

June 07, 2020



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**Class Leaders:**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

True wisdom begins and ends with God

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Lord, please put an end to our foolishness and turn our hearts toward the wisdom that comes only from You. We ask You now to take our lives and transform them into Your likeness

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him*

(James 1:5 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", July 07, 2013)*

**Series: Many Faces of  
Wisdom**

**UNIT: Wisdom in Proverbs**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Value Wisdom  
(Prov 2:1-11)**

## **Listen to God's Wisdom Proverbs 1:1-4, 7-8, 10, 20-22, 32-33**

**Lesson Background and Introduction**

The book of Proverbs is the third of the five books in the Old Testament that are often called "wisdom literature." (The group also includes Job, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.) Biblical proverbs are more than just good advice. They are godly advice, based on the crucial premise that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). Keeping that premise in mind helps the wise person discern when a certain course of conventional wisdom might not be best for obeying God's laws. Thinking of Jesus' statement "Physician, heal thyself" (Luke 4:23), we may wish we could advise Solomon by saying, "Wise man, heed your wisdom." Can what happened to Solomon happen to us? Certainly! We will not be tempted, as Solomon was, by the beliefs and lifestyles of 700 spouses. But the need to guard our hearts and our ways is as urgent now as ever. We should view Solomon with compassion, not criticism. Anyone's spiritual failures, whether we read about them in the Bible or see them reported in the media, should humble us. Paul's warning to the Corinthians contains its own words of wisdom: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12).

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**Let God Lead** - Solomon wrote over 3,000 proverbs expressing God's principles of how to live an intelligent, practical, moral life. The Lord helps us discern a prosperous course to realize right from evil and practically conduct our lives. God laid out a plan to live a full and productive life—if His instructions are followed. Those who discipline themselves to seek God and search out biblical guidance develop a keen perceptive spirit and please the ultimate Judge. They fair well among others with conduct that is upright and honorable. Solomon's first proverbs are addressed to the young, but both the young and the old need to admit, "There are many pathways in life I might take, so I am going to listen to Solomon's sayings and discipline my life accordingly."

**Fear God** - Solomon constantly admonishes the reader to respect God. A reverent fear of Him is the first step toward wisdom. No other understanding or education counts as much. We must recognize Him as a loving, grace-filled Father. Wisdom starts by humbly saying, "I want to live according to Your will." This is the foundation of godly wisdom.

**Foolishness vs. Wisdom** - Hardheaded fools push away God's truth and instructions. They listen to other advice, resulting in anger, rebellion, or complacency. An intelligent, godly person will open their ears to God, paying close attention, hearing with a heart to obey. The unbeliever refuses to listen or follow the Lord's way, resulting in destruction. It is wise to search for God and walk His path. Sometimes those who turn away think, "I'm doing all right." This false security will lead to ruin. On the other hand, if we diligently seek wisdom and see it as a place of safety, we don't have to fear evil or distress. Instead, we walk the path of knowledge filled with peace, rest, and security.

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Purpose of Wisdom (Proverbs 1:1-4)**

#### *Purpose of obtaining understanding (1-2)*

Understanding through spiritual hearing (Mark 4:9)

Understanding is given to those of the kingdom of God (Mark 4:11)

Understanding draws people to God (Deut. 4:6)

Understanding through the reading of God's word (Eph. 3:2-4)

Understanding from living wisely (Eph. 5:15-17)

Understanding from reflecting on God's word (2 Tim. 2:7)

#### *Purpose of instructions in judgment (3)*

There should be no judging until the appointed time (1 Cor 4:5)

Only the Lord is to judge and avenge (Heb 10:30)

Only God can give authority to judge (Rev 20:4)

Judge through the conscience remembering that God will judge (1 Cor 4:4)

#### *Purpose of obtaining knowledge (4)*

Knowledge that only comes through Jesus (Matt 11:27)

Knowledge that comes from being a shining light (2 Cor 4:6)

Knowledge that comes from the anointing of the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:20)

Knowledge that gives an understanding that God is the "true" God (1 John 5:20)

Knowledge that is eternal life (John 17:3)

### **Contrast of Wisdom and Folly (Proverbs 1:7-8, 10, 20-22, 32-33)**

#### *Wisdom promotes fear of God (7)*

Fear of God based on His power over death (Acts 5:9-11)

Fear of God based on His wrath (Deut 9:19)

Fear of God based on righteous judgment (Luke 23:39-41)

Fear of God based on national disobedience (Micah 7:16-17)

#### *Wisdom promotes obedience (8)*

Obedience is better because it delights God (1 Sam 15:22)

Obedience leads to righteousness (Rom 6:16)

Obedience keeps us remaining in God's love (John 15:10)

Obedience leads to the reward of blessings (Deut. 28:1-6)

Obedience brings the reward of freedom (James 1:25)

#### *Wisdom warns against sin (10, 20-21)*

Warnings so that God will show His mercy (Isa 55:7)

Warnings so that God can show His compassion (Jonah 3:10)

Warnings so we won't perish (Luke 13:3)

Warnings that God is a jealous God (Deut 6:15)

Warnings that God can bring curses (Deut 28:15)

#### *Folly promotes wickedness (22)*

Wickedness of detestable practices (Ezek 6:11-13)

Wickedness that deserves destruction (Ps 94:23)

Wickedness that reaps trouble (Prov 22:8)

Wickedness of forsaking God (Jer 2:19)

#### *Folly results in destruction (32)*

Destruction because of coveting (2 Peter 2:3)

Destruction because of pride (Prov 16:18)

Destruction of homeland (Mic 3:11-12)

Destruction because of not listening (Isa 65:12)

#### *Wisdom results in safety (33)*

Safety because Jesus prayed for it (John 17:11)

Safety through God's faithfulness (2 Thess 3:3)

Safety through God's protection (Ps 27:5)

Safety through God's Name (Prov 18:10)

Safety through living in godly wisdom (Prov 28:26)