

The Virtue of Studying Wisdom Extolled

Proverbs 1

| Group ¹ | C | V | Description |
|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| The Usefulness of Proverbs | 1 | 1-6 | Solomon's call to wisdom |
| | | 7 | The Beginning of Knowledge: the fear of the Lord |
| 8-19 | | People will seek to lead you astray, so be careful to walk in the way of wisdom | |
| 20-33 | | Wisdom longs to make people wise, promising a better future as a result | |
| The Enticement of Sinners | | | |
| Wisdom Warns | | | |

Reflections

The majority of the book of Proverbs is devoted to the wisdom teaching of Solomon to his sons in preparation for life and leadership. He begins by announcing how good it is to study wisdom because of the many benefits that can come as a result.

- To know wisdom and instruction
- To discern the sayings of understanding
- To receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity
- To give prudence to the naive
- To the youth knowledge and discretion
- To increase in learning
- To acquire wise counsel
- To understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles

All of these are commendable reasons for seeking and studying wisdom but all of this is for not if the first and foremost reason is not understood. That is found in verse 7 and should be kept in mind as you read the rest of the book.

Proverbs 1:7 NASB The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

The whole of the instructions found in this book are contingent on this overriding principle. The beginning of all knowledge—of the things of heaven and of the things of the earth—is the fear of the Lord. Why? Because He made it all and it is continually being sustained by Him. So to fear Him is the first idea to be understood. Everything else will make more sense if this is kept in mind as you read through the rest of the book.

There and Then: Here and Now

Answer the questions below as you reflect on your own life and this part of our study: *my LOG vs others SPECK*. Here are some possible responses I've identified from the text that might apply to anyone.

S - Are there *sins* for me to avoid or confess?

¹ (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

* *Navigator Bible Study Handbook* (with additions) & Matthew 7:1-5.

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- P - Are there *promises* from God for me to claim?
-
- E - Are there *examples* for me to follow or avoid?
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- C - Are there *commands* for me to obey?
-
- K - How has this passage increased my *knowledge* about God / Jesus / Holy Spirit?
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Key Words: Old Testament, Wisdom/Poetry, Proverbs, Solomon, Instruction, Wisdom, Knowledge, Folly of the Unwise



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Bibliography

(NASB) *New American Standard Bible*. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. Print.