

Walking in Wisdom
The Book of Proverbs

Bible Project: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/proverbs/>

With the advent of the internet we have more access to information than at any time in human history. Because we have more knowledge does not mean we have more wisdom.

- Knowledge – Accumulation of information and facts; skill acquired through education and experience.
- Wisdom – Application of information, facts, and skill

“Knowledge knows a tomato is a fruit; wisdom knows not to put it in a fruit salad.”

Biblical wisdom (Heb: hokmah – the skill of a craftsman) is being skilled in godly and wise living.

Wisdom literature (Job – Proverbs – Ecclesiastes – Song of Solomon) utilizes poetic parallelism of comparison and contrast.

A proverb (Heb: masal – to be like; compared with) is a pithy saying pointing to a moral or ethical truth. They are general principles and not intended to be absolute promises.

Author: Solomon (1:1) – His request for wisdom (1 Kings 3); He wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1005 songs (1Kings 4:32). The book is a collection of sayings from various sources.

Audience: Son (1:8) – Wisdom on godly living passed from one generation to the next.

A. True wisdom is theological **v. 1-7**

God wants us to live life with common sense, good judgment (make good choices), and to treat others fairly. Do what is right and just (even is no one is watching).

1. True wisdom begins with God (v. 7) – Beginning (first and controlling principle)

The fear of the Lord (used 11 times) rightly related to Yahweh (covenant name).

2. True wisdom comes from God

*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)*

*We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. **1 Cor 2:6-7** (NIV)*

- The simple man (v. 4) – Easily influenced, gullible, needs to be taught

*The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. **Psalms 19:7** (NIV)*

- The wise man (v. 5) – Not intellectually superior but receives the Word of God
- The foolish man (v. 7) – Not intellectually inferior but rejects the Word of God

B. True wisdom is practical

It addresses everyday issues through a biblical world view; through a gospel lens (work, speech, generosity, relationships, humility, family, purity).

1. The way of the wicked **v. 10-19; 25-32**
2. The way of the wise **v. 20-23, 33.**

C. True wisdom is spiritual

*Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **1 Cor 1:20-24** (NIV)*

Jesus is the wisdom of God (wisdom in the flesh)

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