



*A Word To The Wise Is Sufficient*

By

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*Teaching Notes* are Bible studies we taught before GraceLife Ministries began publishing articles online in 1995. Some were presented as sermons, others as group studies.

Our hope is that these older studies will be a blessing to you in your life and ministry. Please use them in any way God leads you.

These teaching notes are from a study in the Book of Proverbs.

[These notes are from a study taught more than 40 years ago. The notes are in outline form.]

(Have people turn to the Book of Proverbs)

## A. Purpose of Proverbs

- For attaining wisdom and discipline achieving wisdom – discerning right from wrong (synonym *prudence*), good from evil (good judgment) achieving discipline – training that strengthens, correction
- For understanding words of insight
- For acquiring a disciplined and prudent life
- Doing what is right and just and fair
- For giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young knowledge – clear perception of a truth, fact or subject discretion – individual judgment

## B. Words in Proverbs

There are many words in Proverbs that are very important to our clear understanding of this Bible Book.

1. Fools – morally deficient (lacking in the essential quality of morals – conforming to general accepted ideas of what is right and just in human conduct)
2. Simple – a person without moral direction and inclined to evil
3. Sinners – those who have a lifestyle of doing wrong (wicked people)
4. Righteous – those who have a lifestyle of doing right (upright and blameless people)

### **C. Warnings of Proverbs**

1. Ch. 1:18-19 – Solomon warns his son against the enticement of sinners.
2. Ch. 1:20-33 – Solomon warns his son against rejecting wisdom.
3. Ch. 5, 6:20-7:27 – Solomon warns his son against adultery and the adulteress.
4. Ch. 6:1-19 – Solomon warns his son against folly in life situations.

### **D. Benefits from Proverbs** (the wisdom of Proverbs)

These are found primarily in chapters 2 and 3.

1. Understanding the fear of the Lord
2. Finding the knowledge of God
3. Victory in life's situations
4. Protection through life
5. Salvation from the ways of wicked men
6. Salvation from the adulteress
7. Long life
8. Prosperity during life
9. Favor and a good name in the sight of God and man
10. Walking straight paths
11. Physical. health
12. rue riches and honor
13. Peace
14. Blessings

15. Freedom from fear
16. Confidence
17. A good night's sleep

#### **E. Exhortation from Proverbs** (Chapter 4)

Here Solomon remembers the words of his own father, King David, concerning the importance of achieving wisdom.

Is it any wonder that when God offered the young King Solomon anything he wanted, the king asked for wisdom.

#### **F. The appeal and invitation of Wisdom in Proverbs** (Chapters 8 and 9)

Turn in your Bible to Proverbs 8 (read 1-21 and 32-36)

#### **G. Sayings from Proverbs**

I was impressed with how realistically Proverbs dealt with life. Some of the life situations dealt with are:

1. work
2. diligence
3. ambition
4. speech
5. truth
6. stability

7. honesty
8. integrity
9. fidelity
10. guidance
11. graciousness
12. kindness
13. being a guest
14. parental discipline
15. family
16. lending and borrowing money
17. good manners
18. getting rich
19. peace at home
20. gossip
21. good and bad leaders
22. pride and humility
23. how to deal with a quarrelsome person
24. laziness
25. violence
26. anger
27. hatred
28. emotional healing
29. drinking problems
30. honesty in business
31. rebuking and being rebuked
32. physical health
33. the sovereignty of God in every situation

34. how to take advice
35. being a successful child
36. faithfulness as a friend
37. how a woman can build a successful home
38. gaining knowledge
39. the natural medicine of laughter and joy
40. being a good witness
41. patience
42. envy
43. setting goals and priorities
44. finding good counsel
45. the joys of being a grandparent
46. love and forgiveness
47. how to really understand another person
48. how to be an effective counselor
49. responsibility to the poor
50. quick tempers
51. gluttony
52. stealing and its effects
53. making vows
54. giving gifts
55. making bribes
56. how to stay away from danger
57. how to find life, prosperity and honor

There are many other categories, but we don't have time to go through all of them in one study.

If you are interested in getting involved in a regular way with the Book of Proverbs, let me give you several ideas of how to make the study more meaningful.

1. Read Proverbs through each month for one year. Day 1 – Chapter 1; Day 2 – Chapter 2; etc. Each day write out one verse that speaks to you in a special way and make any comments or observations that you want. By the end of one year you will have 12 insights from each chapter of Proverbs. You can spend the following year reading through your insights and applying them to your daily life.
2. Read Chapter One of Proverbs every day for a month. Read Chapter Two of Proverbs every day for the second month. (Example: Ch. 1 every day during January, Ch. 2 every day during February, Ch. 3 every day during March, etc). You will read through the entire book of Proverbs every 31 months. Reading the same chapter every day for a month has a powerful effect on both your memory and understanding of the wisdom in this amazing Book.
3. Another way is to read through Proverbs at a slow pace stopping at verses that deal with personal needs you have at the time. Stop and develop a project that will help you apply the truth of that proverb to your daily life. As you continue to read, you will find other verses that will fit into life projects you are developing. Continue reading until you stop at another verse that is meaningful to you on another topic. Develop a project that will help you apply the truth of that proverb.

Include other verses that address the same topic as you find them. This could take years to complete, but when you finish the Book of Proverbs you will have attained great wisdom and a plan for using that wisdom in your life. You will also have a powerful tool to share with your family and others in your life.

4. Get a complete concordance to the Bible and run a word of interest through for a topical study: wisdom, fools, strange women, work, discipline, family, riches, poor, etc. Then, place those on a piece of paper or poster and keep them in front of you and your family every day.
5. Create your own unique way to read, study and apply wisdom from Proverbs. The key is to make use of these great sayings every day.

One interesting observation to Proverbs –

Solomon was writing to his son. [The only recorded son of Solomon in the Bible is Rehoboam.] When Rehoboam became king after his father's death, he immediately showed himself to be an unwise leader. It was because of his lack of wisdom that the nation of Israel split into two kingdoms. The 12 Tribes of Israel were divided: 10 tribes in one group and 2 in the other. Why did this son who lived with the wisest man on earth turn out to be so unwise? Read 1 Kings 1-14; 2 Chronicles 1-12; and the Book of Ecclesiastes.

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