage through wisdom (5:15-23)
 - 1. Preserve it through mutual enjoyment (15-16)
 - 2. Preserve it through mutual protection (17)
 - 3. Preserve it through mutual oneness (18-19)
 - 4. Preserve it through mindful accountability (20-23)

Lesson 4: The Foolishness of Folly (Proverbs 6-7)

Key Verse: "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise." (Proverbs 6:6)

- I. The Folly of Suretyship (Proverbs 6:1-5)
 - A. Suretyship is a trap (6:1-2)
 - B. Suretyship is to be avoided (6:3-5)

- II. The Folly of Sloth (Proverbs 6:6-11)
 - A. The slothful should study the ant (6:6-8)
 - B. The slothful receive poverty (6:9-11)

- III. The Folly of Deceit and Malice (Proverbs 6:12-19)
 - A. The deceitful receive sudden calamity (6:12-15)
 - B. The malicious are hated by God (6:16-19)
 - C. (Seven things God hates)

- IV. The Folly of Adultery (Proverbs 6:20-35)
 - A. The adulterer's ruinous ways (6:20-26)
 - B. The adulterer's woeful rewards (6:27-35)
 1. The burning consequences (27-29)
 2. The destroying disrespect (30-32)
 3. The wounding reproach (33)
 4. The jealous revenge (34-35)

- V. Folly: the Destroying Temptress (Proverbs 7:1-27)
 - A. Avoid folly by obedience and wisdom (7:1-5)
 - B. Activity of folly as a tempting adulteress (7:6-27)
 1. She lurks for the simple in the street (6-12)
 2. She lures the simple to shame (13-20)
 3. She leads the simple to slaughter (21-27)

Lesson 5: The Importance and Invitation of Wisdom (Proverbs 8-9)

Key Verse: "The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old." (Proverbs 8:22)

I. The Importance of Wisdom to Man and God (Proverbs 8:1-36)

A. The importance of Wisdom to man (8:1-21)

1. The importance of her invitation (1-5)
2. The importance of her instruction (6-9)
 - a. She teaches excellent things (6)
 - b. She teaches truth (7)
 - c. She teaches righteousness (8)
 - d. She teaches plain, right words (9)
3. The importance of her value (10-11)
 - a. She is more valuable than precious metals (10)
 - b. She is more valuable than precious jewels (11)
4. The importance of her qualities (12-14)
 - a. She imparts prudence (12)
 - b. She imparts reverence (13)
 - c. She imparts counsel (14a)
 - d. She imparts understanding (14b)
5. The importance of her constituents (15-21)
 - a. She empowers kings (15)
 - b. She empowers princes (16-17)
 - c. She empowers the wealthy (18-19)
 - d. She empowers the righteous (20-21)

B. The importance of Wisdom to God (8:22-31)

1. Wisdom was God's companion before creation (22-26)
 - a. Wisdom was God's eternal possession (22)
 - b. Wisdom was eternally appointed (23)
 - c. Wisdom was eternally produced (24-26)
2. Wisdom was God's companion during creation (27-31)
 - a. Wisdom was with God at Creation (27-29)
 - b. Wisdom was God's constant companion (30-31)

C. The importance of obtaining Wisdom (8:32-36)

II. The Invitation of Wisdom to Man (Proverbs 9:1-18)

A. Wisdom invites Man to her banquet (9:1-12)

1. She prepares a banquet house (1)
2. She prepares a banquet feast (2)
3. She sends out invitations (3-5)
4. She illustrates her importance (6-12)

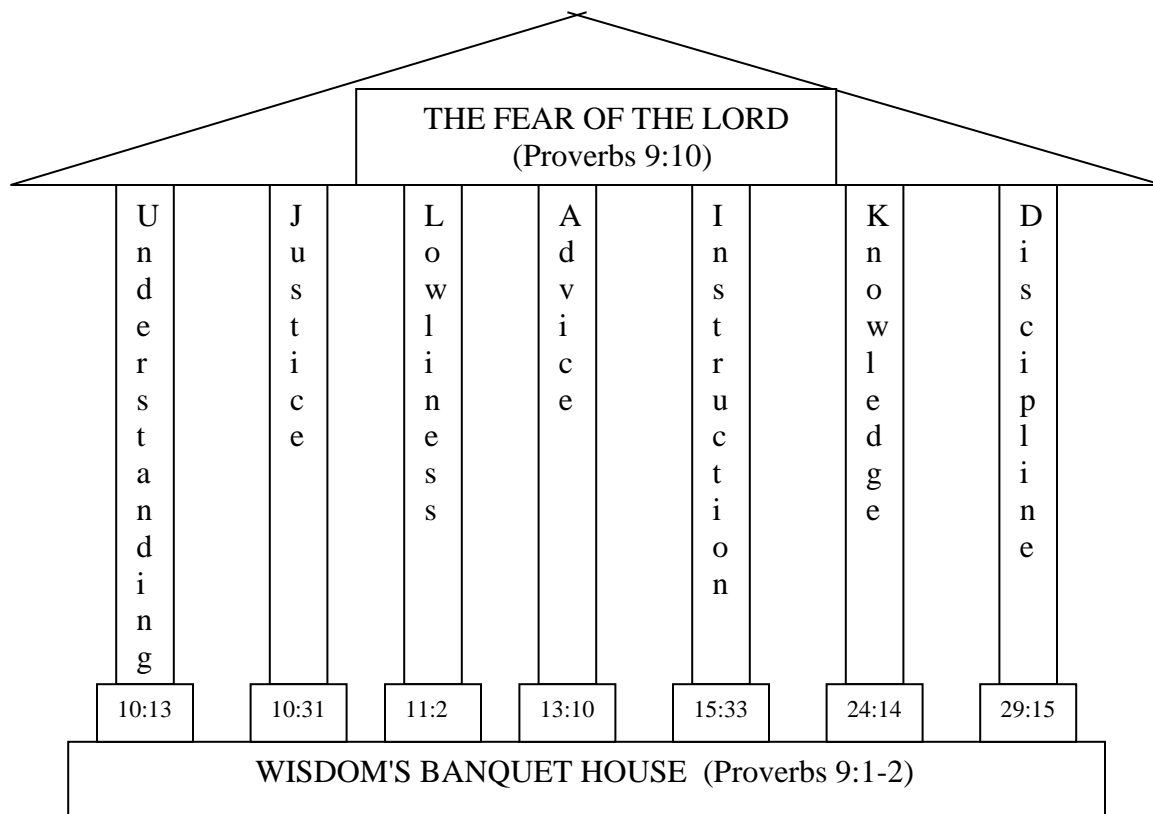
B. Wisdom Invites Man to beware of Folly (9:13-18)

Menu for Wisdom's

Seven Course Banquet (Proverbs 9:1-2)

Motif: The Fear of the LORD (Proverbs 9:10)

- I. Appetizer: Instruction (Proverbs 15:33)
- II. Salad: Knowledge (Proverbs 1:7)
- III. Beverage: Fountain of Life (Proverbs 14:27)
- IV. Bread: Long Life (Proverbs 10:27)
- V. Vegetable: Confidence (Proverbs 14:26)
- VI. Meat: Righteousness (Proverbs 8:13)
- VII. Dessert: Satisfaction (Proverbs 19:23)



Lesson 6: The Wisdom of Child Training (Proverbs)

Key Verse: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

I. Training Requires Parental Instruction

- A. Parents should be the instructors (4:1-4)
- B. Parents should instruct with purpose (22:6)
 - 1. To start them and keep them on the right path
 - 2. To prepare them for their life
- C. Parents should instruct with protection
 - 1. To warn against potential dangers
 - a. Unlawful gain (1:11-19)
 - b. Unlawful love (2:16-19)
 - c. Harmful suretyship (3:1-5)
 - d. Slothfulness (3:6-11)
- D. Parents should instruct in positive godliness (9:10)

II. Training Requires Parental Correction

- A. Children need parental correction
 - 1. By nature they are inclined to foolishness (22:15)
 - 2. They will usually respond to correction (29:15-17)
- B. Children need prompt correction
 - 1. There is hope in prompt correction (19:18)
 - 2. There is love in prompt correction (13:24)
 - 3. There is shame in neglected correction (29:15)
- C. Children need proper correction
 - 1. Proper correction may require chastening (23:13-14)
 - 2. Proper correction is given in love (3:11-12)
 - 3. Proper correction may require only rebuke (9:8; 13:1)

III. Training Results in Profitable Rewards

- A. It will last a life-time (22:6)
- B. It brings rest from foolishness (29:17)
- C. It brings happiness to the parents (15:20; 23:24-25)

Lesson 7: The Wisdom of Temperance (Proverbs)

Key Verse: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." (Proverbs 20:1)

I. The Bible Words Are Generic Terms

A. YAYIN--wine

1. Good sense: fresh sweet wine (Isaiah 16:10; Genesis 40:10-11; Proverbs 9:2)
2. Bad sense: fermented wine (Proverbs 20:1)

B. TIROSH--(new) wine

1. Good sense: (first fruits of) wine (Deuteronomy 18:4; Isaiah 65:8)
 --new wine (Proverbs 3:10)
2. Bad sense: new wine (Hosea 4:11)

C. SHEKAR--strong drink

1. Good sense: sweet drink (Deuteronomy 14:26)
2. Bad sense: strong fermented drink (Proverbs 20:1)

II. The Bible Warns Against Intoxicating Drink

A. It warns against its personal dangers

1. The danger of violence (Proverbs 4:17)
2. The danger of immorality (Hosea 4:11)
3. The danger of a raging temper (Proverbs 20:1)
4. The danger of poverty (Proverbs 23:20-21; 21:17)
5. The danger of perverted judgment (Proverbs 31:5)
6. The danger of sorrow and sickness (Proverbs 23:29-35)
7. The danger of addiction (Proverbs 23:35)

B. It warns against its social dangers

1. The danger of social pressure to drink (Proverbs 23:20-21)
2. The danger of social disgrace (Proverbs 23:29-35)

C. It warns against its civil dangers

1. Civil leaders should not use it (Proverbs 31:3-4)
2. Religious leaders should not use it (Leviticus 10:9)

III. The Bible Approves Certain Uses of Drink

A. It approves the use of fresh wine

1. For sacrifices to God (Numbers 18:12)
2. For a nourishing beverage (Genesis 27:8)
3. For a symbol of spiritual blessing (Matthew 26:26-28)

B. It approves the use of alcoholic drink

1. For medical purposes (Proverbs 31:6-7)
2. For a symbol of punishment and wrath (Isaiah 51:17; Revelation 14:10)

Lesson 8: The Wisdom of Friendship

Key Verse: "A friend loveth at all times." (Proverbs 17:17)

I. The Folly of False Friendship

- A. False friends flock to financial favors (Proverbs 19:4-7; 14:20; 6:1-5)
- B. False friends flaunt foolish flattery (Proverbs 27:14)
- C. The folly of following a furious friend (Proverbs 22:24-25)
- D. The folly of faith in a fluent friend (Proverbs 16:28)

II. The Wisdom of True Friendship

- A. A true friend is faithful forever
 - 1. He loves at all times (Proverbs 17:17)
 - 2. He never forsakes you (Proverbs 27:10)
 - 3. He is closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24)
- B. A true friend is helpful forever
 - 1. He hides harmful information (Proverbs 17:9)
 - 2. He helps his friend improve (Proverbs 27:6)
 - 3. He helps his friend in need (Proverbs 13:7; 19:17; 28:27)
- C. A true friend is cultivated forever
 - 1. Friendship fosters friendship (Proverbs 18:24)
 - 2. Friendship sharpens friendship (Proverbs 27:17)

Lesson 9: The Wisdom of God's Word

Key Verse: "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him." (Proverbs 30:5)

I. God's Word is Perfect (Proverbs 30:1-6)

A. Human speculation is worthless (30:1-3)

1. Man is brutish (1-2)
2. Man is ignorant (2-3)
3. Man is unholy (3)

B. God's revelation is flawless (30:4-6)

1. Only God reveals heaven (4)
2. Only God reveals creation (4)
3. Only God's word is pure (5)
4. Only God's word is perfect (6)

II. God's Word is Practical

A. It provides practical guidance (Proverbs 8:14)

1. Guidance for counsel
2. Guidance for wisdom
3. Guidance for understanding
4. Guidance for strength

B. It provides practical protection

1. It protects from evil (Proverbs 28:4)
2. It protects from error (Proverbs 19:27)

C. It provides practical holiness (Proverbs 8:8)

1. Holiness follows righteousness
2. Holiness avoids perversity

III. God's Word is Permanent

A. It stands against human schemes (Proverbs 19:21)

B. It stands against human uncertainty (Proverbs 22:20-21)

C. It stands against human changes (Proverbs 30:6)

Lesson 10: The Wise Use of the Tongue

Key Verse: "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." (Proverbs 25:11)

I. It is Wise Not to Misuse the Tongue

- A. Avoid malicious use of the tongue (Proverbs 6:12-19)
 - 1. Avoid false speech (12, 17)
 - 2. Avoid false teaching (13)
 - 3. Avoid mischief and discord (14, 18, 19)

- B. Avoid harmful use of the tongue (Proverbs 10:18-21)
 - 1. Avoid slanderous speech (18)
 - 2. Avoid superfluous speech (19)
 - 3. Avoid worthless speech (20)
 - 4. Avoid profitless speech (21)
 - 5. Avoid hurtful speech (Proverbs 18:8; 16:27)

II. It is Wise to Properly Use the Tongue

- A. Use the tongue for truth (Proverbs 12:17-22)
 - 1. Truth shows righteousness (17)
 - 2. Truth provides health (18)
 - 3. Truth is enduring (19)
 - 4. Truth delights man and God (20-22)

- B. Use the tongue for benefiting others (Proverbs 15:1-7)
 - 1. Use it to appease wrath (1)
 - 2. Use it to spread knowledge (2, 7)
 - 3. Use it to impart life (4)
 - 4. Use it to impart instruction (5)

- C. Use the tongue for discretion (Proverbs 25:11-15)
 - 1. Use well chosen words (11-12)
 - 2. Use beautiful words (11-12)
 - 3. Use refreshing words (13)
 - 4. Use soft speech (15)

- D. Use the tongue sparingly (Proverbs 17:27-28; 21:23)

Lesson 11: Solomon's Secrets for Securing Wealth

Key Verse: "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."
(Proverbs 10:22)

I. Seven Things That Increase Wealth

- A. Wealth increases through God's blessing (Proverbs 10:22)
- B. Wealth increases through a father's inheritance (Proverbs 13:22; 19:14)
- C. Wealth increases through labor (Proverbs 13:11; 14:23)
- D. Wealth increases through knowledge (Proverbs 24:4)
- E. Wealth increases through wisdom (Proverbs 3:16; 8:18; 14:24)
- F. Wealth increases through generosity (Proverbs 13:7)
- G. Wealth increases through stewardship (Proverbs 3:9-10)

II. Seven Things That Destroy Wealth

- A. Wealth is destroyed by godlessness (Proverbs 10:2; 13:22)
- B. Wealth is destroyed by slothfulness (Proverbs 10:4; 21:25)
- C. Wealth is destroyed by debt (Proverbs 22:7; 28:8)
- D. Wealth is destroyed by greed (Proverbs 15:27)
- E. Wealth is destroyed by oppressing the poor (Proverbs 22:16)
- F. Wealth is destroyed by love of pleasure (Proverbs 21:17)
- G. Wealth is destroyed by wine (Proverbs 21:17)

III. Seven Things Better Than Wealth

- A. Good reputation (Proverbs 22:1)
- B. Knowledge (Proverbs 8:10; 20:15)
- C. Understanding (Proverbs 16:16)
- D. Wisdom (Proverbs 3:14; 8:11)
- E. Humble reverence (Proverbs 22:4)
- F. Uprightness (Proverbs 28:6)
- G. Faithfulness (Proverbs 18:20)

IV. Three Limitations On Wealth

- A. Wealth is transient (Proverbs 23:5; 27:24)
- B. Wealth is not trustworthy (Proverbs 11:28)
- C. Wealth is temporal (Proverbs 11:4)

V. Sound Advice About Wealth

- A. Don't make wealth your primary goal (Proverbs 23:1-5)
- B. Desire moderation of possessions (Proverbs 30:8-9)

Lesson 12: Seven Desirable Characteristics for Christians (Proverbs 30)

Key Verse: "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him." (Proverbs 30:5)

- I. The Desire for Freedom from Sin (Proverbs 30:7-9)
 - A. Vanity and lies are sin (8)
 - B. Greed is sin (8-9)

- II. The Desire for Freedom from Arrogance (Proverbs 30:11-14)
 - A. Arrogance is disrespect (11)
 - B. Arrogance is self-righteousness (12)
 - C. Arrogance is pride (13)
 - D. Arrogance is cruelty (14)

- III. The Desire for Spiritual Satisfaction (Proverbs 30:15-16)
 - A. The grave is never satisfied (16)
 - B. The barren womb is never satisfied (16)
 - C. The dry ground is never satisfied (16)
 - D. The fire is never satisfied (16)

- IV. The Desire for Spiritual Way of Life (Proverbs 18-19)
 - A. The eagle soars in a marvelous way (19)
 - B. The serpent crawls in a marvelous way (19)
 - C. The ship sails in a marvelous way (19)
 - D. The man woos in a marvelous way (19)

- V. The Desire for Compatibility With Others (Proverbs 30:21-23)
 - A. A slave who becomes king is unbearable (22)
 - B. A full fool is unbearable (22)
 - C. A married hateful woman is unbearable (23)
 - D. A slavegirl who inherits wealth is unbearable (23)

- VI. The Desire for Wisdom in Small Things (Proverbs 30: 24-28)
 - A. The ants wisely store provisions (25)
 - B. The rock-badger wisely finds sanctuary (26)
 - C. The locust wisely have order (27)
 - D. The spider is wisely audacious (28)

- VII. The Desire for a Godly Stateliness (Proverbs 30:29-31)
 - A. A courageous lion is stately (30)
 - B. A swift greyhound is stately (31)
 - C. A surefooted goat is stately (31)
 - D. A secure sovereign is stately (31)

Lesson 13: God's Prescription for a Perfect Wife (Proverbs 31:10-31)

Key Verse: "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies." (Proverbs 31:10)

I. The Virtuous Woman is of Extreme Value (Proverbs 31:10)

- A. She is rare
- B. She is precious

II. The Virtuous Woman Has Excellent Relationship (Proverbs 31:11-12)

- A. She is trusted by her husband (11)
- B. She is always good to her husband (12)
- C. She is an asset to her husband (23)

III. The Virtuous Woman Has Excellent Characteristics (Proverbs 31:13-27)

- A. She is a willing worker (13)
- B. She is industrious
 - 1. Rises early (15)
 - 2. Stays up late (18)
 - 3. Is not idle (27)
 - 4. Makes own money (24)
 - 5. Makes wise investments (16)
 - 6. Prepares for the future (21)
 - 7. Is a busy housekeeper (27)
- C. She is talented
 - 1. Makes good fabric (19)
 - 2. Is a good seamstress (22)
 - 3. Is a good cook (14-15)
- D. She is attractive
 - 1. Dresses well (22)
 - 2. Beautiful (30)
- E. She is confident (18)

IV. The Virtuous Woman Has Excellent Moral Character

- A. She has moral excellence (10, 29)
- B. She has strength of character (17)
- C. She has a wise discrete tongue (26)
- D. She is benevolent and generous (20)
- E. Her godliness exceeds her beauty (30)

V. The Virtuous Woman Has an Expected Reward (Proverbs 31:25-31)

- A. She has honor as adornment (25)
- B. She is honored and praised by her family (28)
- C. She deserves reward and praises (31)