

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

STUDIES IN PROVERBS

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

INTRODUCTION:

A. Overview of Proverbs

1. The authorship of most of the Book of Proverbs is ascribed to Solomon, the king to whom God gave the gift of wisdom.
2. “A Proverb is a saying that conveys a specific truth in a pointed, pithy. Proverbs are short sentences, drawn from long experience” – J. Vernon McGee
3. The Book of Proverbs provides moral and ethical instruction that deals with many aspects of life such as business partnerships, character, forgiveness, friendship, greed, a good name, gossip, proper sexual relations, improper sexual relations, motherhood, sin, wealth, purity and wisdom. Proverbs provides practical insight and guidelines for life.

B. The fivefold purpose for the writing of Proverbs is found in Chapter One:

1. “To know wisdom and instruction” (v. 2a)
2. “To perceive the words of understanding” (v. 2b)
3. “To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment and equality” (v. 3)
4. “To give subtlety to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion” (v. 4)
5. “To understand a Proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings” (v. 6).

C. The Key Verse of Proverbs

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Prov 1:7).

WORLD’S WAY – WISDOM’S WAY

- **World’s Way** – Friend with the world, ungodly, unspiritual, sinful, living to please self.
 - **“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world (1 John 2:16).**
- **Wisdom’s Way** – Living Godly, living to please God, love others – including enemies, obeying God, not conforming to the world (Rom 12:2), concerned about others.
 - **“But ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Eph 4:20-24).**
 - **“Put off ... the old man” (v. 22)** – The decision to stop serving lusts and to stop serving sin. Rid yourself of the sinful nature that has kept us separated from God and Holy Living.

- **“Put on the new man”** (v. 24) – The nature, behaviors and attitudes that reflect the very character and way of life of God. It is the traits of godliness and righteousness we need to put on firmly.

ABOMINATION

- **World’s Way** – “They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the Lord” (Prov 11:20a).
 - A. **Froward** – means bad, unreasonable, perverted, acting contrary to the Word of God.
 - B. **Abomination** – to the Lord is something that God hates or dislikes because it is offensive to Him and His character such as idolatry, false gods, falsehood and wickedness.
 - See Proverbs 6:16-19 for this list of seven things that God calls an abomination.
- **Wisdom’s Way** – “But such as the upright in their ways are His delight” (Prov 11:20b).
 - A. **Upright** – means blameless, unblemished, intact, sincerity, without defect
 - B. The Upright humble themselves before God and His word in every decision. They choose holiness and righteousness regardless of the cost. The Upright do what is correct, honest, and just with integrity.
 1. The goal of the Upright is to please God in every aspect or situation.
 2. God is pleased with the Upright and He blesses them.
 - a. God’s eyes are upon the Upright and His ears are open to their prayers (Job 36:7; Ps 33:18; 34:15).
 - b. God delights in the Upright for good (Ps 84:11).

CONDUCT

- **World’s Way** – Wicked Conduct: “The wicked shall fall by his own wickedness” (Prov 11:5b, c.f. 11:6b).
 - A. **Conduct** – means personal behavior, course of action.
 - B. **Wicked** – means evil, guilty, criminal
 1. Wicked ones love sin and fall into traps (Prov 4:19; 13:15; 15:19; 22:5).
 2. The conduct of the wicked ones bring God’s judgment and the consequences of sin such as addiction, depression, divorce, demotion, disease, drunkenness and death.
 - C. **Wickedness leads to pain and trouble as it is breaking God’s law.**
 - “But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out” (Num 32:23).

- “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Gal 6:7).
- **Wisdom’s Way** – Righteous Conduct: “The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way” (Prov 11:5a, c.f. 11:6b).
 - A. **Righteousness** – means honest, justice, right, merits, righteous acts
 - B. **Righteous individuals fear and obey God and live Holy and blameless for Him.**
 - C. **Righteous individuals learn righteous conduct by fearing God and then increasing their knowledge by the Bible and other Godly Christians.**
 1. The fear of God is wisdom for Holy living (Prov 1:7; 9:10; 10:27; 14:27; 19:23; Ps 112:1, 3, 9).
 2. The Holy Bible is the Believer’s Manual for wise and righteous conduct (Prov 22:17-21; Ps 19:7-11; 119:105).

CORRECTION

- **World’s Way** – Unteachable/ Talking Idly – “A prating fool shall fall” (Prov 10:8b, c.f. 10:17b)
 - A. **Prating** – means babbling, empty, gossip, lip service; it is continuous talking with little purpose.
 1. **“A Prating Fool”** is someone who goes on and on, talking without any purpose.
 2. **“A Prating Fool”** is someone who is swift to speak and slow to hear – which is the opposite of what James instructs us to obey in James 1:19.
 - B. **“A Prating Fool”** is the one who talks too much, without value or profit.
 - C. **“A Prating Fool”** is a know-it-all who would rather talk – overtalking others which is why he falls. He cannot be taught because he knows everything. **“A Prating Fool”** can be recognized by his many words.
 - “For a dream cometh through the multitude of business: and a fool’s voice is known by multitude of words” (Eccl 5:3).
 - “A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him? (Eccl 10:14).
- **Wisdom’s Way** – Teachable/Obedient – “The wise in heart receive commandments” (Prov 10:8a; c.f. 10:17a).
 - A. **Wise is defined as discrete, skillful, having knowledge of**

- B. **“The Wise in Heart”** – refuses to talk too much. He fears the Lord, listens to the Lord and obeys the Lord.

- C. **“The Wise in Heart** – love to receive the commandments of God from those that God has placed in authority, such as, parents and mature, disciplined Christians. They enjoy hearing sound Biblical Preaching and Gospel songs and hymns. They will experience Christian growth and will be rewarded by God.

POINTS TO PONDER:

- A. **How is your standing with God? Do you have a froward heart or are you humble before Him?**

- B. **The Ten Commandments are the Christians Code of Conduct** – It separates us from the rest of the world and serves as a barometer of our allegiance to the Creator of the Universe.

- C. **Be sure to exhibit Christian Conduct before the unbelieving world.** What do unbelievers think of Christ based on your conduct?
 - **“You preach a better sermon with your life than you do with your lips”** -Anonymous

- D. **Are you wise in heart? Do you enjoy Biblical Sermons, Hymns, and Songs?**

CONCLUSION:

- A. **Believers are to “walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise”** (Eph 5:15), to **“walk honestly”** (Rom 13:13), to **walk in love”** (Eph 5:2), and to **“walk by faith, not by sight”** (2 Cor 5:7).

- B. **Salvation Never Runs Dry**
 I remember being in a city where I noticed that the people resorted to a favorite well in one of the parks. I said to a man one day: “Does the well never run dry?”
 The man was drinking of the water out of the well; and as he stopped drinking, he smacked his lips, and said: “They have never been able to pump it dry yet. They tried a few years ago. They put the fire-engines to work, and tried all they could to pump the well dry; but they found there was a river flowing right under the city.”
Thank God, the well of Salvation can never run dry either! – (Moody’s Stories, D.L. Moody)
 - **“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved”** (Acts 2:21).
 - **“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved** (Rom 10:13).

From the Teaching Ministry of:
 Pastor Carl Bennett
 Corinth Christian Fellowship
 July 24, 2024

“... the word of our God shall stand for ever (Isa 40:8).