

The Book of Proverbs **An Introduction**

The Book of Proverbs is foundational for Christian living; yet it is often ignored or forgotten in today's world because it is in the Old Testament. Proverbs is a unique book, because it tells us what God loves and what God hates. It is not a book to be read thru once, but to be studied, memorized, and shared with your children and your grandchildren. The word "Proverb" means "to rule or govern"; that is the purpose of the Book of Proverbs – to rule our lives. It has more than 100 promises, such as Proverbs 21:21

**He who pursues righteousness and love,
finds life, prosperity, and honor.**

Proverbs is God's Instruction Manual for living to please Him. It is God's Book of Wisdom, which describes how to live skillfully. How awesome is that. God created us in His image; He gave His Instruction Manual for living; and he gave us a Savior when we are disobedient..

God states in Proverbs 3:13-18:

**Blessed are those who find wisdom,
those who gain understanding,
¹⁴for she is more profitable than silver
and yields better returns than gold.
¹⁵She is more precious than rubies;
nothing you desire can compare with her.
¹⁶Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.
¹⁷Her ways are pleasant ways,
and all her paths are peace.
¹⁸She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her;
those who hold her fast will be blessed.**

In Matthew 7, Jesus stated "**Not everyone who calls me LORD, LORD will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father, who is in heaven..... Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.**" Let us become wise men!

The source of many problems in our country today is that men have fallen captive to the wisdom of the world. The wisdom from heaven is no longer pursued by men or taught to children. So we have a culture of greed and selfishness

II Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

So I came here today with three objectives:

1. SEEK WISDOM

Proverbs gives the wisdom, the guidance to be God's Men in an ungodly world. We need that daily time in the Word – it is our **ONLY** offensive weapon. Let us put on the armor of God.

Probably you have memorized John 3:16. Memorize some Proverbs. Search for wisdom as if it is a buried treasure.

2. MAKE A COMMITMENT TO READ PROVERBS MONTHLY FOR 1 YR

Read a Chapter in Proverbs daily. Twelve times in one year. Why? Men need the 12 times because we need the repetition and we need to see the influence of God's wisdom in our lives over a period of time. Just as you have grown in your job or career, you will grow in wisdom. In James 1, God states that if we desire His wisdom, we simply have to ask. Jesus said "Seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened." Proverbs will help you grow as a Christian, and God's wisdom will change your life. You will never be the same!

Proverbs 21:6 states:

**"He who gets wisdom loves his own soul,
he who cherishes understanding prospers."**

3. SHARE

Proverbs 27:17 states: "As Iron Sharpens Iron, one man sharpens another."

I ask that you share Proverbs with your sons, your grandsons, your father, your brother, your friends, your business associates. Share with at least one man each month, and then pray for that man.

If men knew right from wrong and the fear of the LORD, there would be less crime, fewer divorces, better husbands, fathers, businessmen, and politicians.

Leave a Legacy.....

One of our greatest responsibilities as a parent is to encourage our children to seek wisdom and understanding (the knowledge of God). We are to help our children grow from:

- (1) foolishness to wisdom
- (2) selfishness to unselfishness and
- (3) the knowledge of God to a passion for God.

Now is the time for Christian Men to lead their families and our nation back to Jesus Christ and the God of the Bible by living to please God.

May God bless you with Understanding (the knowledge of God), Wisdom (the love of God) and Courage (the commitment to God).
