

Narrow Is The Path Proverbs, Part 1

Week One

Introduction, Chapters 1 - 15

This week and next we want to do an overview of the Book of Proverbs. Your assignment is a simple one, first read through Proverbs completely without stopping. This will take a little time so make plans to read all thirty-one chapters. It may seem like a lot, but God's Holy Spirit will give you endurance as you seek to know His word more fully.

Reread Proverbs again this time from chapter one to chapter fifteen. As you read, mark all references to wisdom, knowledge, instruction and insight.

What does the book of Proverbs say about wisdom, knowledge, instruction and insight? Write your observations below.

Week Two

Introduction, Chapter 16 - 31

This week you will need to finish your observations that you started last week. Read Proverbs chapter sixteen through thirty-one. Mark all the references to wisdom, knowledge, instruction and insight as you did last week and record your observations below.

Week Three

Chapter 1: 1 - 19

This week we want to take a look at the first half of chapter one. Read through chapter one in its entirety and divide the chapter into semantic units. Remember, a semantic unit is simply a group of verses that all deal with the same subject. List the semantic units below and what subject they deal with.

Next, read through verses one through seven. What does Solomon say about wisdom? Read Deuteronomy 4: 5-6 and record what you learn below.

Now read 1 Kings 3: 9-12. What is this text about? What does the speaker ask for? Why? What does this tell you about true wisdom? Write your observations below.

What group of people is mentioned in Proverbs 1: 8 - 19? List what the text tells you about them.

How does wisdom compare to this group of people? What are the differences between the two?

Week Four

Chapter 1: 20 - 33

As we take a look at the last half of chapter one this week, start by reviewing what you learned about wisdom and the wicked last week.

Starting in verse twenty, who is speaking? What three groups of people are being addressed here? Write your observations below.

Read Proverbs 7: 7; 9: 4-6; 9: 16-18 and Psalm 94: 8. What do these verses say about the simple?

Read Psalm 1. What does this text tell you about the scoffer? Who is compared to the scoffer in this text? Read 2 Peter 3: 3-7. What does the scoffer say and believe? Write your observations below.

Read John 3: 19-21. What does this text say about the fool?

What does Proverbs 1: 20ff say happens to those who refuse to listen?

What will wisdom do when the fool calls upon her? List below what you learn.

Week 5

Proverbs 2: 1-22

Last week we looked at the simple, the scoffer and the fool. We saw what Scripture said about those who do not listen to wisdom. This week we want to continue to look at the value of godly wisdom.

Read chapter two in its entirety and divide it into semantic units as you did in chapter one. List below the separate units and what subject they deal with.

What distinct groups of people are listed in this chapter? Write them out below.

To what does this chapter compare wisdom? Read Proverbs 3: 14; Deuteronomy 6: 6-9 and Psalm 119: 9-11. What do these verses say about treasure?

Did you notice the use of the imperfect tense (words appearing in pink) in chapter two? Use your word study tools to look up the imperfect tense and record your insights below.

What does the heavy use of the imperfect here teach you about the value of wisdom and how it is applied?

Week 6

Proverbs 3: 1 - 18

Chapter three begins to teach the believer what they are to do with wisdom. This week we will look at the commands of Scripture concerning wisdom. Read through chapter three in its entirety. Once again, divide the chapter into semantic units as you have done in the previous two chapters. List your divisions and what subject they cover below.

What seems to be the first point of instruction in chapter three? What do the verses tell the reader to do?

How is the reader described in verse one? What difference does this designation make in following the admonitions of this chapter? Write your answer below.

Did you notice all the words written in orange in verses one through nine? What are these words? Write your answer below.

How does the use of commands affect your understanding of the first part of chapter three?

What is promised to the reader starting in verse thirteen? How do these promises affect your willingness to follow Scripture's commands?

Week 7

Proverbs 3: 19 - 35

Last week we looked at God's word addressing the reader as a "son" and that the commands were given for the benefit of God's children. This week we want to continue in this teaching as we look at how the believer lives daily under the teachings of wisdom.

Read verses 19 - 35 again to familiarize yourself with their instructions. What do verses 19-20 tell you about God and His wisdom?

Did you notice the words "founded" and "established?" Look these words up in your word study materials. Pay attention to the tense of the word. How does the tense of these words affect your understanding of their meanings?

Read verse twenty one. Look up the word "keep" in your word study materials. Once again pay attention to the tense and mood of this word. Write your observations below.

Also read verse twenty eight. Look up the words "go" and "come." What do you learn about these words? What does the Scripture teach you about the use of blessings that come from wisdom? How would you describe the use of blessings as presented here?

Week 8

Proverbs 4: 1 - 27

Thus far we have seen that wisdom is to be treasured and guarded. We have seen that God deals with the believer as a son and that God has promised to bless His children for keeping His admonitions. We have also seen that God expects His children to be good stewards of His blessings from wisdom and deal with other with equity. Take a moment as you start this week to see how you are doing with your obedience to what we have learned so far.

Read chapter four and divide it into semantic units as you have before.

Read through chapter four again and mark all the occurrences of the words "hear," "attentive" and "keep." Write below what you learn about these words.

Again in this chapter, there is a heavy use of the imperative form of words. What does the use of the imperative indicate? What specific lessons are you being taught in the following sections? Write out for each section what specific lesson the Scriptures teach about wisdom. Also look for who the Scripture uses as a contrast to the child of God in each section.

Verses 1 - 8?

Verses 9 - 19?

Verses 20 - 27?

Week 9

Proverbs 5: 1 - 23

Starting in chapter five, the book of Proverbs turns to a subject that specifically addresses the use of wisdom as contrasted to fulfilling one's own appetites and desires. Read through chapter five and divide it into semantic units. List out your divisions below.

Who does the Scriptures portray as being the opposite of wisdom in this chapter? What are the "sons" of God told to do with this understanding?

List the enticements that are listed in chapter five. Do they sound attractive?

List the results of being enticed by these attractions.

Read through this chapter paying close attention to the imperatives (orange) and perfect tense verbs (blue). What do they tell you about the lack of wisdom in things that draw us away from God's wisdom?

In the comparison of attractions and consequences, which set of things is longer lasting? The enticements or the consequences?

This week as you have gone through this chapter, don't just reserve your thoughts to the act of adultery. Jesus said, *"But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart."* (Matthew 5:28, ESV). Obedience to God's word is not only about the doing; it is also about the thinking. Consider how you have been unfaithful to God's word in your own life.

Write out a prayer of confession below asking the Lord to forgive you for where you have gone after the enticements of this world and abandoned the wisdom God has given you.

Week 10

Proverbs 6: 1 - 19

Read through chapter six and divide it into the semantic units as you have for each chapter. Write out the different divisions below.

What subject does the author address in verses 1 - 5? Did you notice the use of the perfect (blue) in these verses? Write out what you learn by taking a closer look at the perfect verbs here.

Take a closer look at the imperatives (orange) used here. Write out your insights below.

What subject is addressed in verses 6 - 15? Look up all the words that are participles (yellow / red) in this text. What do you learn about wisdom here?

How does this first section of chapter six end? List out what you learn in verses 16 - 19.

Week 11

Proverbs 6: 20 – 35

This week the book of Proverbs turns once again to the subject of adultery. Why do you think this subject is a reoccurring theme in a book about godly wisdom? Write your answer below. Make sure you include scripture references to back up your answer.

What is the repeated phrase given in verses 20-21? Record where else in the book this phrase is used. Also, include what the teachings are where this phrase is repeated.

This part of chapter six heavily uses the imperfect tense verb (pink). Do a word study on the imperfects used in this section and record what you learn below.

What does this text tell you about the relationship between wisdom and the one who commits adultery? What warnings are given in this text?

Week 12

Proverbs 7: 1 - 27

As you continue to study what Proverbs says about the adulteress, read chapter seven and divide the chapter into semantic units. Write your divisions below.

Did you notice that this chapter begins and ends the same way? Look up the imperative (orange) used in these two sections. What do you learn from these words?

What does this chapter say starting in verse 6? How is this person described?

What are the warnings that are given for those who follow along with the adulteress?

As you have looked at the contrast between wisdom and adultery, what is Proverbs teaching about those who possess godly wisdom?