

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1) 07 June 2020	Proverbs 01	Chartered Waters
2) 14 June	Proverbs 03:1-18	Direction Offered
3) 21 June	Proverbs 03:19-35	Compassion Demonstrated
4) 28 June	Proverbs 04	The Choice
5) 05 July	Proverbs 05	Following God's Design
6) 12 July	Proverbs 08-09	Pursuing Wisdom
7) 19 July	Proverbs 14	Living Wisely
8) 26 July	Proverbs 15-16	Pleasing God
9) 02 August	Proverbs 23	Staying Sober
10) 09 August	Proverbs 29	Accepting Discipline
11) 16 August	Proverbs 31	Finding Honor
12) 23 August	Song of Songs 1-5	Relational Foundations
13) 30 August	Song of Songs 5-8	Relational Investment

**INTRODUCTION**

- Solomon's God-given wisdom surpassed all the sons of the east & all the wisdom of Egypt, and "he was wiser than all" [1Kings 4:29-31](#)
- Solomon wrote 3000 proverbs and 1005 songs [1Kings 4:32](#) - Of which we only have 1000 proverbs and one poem
- Solomon had 700 wives, princesses, and 300 concubines, and his wives turned his heart away [1Kings 11:3](#)
- Solomon was known as a wise man, but he was not very prudent. He knew what to do, but he often did things his own way.
- But that doesn't mean God couldn't use him to write the right proverbs which would be included into Holy Script

Passage	Comments
Proverbs 1:1-6	<p><b>The Guide to Wisdom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vv1-2. Wisdom, instruction, understanding, and wise behavior seem to be a lost art these days. People seem to be more rude, crude &amp; socially unacceptable.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can we get civility back into society?</li> </ul> </li> <li>v3. Key Terms throughout Proverbs – Wise behavior, Righteousness, Justice, Equity (~evenness, fairness)                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The foundation of God's throne is stated to be <b>Righteousness and Justice</b>, with <b>Lovingkindness and Truth</b> going before Him <a href="#">Psalms 89:14</a></li> <li>♦ It is rare that God is portrayed as a Fair God. After all, He has mercy on some, but not others, He makes some handicapped and not others, He makes some rich and not others – YET, in the end everyone receives just recompense (fair treatment) for the hardships they endure</li> <li>♦ He will judge the peoples with equity <a href="#">Psalms 96:10</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>v4. "Give shrewdness to the naïve/simple-minded; to the youth knowledge and discretion"                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ One of the best compliments to give a young person is "you are wise beyond your years" – and this compliment is a credit to a person's parents</li> </ul> </li> <li>vv5-6. "A wise man will hear and learn" – Why is it that "those who have ears to hear will hear"? (<a href="#">Mat 11:15</a>)                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Is this a God-given ability to comprehend wisdom?</li> <li>♦ How does a person's will play into getting wisdom?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Definition of a Proverb	<p>A proverb conveys a general truth, not an absolute truth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Example #1:</b> "The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to hunger" (<a href="#">Prov 10:3</a>) – but we know Lottie Moon died of starvation. She weighed 50 lbs. when she died in 1912. <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lottie_Moon">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lottie_Moon</a></li> <li>♦ <b>Example #2:</b> "In the house of the righteous is much treasure" (<a href="#">Prov 15:6</a>) – The widow with 2 mites was in abject poverty (<a href="#">Mark 2:42-44</a>), along with the righteous but destitute widows of <a href="#">1Timothy 5</a></li> </ul>
Proverbs 1:7	<p><b>Key to Knowledge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The answer to the previous question is given here: (Is hearing or comprehending wisdom a God-given ability or a willful act or both?):                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Those who comprehend wisdom have a "fear of the Lord"</li> <li>2. Fools choose not to fear the Lord</li> </ol> </li> <li>♦ So, what is the Fear of the Lord?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Is it reverent fear done out of love and respect?</li> <li>♦ Is it a frightful fear? Do it or die?</li> <li>♦ How would we explain this concept of properly fearing God to an unbeliever or a new Christian?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:8-9	<p><b>Admonition to Love</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Parental obedience – The first commandment with a promise in Scripture: "Honor your father &amp; your mother, that you may live long &amp; prosper" <a href="#">Exodus 20:12</a></li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
1:10-19	<p><b>Warning Against Folly</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ 10 verses on choosing the right friends in life. Why is this so hard for young people? Why do so many kids gravitate toward the wild side instead of the meek side? How can we encourage more meekness?</li> </ul>
What is the diff between earthly wisdom & God's wisdom?	<p><b>Earthly Wisdom (as defined by James):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Includes jealousy and selfish ambition, arrogance, self-deception, and disorder – this is considered earthly, natural, demonic <a href="#">James 3:14-16</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Heavenly Wisdom (from above)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Is demonstrated by good behavior performed with gentleness and forethought; It is first pure/honest, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy <a href="#">James 3:13,17</a></li> </ul>
1:20-22	<p><b>Wisdom Speaks → The Path of Least Resistance Kills!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ vv20-21. Wisdom SHOUTS and does it PUBLICLY</li> <li>♦ v22. A hard question is asked: "How long, O naïve ones, will you love being simple-minded (NASB); or love ignorance (HCSB)                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ In other words, stupidity is a choice. This also means we have no excuse for ignorance of the facts since God's truth is all around us.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do we have our eyes open to see it?</li> <li>• Do we have our ears open to hear it?</li> <li>• Do we have our minds open to receive it and test it?</li> <li>• Do we have our hearts open to obey it?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:23	<p><b>So How Do We Turn From Stupidity and Turn Toward Wisdom?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ God makes it relatively easy – We need to be willing to turn                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ IOW repent of our old ways and make the effort to listen &amp; heed to God's ways. Begin by delving into the Book of Proverbs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:24-32	<p><b>Negative Reinforcement on Turning Away from Wisdom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ There are 2 verses on positive reinforcement (v23 &amp; v33) of turning to Wisdom, but 8 verses (4x as much) on negative reinforcement                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Expect calamity like a tornado, God's mocking and laughter, God's refusal to answer your prayers (IT IS TOO LATE); and DEATH</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:33	<p><b>Benefit of Listening to God → Live Confidently</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ We need to listen and obey to reap God's protection</li> <li>♦ Doing things God's ways generally works out for our physical, financial, and social well-being – but there are exceptions → Job, Jesus, Apostles, &amp; all martyrs</li> <li>♦ Even when financial and physical woes come our way, God has ultimate control of over all of our affairs – IF WE OBEY</li> </ul>
Speeding Analogy	<p><b>Example 1.</b> If a driver speeds and gets into an accident, he is on his own since he chose not to obey God's commandment to obey the good laws of the land</p> <p><b>Example 2.</b> If a Christian driver obeys the speed limit (i.e., the good laws of the land) and God allows him to get involved in an accident, God has the responsibility to work things out for his good <a href="#">Romans 8:28</a></p>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- How would our world be a better place if we were more prudent or wise?
  - ♦ Consider this. The world says, "he who has the gold rules" and "might makes right." But God says, "He who rules should serve" ([Mat 20:26](#)), and "strength is found in weakness" or humility ([2Cor 12:10](#))

**NEXT WEEK: Proverbs 3:1-12.** The reward of wisdom is highlighted: A longer, easier, & prosperous life. But is this true for all or for some?

