

Proverbs 1:1-7
“*Wisdom... What Is It Good For?*”

~ INTRO ~

Proverbs is a book for “*living life skillfully.*”

- So you don’t take the wrong way in life.

(Ps. 19:7(b))

“... *The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple...*”

The **THEME** in Proverbs is **wisdom**:

- Wise & wisdom are used 125-times.
- The aim of Proverbs is to provide wisdom for the decisions & activities
 - Experienced in daily living.
- It’s a hands-on & practical book.
- It reveals wisdom from God’s view.
- It’s a book that calibrates basic morality from father to son.
- It teaches wisdom / promotes discipline / & grows understanding.
- It’s crafted to help the **simple** (inexperienced) and the **wise**.

(2 Tim 3:16-17) NKJV

“*All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correct, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*”

SOME BACKGROUND...

- Scholars believe King Solomon wrote...
 - *Song of Songs* in his early adult years
 - *Proverbs* in his middle age
 - *Ecclesiastes* near the end of his life

~ STUDY ~

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(v.1)...

- (2 Chronicles 1:7-10) NKJV
- (1 Kings 4:32) NKJV

PURPOSE:

In the first six verses Solomon gives a handful of purpose... (NLT)

- (v.2) for attaining wisdom & discipline/instruction
- (v.2) for help us understand the insights of the wise
- (v.3) they teach us to live disciplined & successful lives
- (v.3) so we can do what is right, just, & fair
- (vv.5-6) we gain guidance by exploring the meanings

KEY POINT:

When the Bible speaks of wisdom...

- It means being skilled in godly living.
 - It's not just knowing... But rather doing.
 - It's knowledge in action.

There are many different ancient writings outside the Bible...

- That have wisdom sayings...
 - But please KNOW there is a vast difference...
 - In what Biblical wisdom is (v.7).

In other words...

- If you **can't** get your relationship right with God...
 - It doesn't matter what you know.

SO...

- Wisdom starts with a right relationship with God...
 - And then goes forward with instruction.

Proverbs develops us...

- Especially the young, in a skillful approach to living...
 - Which begins with being properly related to the Lord.

Wise-living is synonymous with godly-living.

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- Proverbs is about living life now... not in eternity.

Simple Application:

In (2016) I read a book called “Ask It” – by Andy Stanley.¹

It mentioned three questions I found to be helpful when studying Proverbs.

1) What is the wise thing to do in-light of my **past**?

- What’s your weakness?
- What tendency’s do you have that need to be guarded against?
- What is the one thing you have fallen to over & over thru your life?

2) What is the wise thing to do in-light of my **present** emotional situation?

- Our emotions impact us for good and for bad.
- **Fear** can be a great emotion to escape danger, but it can also be a bad relational flaw (2-Tim 1:7) NLT.
- **Anger** can be the right emotion when abuse has gone too far – (John 2:15-16) NLT
 - But it can also take you too far (Gen. 4:8) NLT.
- **Sorrow** is the right response to loss, but it also can debilitate and destroy a life if joy is forbidden to return (Ecc. 3:1-8) – *a time for everything...*

3) What is the wise thing to do in-light of my **future** desires?

- Planning for the future is appropriate, but a selfish focus is sinful...
 - (James 3:14-15) NLT
- Preparation is man’s responsibility, but self-confidence about success is
 - not of God (James 4:13-17) NLT.

~ CLOSE ~

¹ Source sited from Andy Stanley – Ask It. Can be purchased from author on Amazon:
<https://www.amazon.com/Ask-Question-That-Revolutionize-Decisions/dp/1601427182>