

# Malachi Men Proverbs Lesson 1 Introduction to Wisdom

**What are Proverbs?** Hebrew poetry.

**What is the purpose of Proverbs?** To give practical wisdom for living.

**What is the form of a Proverb?**

- A brief, vivid, striking, memorable word picture (Proverbs 10:26 & 11:22)
- Sentence-sayings, probability statements, no 100% guarantee (10:2 & 10:4)
- Compelling (to gain discernment, 1 Kings 3:9; Ezekiel 44:23; Matthew 13:23)

**Who was the author?** Solomon (Proverbs 1:1)

**How wise was Solomon?** The wisest man in the world (1 Kings 3:12).

**Did Solomon always live wisely?** No. (1 Kings 11:1-6, 11-13)

**Can we ever be content that we are wise enough?** No, consider Solomon.

**Who taught Solomon Wisdom?** David, but ultimately God (Proverbs 4:3-5).

**Did David teach all his sons?** No (1 Kings 1:5-6).

**What is wisdom?** “The fear of the Lord” (Proverbs 1:7, 8:13, 9:10).

**What is the “fear of the Lord”?**

- An attitude of trust, awe, honor, and obedience toward God (Job 28:28; Psalms 33:8, 128:1, 147:11; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Matthew 10:28).

**How do you get wisdom?** (Proverbs 2:1-6, 3:5-12, 4:23-27)

- Wisdom comes from God. It is not easily obtained or automatic.
- To obtain wisdom you must: be attentive, listen to instruction, make it your purpose to grow in wisdom, pray to God for wisdom and understanding, seek earnestly and diligently for wisdom (like silver and gold), treat wisdom as a precious thing (treasure), trust the Lord, be humble, depart from evil, honor the Lord, submit to correction and discipline, honor God by what you think, say, watch and do.

**Why is wisdom important?**

- Everyone needs wisdom: the simple, young, naïve & wise (Proverbs 1:4-5).
- There are only two paths in life: wisdom & foolishness (Proverbs 9:1-6 & 13-17).
- There are consequences to each path (Proverbs 1:32-33, 2:21-22, 3:33-35, 4:18-19, 8:34-36).
- Wisdom has many benefits (Proverbs 1:33, 2:7-20, 3:13-18, 3:34-35, 8:10-11, 8:19).

**What happens if you ignore or mock wisdom?**

- Wisdom will ignore and mock you (Proverbs 1:20-31).

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### Homework:

- Read 1 chapter of Proverbs each day (for example, read chapter 15 on June 15).
- Read Ecclesiastes:
  - Ecclesiastes is the last writing of Solomon.
  - Solomon explains the futility of pursuing worldly pleasures.
  - Identify futile pursuits in your life that you want to abandon.
  - Pray for wisdom to see how to change your life to avoid being tempted.
- Memorize: Proverbs 1:7 and 14:34.
- As you read Proverbs memorize verses that are particularly meaningful to you. Put them into practice in your life, and share them with others when appropriate.

**Proverbs 1:7** (644) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Proverbs 14:34** (655) Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.