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Topic

“Proverbs, Chapters 1-3:

God’s Wisdom for a New Generation”

BIBLE STUDY

Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

“Proverbs: God’s Wisdom for a New Generation”

Lesson #1: The Principles of Wisdom

Scripture Lesson: Proverbs 1:1-33

Key Verses: Proverbs 1:7

PROPOSITION: The wise reverence God, heed His principles, and enhance their lives.

Introduction: The Book of Proverbs was written in order that God might share His wisdom with all of us: (1-6)

- That we may know wisdom and instruction
- That we may perceive words of understanding
- That we may receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgement & equity
- That we who are simple may have prudence
- That we who are young may have knowledge and discretion
- That we who are wise may increase learning
- That we who have understanding may attain to wise counsel
- That we may understand proverbs, enigmas, riddles, and words of the wise

I. The First Principle of Wisdom: "Reverence for God" (7)

II. The Second Principle of Wisdom: "Don't be a fool!" (7)

A. *Fools despise wisdom.*

B. *Fools hate instruction.*

III. The Third Principle of Wisdom: "Listen to your parents!" (8, 9)

A. *The wisdom they share will show like a beautiful ornament.*

B. *The wisdom they share will enhance our lives.*

IV. The Fourth Principle of Wisdom: "Avoid gangs!" (10-19)

A. *Don't join gangs! (10-14)*

1. *They are about violence.*
2. *They are about hurting innocent people.*
3. *They are about murder.*
4. *They are about robbery and theft.*

B, *Stay away from gang members! (15-19)*

1. *They run to evil.*
2. *They are quick to do violence.*
3. *They end up hurting themselves.*
4. *They end up falling into the traps they set for others.*
5. *Their greed will lead to their destruction.*

V. The Fifth Principle of Wisdom: "Heed wisdom when she calls!" (29-33)

A. *Wisdom always cries out to be heard. (20, 21)*

B. *Wisdom tries to educate us. (22, 23)*

1. *Wisdom tries to help us when we are simple, scornful, and foolish.*
2. *Wisdom tries to get us to change our ways.*

C. *We reject wisdom to our own destruction. (24-27)*

D. *We sometimes seek wisdom too late. (28-30)*

E. *We must experience the consequences for rejecting wisdom. (31, 32)*

F. *We experience safety & security when we heed wisdom and reverence God. (33)*

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Lesson #2: The Value of Wisdom

Scripture Lesson: Proverbs 2:1-22

Key Verses: Proverbs 2:5, 6

PROPOSITION: The wise pursue wisdom, understand its secrets, and enjoy its benefits.

I. The Quest for Wisdom (1-4)

- A. *We pursue wisdom by receiving the word of God. (1)*
- B. *We pursue wisdom by treasuring the commandments of God. (1)*
- C. *We pursue wisdom by inclining our ears to wisdom from God. (2)*
- D. *We pursue wisdom by applying our hearts to understanding. (2)*
- E. *We pursue wisdom by crying out for discernment. (3)*
- F. *We pursue wisdom by lifting up our voices for understanding. (3)*
- G. *We pursue wisdom by searching for it as treasure. (4)*

II. The Secret of Wisdom: The fear & the knowledge of God (5-8)

- A. *He gives us wisdom. (6)*
- B. *He gives us knowledge and understanding. (6)*
- C. *He stores up sound wisdom for us when we are upright. (7)*
- D. *He protects us when we walk uprightly. (7)*
- E. *He guards the paths of justice. (8)*
- F. *He preserves the way of His saints. (8)*

III. The Benefits of Wisdom (9-22)

- A. *It enables us to understand righteousness, justice, equity, & every good path. (9)*
- B. *It enables us to appreciate knowledge. (10)*
- C. *It enables us to be preserved by discretion. (11)*
- D. *It enables us to be kept by understanding. (11)*
- E. *It delivers us from:*
 - 1. *The ways of evil men (12-15)*
 - 2. *The immoral woman (16-19)*
- F. *It enables us to walk in goodness and righteousness. (20)*
- G. *It enables us to dwell safely in the land and remain there. (21)*
 - 1. *The wicked will be cut off. (22)*
 - 2. *The unfaithful will be uprooted. (22)*

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Lesson #3: Wisdom for the Young

Scripture Lesson: Proverbs 3:1-35

Key Verses: Proverbs 1:13-15

PROPOSITION: **The wise appreciate wisdom more than silver, gold, or rubies, enjoy its benefits, and avoid many of life's mistakes.**

I. Six Guiding Principles (1-12)

- A. *Obedience will enhance both the quantity and quality of our lives. (1, 2)*
- B. *Mercy and truth will give us favor with both God and man. (3, 4)*
- C. *God guides us when we trust Him with all our heart. (5, 6)*
- D. *Humility and reverence for God are the secrets of health & strength. (7, 8)*
- E. *Honoring God with our wealth is the secret of prosperity. (9, 10)*
- f. *God's chastening is the evidence of His love. (11, 12)*

II. Ten Benefits of Wisdom (13-26)

- A. *Longevity of life (16)*
- B. *Prosperity (16)*
- C. *Honor (16)*
- D. *Pleasantness (17)*
- E. *Peace (17)*
- F. *Joy & happiness (18)*
- G. *Spiritual life (22)*
- H. *Grace (22)*
- I. *Stability (23)*
- J. *Security (23-26)*

III. Five Mistakes to Avoid in Life (27-35)

- A. *Do not withhold good. (27)*
- B. *Do not put people off. (28)*
- C. *Do not plot evil against others. (29)*
- D. *Do not strive or fight with others for no cause. (30)*
- E. *Do not envy the oppressor. (31-35)*
 - 1. *The perverse are an abomination to the Lord, but His secret counsel is with the upright. (32)*
 - 2. *The Lord curses the house of the wicked, but He blesses the home of the just. (33)*
 - 3. *The Lord scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble. (34)*
 - 4. *The wise shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the legacy of fools. (35)*