

Bible Reading Notes
Proverbs

Pastor Jeff Landis

Proverbs 1

Remember as you read through Proverbs that a proverb is not a promise from God which is always fulfilled, but a saying of general truth that may have exceptions.

1:1-7 – The purpose of the book.

1:7 – fear of the Lord – The beginning of wisdom is found in having a right view of the Lord and a right response to him.

1:28-32 – A rejection of God and his wisdom has eternal consequences.

Proverbs 2

2:6 – Wisdom comes from the Lord for those who seek him (James 1:5).

2:9-22 – Solomon gives some of the benefits wisdom brings to the person who possesses it.

Proverbs 3

3:5-6 – Trust in the Lord – and not on your own understanding. This is the essence of wise living.

3:11-12 – This is quoted in Hebrews 12:5-6.

3:13-26 – The benefits of wisdom.

Proverbs 4

Much of chapter 4 is focused on the priority of finding and living in wisdom. Solomon tells his son to “get wisdom” (v. 7) and to “keep hold of instruction” (v. 13).

4:6 – One reason to get wisdom is that it will keep you and guard you.

Proverbs 5

Wisdom impacts daily living. The wise person does not engage in sexual immorality, for it leads to ruin.

5:7-14 – The awful consequences of sexual immorality.

5:15-23 – Save your sexual desires for marriage, where sexual intimacy is appropriate and good.

Proverbs 6

6:16-19 – **six things...seven** – This is a Hebrew device. It does not mean these are the only things that God hates. This device is often used to draw attention to the last item in the list.

6:20-35 – Solomon returns to the subject of adultery once again, because it is a great evil and it brings great negative consequences.

Proverbs 7

In chapter 7 Solomon continues the discussion about the danger of adultery.

7:22 – The foolish person is not even aware of the danger he is going into with his sin.

7:27 – **Sheol...death** – This is why the wise avoid the foolishness of adultery. The consequences are severe and can be eternal.

Proverbs 8

Proverbs 8 – Wisdom is personified as she cries aloud of the blessing of pursuing her. In the New Testament, we see the full personification of wisdom in the person of Christ.

8:11 – Wisdom is of greater value than any earthly treasure. Reminds us of Solomon's dream when he chose wisdom over riches from the Lord.

8:22 – the Lord possessed me (Wisdom) – Wisdom is part of the character of God. This is why he is the source of wisdom for his people.

8:35 – life – obtaining and living in wisdom will lead to the fullness of life and covenant blessings.

Proverbs 9

9:1-6 – Wisdom prepares a feast and invites the simple (untutored/inexperienced) to come and experience her.

9:7-8 – scoffer – The scoffer is not merely a simple fool but one who has made a conscious decision to live in disobedience to the Lord. A wise man loves those who reprove him.

9:13-18 – Folly is described as a woman who is almost identical to the adulteress that is mentioned in chapter 7. She too invites those who pass by to her house.

Proverbs 10

Proverbs 10 – Begins a series of chapters that will be filled with individual proverbs rather than larger thematic sections as we have had in chapters 1-9.

10:12 – Peter alludes to this in 1 Peter 4:8 in calling Christians to love each other earnestly.

10:19 – This falls in line with James' direction – "Be slow to speak and quick to hear" (James 1:19).

Proverbs 11

11:4 – day of wrath = Day of final judgment.

11:15 – striking hands = This was the way people indicated that a deal had been struck. (like shaking hands.)

11:31 is loosely quoted in 1 Peter 4:18.

Proverbs 12

12:1 – loves discipline – The believer loves discipline from the Lord because the believer knows that it comes from the Lord and is for their good (Hebrews 12:5-10).

12:14-19 – This group of proverbs all are related to speech and its effect.

Proverbs 13

13:11 – So much for winning the lottery for long term financial security!

13:20 – Wisdom begins with the right company.

Proverbs 14

14:12 – The way that leads to death seems right because apart from God's grace we are spiritually dead and unable to discern the right path.

14:34 – Both righteousness and sin have consequences for nations, families, and individuals.

Proverbs 15

Proverbs 15-16 begins and ends with proverbs on anger (15:1; 16:32).

15:5 – Wisdom is first evidenced in listening and heeding a parent's godly direction.

15:8 – Not all worship is accepted by the Lord. We must come to worship with hearts that are right with the Lord.

Proverbs 16

16:10-15 contain proverbs related to the king

16:25 – This is a repeated proverb from Proverbs 14:12.

Proverbs 17

17:9 – covers an offense – An offense is covered by forgiveness.

17:15 – justifies the wicked – The Lord does this because Christ's righteousness has been imputed to the wicked who seek forgiveness.

17:19 – makes his door high – This is a picture of great pride.

17:27 – This verse combines two of the main themes of Proverbs: restrained speech and anger.

Proverbs 18

18:2 – This is the one who answers without listening. See also v. 13.

18:18 – The lot – Because it was understood that the Lord controlled the lot and its decision.

18:21 – This theme is picked up by James in James 3:1ff

Proverbs 19

19:11 – One evidence of being wise is being slow to anger and not harboring bitterness.

19:20 – Wisdom does not come all at once. It is acquired, in part, by listening to wise people.

Proverbs 20

20:16 – take a man's garment – Only a foolish man would take on responsibility for a stranger's debt. Since he will likely not be repaid, you will only get your money back by keeping his garment as collateral. This is not meant as a contradiction to Exodus 22:26-27 but as a warning about foolish action.

20:22 – This is the basis of Paul’s teaching in Romans 12:19.

20:29 – I find this verse to be a great comfort more and more.
Physical strength changes to wisdom over the years.

Proverbs 21

21:1 – This should be a comfort for us, no matter who is president.

21:9 – I believe the same applies to a quarrelsome husband!

21:12 – **The Righteous One** – By capitalizing the phrase, the ESV has decided that it is a reference to the Lord.

Proverbs 22

22:6 – This proverb applies to both the child raised well and the child not raised according to the principles of the Word of God.

22:28 – **landmark** = Boundary markers separating pieces of property.

Proverbs 23

23:3 – **deceptive food** – Food that is used by the wicked to trap the righteous, perhaps to blackmail the righteous or perhaps to distract the person from the direction he or she should go.

23:10-11 – This is a repeat of the same command found in Proverbs 22, but the motive for obedience is given – the Lord will be against you. Do not expand your property at the expense of others.

23:29-35 – The dangers of drunkenness.

Proverbs 24

24:3 – **By wisdom a house is built** – A loving and God glorifying home (a metaphor for a family) only comes through the application of the wisdom that comes from the Lord.

24:30-34 – The end of lazy people.

Proverbs 25

25:1 – This begins a new section of the book of Proverbs which will go through 29. These are additional proverbs by Solomon that were gathered and added by Hezekiah's scribes.

25:6-7 – Jesus alludes to this proverb in his parable in Luke 14:7-11.

25:21 – This is the basis for Jesus' statement in Matthew 5:44.

25:22 – Quoted in Romans 12:20.

Proverbs 26

26:1-12 – Proverbs dealing with fools.

26:4-5 – These verses appear to contradict each other. V. 5 is the exception to the general rule. Sometimes fools need to be answered so that their folly is made apparent.

26:11 – Peter refers to this proverb in 2 Peter 2:22 as part of his description of false teachers.

26:13-16 – Proverbs dealing with sluggards.

26:17-28 – Most of these proverbs deal with issues of the tongue and speech.

Proverbs 27

Proverbs 27 will end the section of Proverbs which contain the additional proverbs of Solomon collected by Hezekiah that started in Proverbs 25.

27:22 – mortar with a pestle = a bowl with a heavy tool with a rounded end used to crush and grind ingredients in a bowl.

Proverbs 28

28:13 – This was seen in Solomon’s father’s life according to Psalm 32:3-5.

28:25 – One is enriched by trusting in the Lord, not by greed.

Proverbs 29

Proverbs 29 – This chapter is the conclusion of the proverbs of Solomon which were collected by Hezekiah.

29:1 – This is the danger of not responding to the conviction or discipline of the Holy Spirit. Continued hardening of one’s heart leads to the point where a person is no longer able to respond.

Proverbs 30

30 – The proverbs of Agur. Agur is not mentioned elsewhere in Scripture.

30:5 – proves true – This is a quote from Psalm 18:30.

30:6 – Do not add to his words – An allusion to Deuteronomy 4:2 and 12:32. See also Revelation 22:18.

30:7-9 – A prayer for sufficiency and the contentment that should flow from it.

Proverbs 31

31:1-9 – The advice of King Lemuel’s mother to her son. The book of Proverbs starts and ends with advice to sons.

31:6-7 – This must be understood in the context of the rest of Scripture. Wine is a gift from God and is useful but is to be used in moderation.

31:10-31 – This is the picture of the ideal woman a man should be looking for when he is seeking a wife. It is the description of a wise woman. This last section of Proverbs is an acrostic poem with each verse starting with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

