

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Chapter 1

1. Verses 1-6 offer a lot of benefits to heeding to instruction. Verse 7 sums up the how to receive these benefits. What is the beginning for this instruction?
2. How do sinners entice you? Verses 8-14
3. What is the outcome of the enticement? Verses 15-19
4. Wisdom cries out to us in verses 20-23, in what ways has wisdom spoken to you?
5. Verse 7 says that “fools despise wisdom and instruction.” In verses 24-32 gives us a scary picture of what happens when we do not fear the Lord and listen to His instruction. How many times have you heard someone cry out to God when things are a mess, yet never obey His Word?
6. Have you ever felt like you were in something you couldn’t understand? How is the Lord speaking to you in verse 28-29?
7. How would you describe verse 31? So many things we see in the world’s wisdom today relate here. Read Romans 1:18-25
8. Proverbs is full of principles of life; God’s Word is full of promises. Principles are a way of life, promise are sure foundations of those principles. As you read verse 33, take time to look at Psalm 91, Jeremiah 17:5-8, Matthew 11:28, Philippians 4:19. Are you holding to God’s promises and principles?

Chapter 2

1. How are we to search for wisdom and understanding?
2. When you do this, you will understand the fear of the Lord, verse 5. Do you understand the fear of the Lord? Proverbs 1:7, 3:7, Deuteronomy 6:2, 10:12, Psalm 115:11, 1Peter 3:15
3. How is the “immoral woman” described? Where does her house lead?
4. Verse 19 may be described in our vernacular: the innocence lost is never regained. Sin can bring on consequences as described in chapter 1 when we do not listen to wisdoms call. Never forget 1 John 1:9 and Romans 8:28. Are there things in your life you need to confess to the Lord? Take time now to lay it at the feet of Jesus. 2Corinthians 5:17, be obedient allow Him to cleanse you!
5. Verses 20-23 again show us what happens if we seek wisdom or try to do it without God’s help. Which choice will you make?

Chapter 3

1. How can you keep the law in your heart?

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2. Verses 5-6 are a great place to start; can you memorize these verses by the end of the week?
3. In verse 7, we are given wonderful instruction; we know what it means to fear the Lord and we know how to depart from something. Evil is the thing we depart from and it is defined by God's word. You are never mature enough to have sin in your life.
4. What are the benefits listed of honoring the Lord with your possessions? Do you honor the Lord with all that you have?
5. How is wisdom described in verses 14-18?
6. In verses 19-20 we see wisdom's part in creation. Do you give honor & praise to God for His creation?
7. More benefits of wisdom in verses 21-26. List them and ask the Lord to make them part of your daily walk.
8. Verses 27-35 offer practical instruction, if you are not applying these principles in your life, start today! How can you make a difference to someone by this application?

Chapter 4

1. Words from a father to his son (David to Solomon). Take a moment to list the instructions with each action:
 - Hear
 - Do not
 - Get
 - Keep
 - Love
 - Exalt
 - Take
 - Turn away
 - Put away
 - Let

Chapter 5

We are asked to pay attention to specific wisdom and to preserve discretion. *Discretion-discernment which enables a person to judge critically of what is correct and proper, united with caution; nice discernment and judgment, directed by circumspection, and primarily regarding one's own conduct.* This chapter is a warning about the "immoral woman".

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1. How is the immoral woman described in verses 3-6?
2. The instruction given in verses 7 & 8 are very clear. As we have read in earlier chapters, some things we need to keep far away from our lives. Have you known someone that has fallen into this sin? Are you being tempted? Follow the instruction given.
3. We have read about the benefits of obeying the principles in previous chapters. What consequences are described here for being involved with the immoral woman?
4. Verses 15-20 tell us what we should and should not do. Verse 21 can bring comfort or guilt; for the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord and He ponders all his paths. Do you understand that the Lord sees all you do? Read Colossians 3:17

Chapter 6

1. Surety-security or payment, in debt. Verses 1-6 tell us a bit about debt. After reading these verses, how do you view debt?
2. Do you plan ahead? Are you a hard worker? Verses 6-11 instruct us to what will happen to us if we do not work. How does poverty come on someone?
3. Verses 12-15 describe “the worthless/wicked man,” pray for the people you know now that these verses describe.
4. What 6 things does the Lord hate? If any of these describe you, confess now and start asking the Lord to change you. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17
5. The consequences of adultery can be devastating. Being involved in sin will give you tunnel vision, you only see what you want to see, not realizing the destruction you are bringing upon yourself and others. Pray for those caught in this horrid trap, God will deliver and wants to restore!

Chapter 7

1. In verses 1-4 we read of five separate things that we should do concerning God's wisdom from His word. What are they?
2. In verses 1-2 the word keep is used. This means much more than to obey; it carries with it the idea of keeping watch, guarding, treasuring, and paying attention to. Consider your heart toward God's Word. Do you "keep" it and the wisdom it imparts in all of these senses?
3. Back in chapter 3 we saw many of the benefits of wisdom. Verse 5 of chapter 7 gives us another benefit: freedom from the immoral woman. The immoral woman is a representation of both sexual sin, and spiritual adultery against God. Before we look further at the dangers she poses, what according to this verse is the key to overcoming her?

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4. Read verses 6-9. What was the young man lacking? Before he actually visits the woman, where is he? When does he visit her?
5. Take a look at verses 10-13. What are some of the characteristics of this woman? Remember that this is a description of not only a woman enticing a man to sexual sin, but of anyone who would entice us away from devotion to God and faithfulness to Him.
6. Read verses 14-18. What rationalization does she give in verse 14? In verse 18 what does she emphasize? Unfaithfulness to God and indulgence of sin will always be attended by at least one of these two things: lying rationalizations, and false perspective that emphasizes only the pleasurable. Be careful!
7. Read verses 19-20. The immoral woman suggests that there will be no consequence or accountability for lying with her; her husband is gone. Read 2 Peter 3. Will the husband return? Come out to Calvary this weekend as we study this chapter, or listen live online.
8. Read verses 21-27. Notice that by paying attention to her words, the young man fell into ruin. What are some of the things that happened to him? Is anyone strong enough to play with fire and not get burned (verse 26)? What is the way to prevent ourselves from being taken in by her (verse 24)?

Chapter 8

In this chapter wisdom is personified as a gracious lady, in stark contrast to the immoral woman from the previous chapter. She is a servant of God, and so as we observe her, we observe the Lord's heart concerning wisdom.

1. Read verses 1-4. Does Wisdom keep her wisdom to herself?
2. Read verse 5. Who in particular does she especially reach out to? Read 1 Corinthians 1:24-29.
3. Read verses 6-9. What are the qualities of wisdom? What things are not a part of wisdom's counsel? Read James 3:13-18. There is a wisdom that is not the wisdom of God. This chapter is referring to the wisdom that God provides.
4. Verses 10-16 paint a picture of great wealth and power that wisdom gives. What does the world pursue for wealth and power?
5. Look at verses 17. What is required to find wisdom?
6. Verses 18-21 paint a picture of the wealth that wisdom provides. This wealth obviously extends beyond the financial. In what other ways should a person be wealthy? Read 1 Tim 6:6-19.

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7. Verses 22-31 speak of wisdom's timelessness. The wisdom of God is not subject to fads or what is currently popular. Do you look first to what the Bible when you seek wisdom, or do you quickly turn to "experts" for their opinion? Be careful. Trusting God's wisdom is much safer!
8. Read 32-36. What are the advantages of listening to God's wisdom? What are the disadvantages? Is seeking, finding, and applying God's wisdom a priority in your life?

Chapter 9

Wisdom continues in this chapter to be personified as a gracious woman.

1. Read verses 1-6. Notice the tremendous hospitality to strangers. This paints a picture that God is welcoming to those without wisdom who are seeking it. Read James 1:5. When you lack wisdom do you go to God and His word and ask for wisdom?
2. Read verses 7-9. A contrast is being made between the scoffer and the wise man in these verses. How does the scoffer respond to correction? How does a wise man respond?
3. All scoffers are foolish, but not all fools are scoffers. When we are humble concerning our foolishness and seek the Lord, He responds graciously. When we cross the line and begin to scoff at the things of the Lord, then God leaves us to the consequences of our sin, and lets us learn the hard way. Read Romans 1:18-32 to see an example of this. Is there anyone in your life that you need to simply pray for and stop speaking about the things of God to? What about you? Do you receive correction?
4. Read verse 10. What two things are the foundation for wisdom? Read Col 2:1-3. The "fear of the Lord" simply means to care about what God thinks more than anything else (see Proverbs 14:27, 19:23, 22:4). The "fear of man" is caring mostly about what people think of you (see Proverbs 29:25). Keep your relationship with Jesus central, and stay in His word and you will become wise!
5. According to verse 12, who is the ultimate beneficiary of wisdom? Who is the one who must face the consequences of foolishness (ignoring God's wisdom)? Although our wisdom (or lack of it) will certainly affect others, we are the ones who have the most to gain or lose in our own lives by our attitude concerning wisdom.
6. In verses 13-18, we see that the foolish woman is also hospitable to strangers, just like Wisdom in the beginning of the chapter. However, what are the net results of responding to her? Read Proverbs 16:25, and 1 Corinthians 3:18-20.

Chapter 10

Up until this point in the book of Proverbs, there has been a theme to the early chapters: God's Wisdom is painted in a beautiful light, and the person who pursues wisdom is viewed with great favor by God. From this chapter forward the book changes, as most of the book is comprised of short proverbs that are often unrelated to the one before or after. Also, each proverb tends to say two things that illustrate one another. These proverbs can cover a very wide range of application even from verse to verse.

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1. Righteousness is contrasted with wickedness in many of these verses (2, 3, 6, 7, 11, 16, 20, 21, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32). Read through these verses. Make a list of all of the advantages of the righteous. Now make a list of all of the consequences that the wicked must face. Which list do you want for yourself?
2. Verses 1 and 5 mention a "wise son". What impact does the wise son have on his parents? How is your relationship with your parents? Pursuing God and following His instructions for loving them is the greatest things that you can do to honor them.
3. Look at verse 8. We are naturally prone to not want to have others tell us what to do. The problem is that it is right for us to submit to the authorities that God has put over us. Do you have a good attitude toward the authorities in your life?
4. Look at verse 11, 13, 19, 20, 21, 31, 32. What is the speech of a righteous person likened to? How does it contrast with the words of the wicked? Take time to consider your own words. Is your mouth a blessing?
5. Verse 12 reveals a wonderful truth. This verse is later quoted in 1 Peter 4:8. Think about the people you love: do you seek to cover/forgive/show grace concerning their sin? Or are you quick to fight? Ask God to pour His love into your heart to help you.
6. Look at verse 22. When the Lord blesses a person's life, there is no hidden cost to the blessing. Certainly we must count the cost in following Jesus, but that is all in the open and Jesus has been plain about it. The devil on the other hand, never tells what the cost will be for doing things his way. Consider this verse carefully. There is no downside! Pursue the blessing of the Lord in your own life!

Chapter 11

As in the previous chapter, a variety of practical wisdom with a particular look at the contrast between righteousness and wickedness.

1. Read verse 1. Scales were used in bible times for buying and selling. A person would for instance buy a bag of apples. The apples would be put on the scale and weighed and then the customer would pay the purchase price. Sometimes however, merchants would rig their scales so that they reported that things were heavier than they actually were. So dishonest scales is a symbol of dishonest business and financial dealings. Take a look at your own work and business dealings. Are they honoring to the Lord? Do you compromise when business is not profitable?
2. In verses 3-11 highlight all the uses of the word "righteous" and "upright". There are two kinds of righteousness in the Bible. Practical righteousness, doing things right before God, and positional righteousness, having a right standing before God. When a person is forgiven by God and out of love for God living His way, that person enjoys

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great blessings. List the benefits of the righteous in these verses. How does the life of the wicked contrast?

3. Look at verse 13. Gossip is a terrible sin, but being trustworthy is a great blessing to those who call you their friend. Can you be trusted with a secret? Are you quick to want to tell someone, or are you committed to keeping the confidence of those who trust you?
4. Read verse 14. When we are not open to counsel, we are in danger. But when we seek out wise counsel it provides great safety. Now read Psalm 119:24, and Isaiah 9:6. Who is our greatest counselor?
5. In verse 17 we see who is most benefited and harmed by our wisdom or lack of. Who is it?
6. In verse 22 we see a ridiculous picture. A pig with a gold ring in his nose. God likens this to an outwardly beautiful woman, without any discretion or inward beauty. Read 1 Peter 3:3-4. We spend time in front of the mirror every day. We must learn to look into the mirror of God's word to see the invisible state of our soul.
7. Verses 24-28 have some things to say about generosity and wealth. Do any of these apply to your life right now - in other words are you doing them?
8. Look at verse 30. A mark of wisdom is winning a soul, which is through your witness and your words leading others to Christ. Read Daniel 12:3. Have you ever had this privilege? Would you like to? Ask God for boldness and opportunity to do so!

Chapter 12

As the previous chapter, this chapter is a collection of sometimes unrelated pearls of wisdom concerning the righteous/wise and the wicked/foolish. In particular, truth, speech, and diligence are important themes in this chapter.

1. Verse 1 repeats an idea in Proverbs: the wise man is teachable and humble and loves to learn more of the things of God. Read 2Peter 3:18 and Proverbs 1:5. Is this your heart attitude when you study your bible, or do you have a "know-it-all" attitude?
2. Read verse 4. How is your relationship with your spouse? Are you a blessing to them? Read Ephesians 5:21-33, and 1Peter 3:1-9 for instruction on being a wife and being a husband.
3. Verses 2-3 and 5-8 speak of the stability and strength of the righteous and the instability of the wicked. How long can prosperity last for the wicked?
4. Look at verse 9. Self-promotion is not looked on favorably by the Lord. Read James 4:10 and 1 Corinthians 4:7. Do you give the Lord honor and credit for all of the blessing and advantage in your life or do you brag/honor yourself?
5. Read Proverbs 12:15. As people we tend to look at things from our own perspective and think that we are right. The book of Judges tells of a time in Israel's history when

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men did what they thought was right without considering the things of God. Read Judges 21:5. Is Jesus the King who rules your life? Do you accept what He says as truth to be believed and obeyed?

6. Verses 13, 18, 19, 22 all address our speech. Make a list of the consequences of using our mouths righteously and wickedly.
7. Read verse 25. What is the result of worry/anxiety? What is an antidote for worry? Read Matthew 6:25-34 for good counsel for those who are anxious.

Chapter 13

1. We know that our words can cut and destroy. James 3:5 tells us, “even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.” Another translation states, “So also the tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do.” The aim in verse 3 is to prevent rash talk and this reminder is appropriate for any age. Are you stopping and thinking before you speak? The old Arab proverb says, “Take heed that your tongue does not cut your throat.”
2. Verse 2 teaches us not to trust in appearances and honesty is better than pretension. There are some people who may not be what they seem to be. Some who are poor pretend to be rich for social reasons. (Luke 12:21, Revelation 3:17) Some that are rich pretend to be poor. The miser lives to protect himself from requests for assistance or from possibly being robbed. Perhaps it is to conceal his wealth and to avoid responsibilities. God is calling us to be who we are, to be honest people, and unpretentious. Are you putting up a front to be somebody you are not? An empty display or a concealing of means can come to no good.
3. Verse 10 tells us that those who are wise listen to advise rather than argue out of stubborn pride. Is it hard for you to say, “I was wrong,” or “I need advise? Every quarrel has pride as an ingredient. This type of pride has contempt for other’s opinions. Pride always means enmity. It is enmity to God. Are you open to the advice of others? Examine your life for pride. Ask for help when you need it and avoid strife.
4. In verse 12, hope postponed makes the heart sick and earthly hope can be a very disappointing season of life. (Hoping for something that doesn’t come to pass.) Are you in a season of “hope deferred?” Be encouraged. Biblical hope is a confident expectation that what you hope is going to happen. Pastor Titus tells us to be looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. We can live our life in anticipation of that promise of God. It gives us the proper perspective on material things and how we should be living our lives knowing that He could come at any time.
5. We were created by God for His good pleasure. He knows us and loves us beyond our comprehension of love. It only makes sense to listen to ABBA Father and do what He says. But in verse 13, we have a definite contrast between obedience to God’s unfailing Word and rejecting it. If you were a brand new vehicle you would come with an owner’s manual to help you “run right.” If we fail to maintain regular preventive

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maintenance we will fail. Are you hearing from God everyday by reading His instructions to us?

6. Verse 20 teaches us the result of associating with wise people or fools. Paul said, “Evil company corrupts good habits.” (1 Cor. 15:33) There is safety and growth in proper company. There is also a positive influence on those who spend time with wise men. On the other hand, the companion of the fool suffers harm and becomes like those whom he is hanging with. Take some time and pray to the Father and examine who is influencing you. Are you spending time with people you want to be like?
7. In verse 24, parental love is displayed in disciplining the children responsibly. There is a balance between too lenient and too harsh. The Bible teaches corporal punishment whether the modern experts agree or not. The parent who spares his rod might think he is showing love. God calls it hatred. The parent that loves their children doesn't condone bad behavior but disciplines them promptly. The balance comes when the child has room to grow while learning the limits. Are you afraid to discipline your children even though God himself says it is an act of love?

Chapter 14

1. Verse 2 is a contrast between those who fear the Lord and those who despise him. The difference is in the conduct. Reverence for God motivates and characterizes a walk well pleasing to God. On the other hand, perverse ways are sinful ways. Those who neither fear nor love the Lord make no effort to exercise and demonstrate self-control. Is your walk characterized by love and reverence for the Father? Is there sin that has to be removed from your life?
2. In verse 6 we meet the mocker. This is someone who scoffs at every word of instruction or advice. These people will never find wisdom because they don't seek it seriously. Wisdom is found in God's Word. Biblical wisdom is how much you have come to agree with God and His Word. Are you looking at life from God's perspective? Wisdom comes to us when we apply God's Word to our lives and when we seek mature Godly Christians as counselors. Are you finding yourself at times scoffing at His Word?
3. In verse 12, we have the destructive nature of worldliness. The King James Version of the second half of this proverb says, “But the end thereof are the ways of death.” The plural “ways” indicate that there are many paths that lead to death as compared to one way that leads to life everlasting. The way that seems right to a man is his own way. We need to trust the Lord Jesus Christ. He has been down the path and knows where it leads. Read John 14:6. When you look at the path you are on, where is it leading you?
4. The backslider in verse 14 has one desire and that is to live life contrary to the Word of God. He is indifferent to questions of ethics or any thought of accountability to God. The Bible says that a man will reap what he sows. On the other hand, the good man is satisfied with his ways because they are the Lord's ways. Are you struggling with the lust of the world and not considering the recklessness of the foolish?

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5. Verse 20 deals with popularity and favoritism. James tells us to beware of personal favoritism because before God we all stand on one level. It is a reality of this world that possessions determine popularity. The poor are shunned and the rich have many lovers. Are you easily impressed by status wealth or fame? Are you partial to the “haves” while ignoring the “have nots?”
6. Verse 21 tells us that we shouldn’t assume some superior status and look down upon a neighbor regardless of his destitute condition. Remember God has chosen the poor (James 2:5) and it’s a sin to despise them. The man who has mercy on them is blessed in the act. We can’t sin against a neighbor and enjoy God’s blessings. Let us never forget that our Lord Jesus came into this world as a poor man. He was penniless! How do you feel toward those who can do nothing for you in return? Do you do something for them?
7. Verse 26 teaches that security is in the fear of the Lord. If we fear the Lord we will be obedient to His Word and in that brings strong confidence. The children mentioned here are the God-fearing children. Exodus 20 tells us that the children will reap the benefits of their righteous parents if they love the Lord. If fear gives the parents security in the Lord, it will be a place of safety for their children. For you who are parents: Do you have reverent fear for the Lord? Do your children know that you are under authority to the Lord Jesus Christ? Are your children learning to trust God by your example?
8. Verse 29: Have you ever seen an out of control fire? That’s what a nasty, quick temper looks like. It can singe us and burn everyone else in its path. The Lord Jesus said, “Be angry and don’t sin.” Anger that divides causes bitterness and guilt. Anger can also be a legitimate reaction to injustice and sin. When anger rises in us we need to look for the cause. Are you reacting to an evil situation that you are going to set right? Are you responding selfishly to a personal insult?
9. Verse 31 deals with the treatment of the poor. The Lord has a special concern in His heart for them. How people treat the poor displays their faith in the creator. God insists that those who have been blessed materially should be generous with those who are needy. The Bible is clear about providing for the poor. God doesn’t make suggestions concerning their treatment. He commands us to honor them. (Leviticus 23:22, Deuteronomy 15:7-8, Psalm 113:5-9, Isaiah 58:7, 2 Corinthians 9:9) If God has blessed you materially are you being obedient to His Word? Are you one who oppresses the poor? Do you honor the Lord by having mercy on the needy?

Chapter 15

1. Verse 1 deal with the tongue. The way we answer another person will have an effect on the response. To turn away wrath and seek peace we should choose gentle words. Are you in the practice of maintaining the peace or do you find yourself raising your voice and using harsh words to trigger a response?

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2. Verse 3 tells us about God's omniscience. Our lives are open books to God. The Lord knows everyone completely and this verse is an incentive for our conduct. As a Christian do you find great comfort in this fact that God sees you clearly? If you have yet to become a Christian, has this verse pricked your heart with concern for your eternal destiny?
3. Verse 10 speaks of the necessity of discipline. Some people hate to be told they are wrong and there are others that will not accept any kind of advice. This proverb is clear that discipline must be used for those who go astray. Are you one who does not like to receive correction?
4. Verse 14 shows us that the wise person has a strong desire to discover knowledge. What we nourish our mind with is just as important as what we feed our bodies with. Are you choosing to feed on Godly books, music, and films? Do you find yourself compromising to the world?
5. Verse 16-17 stress that spiritual things are far better than material wealth. Loving relationships are more desirable than a great supper where there is hatred. All too often wealth replaces love in a family. How is your family life? Is it loving with a fear of the Lord? Do you find that your fridge is full of filet mignon and there is hatred? God says a humble meal with love is the best.
6. Verse 22 shows us the value of advice. This is a general observation on the personal and national level. Are you surrounding yourself with good Godly counselors? Are they directing you to God's Word? He is the mighty counselor.
7. Verse 33 begins with "the fear of the Lord." If we humbly submit in faith to the Lord it will bring wisdom and honor. The most important lesson here is for us to learn to come with humility to learn of God. We all need that lesson.

Chapter 16

1. Verse 2 is reminiscent of Proverbs 14:12. "There is a way which seems right to a man but the end thereof are the ways of death." Have you ever heard somebody say, "I don't need to be saved? I'm alright?" Perhaps that was you at a time in your life until you used God's Word as a mirror. Then it revealed that things were not quite right. Are you filtering your plans and your ways through the Bible? Is your attitude pleasing to God?
2. In verse 3 the verb commit literally means "roll." In other words, to roll all of your burdens on the Lord. This word portrays complete dependence on God. There are some who give God temporary control of their lives only to take control back the moment things stop going the way they expect. Are you worried about tomorrow, next week, or the future? Roll it over on Him!
3. Verse 9 tells us that God is the ultimate boss. He is sovereign and determines the outcome of our plans. This proverb is a contrast of what we plan and what actually happens. Guess what? God determines the latter. Remember that if your choice meets with approval, God will direct your steps to the desired goal.

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4. Verse 18 shows the consequences of pride. Pride leads inevitably to a downfall and arrogance is the first step down. If we think that our success was attributed to our own energy and effort, we fool ourselves. Everything we have is from a benevolent God. To avoid a fall you may ask someone you trust whether self-satisfaction has blinded you to warning signs.
5. We all like to hear pleasant, comforting, and encouraging words. In verses 2-4, they are described as a “honey comb” which is sweet to the soul and health to the bones. The result of such speech is felt in the body and soul. Are you reading the bad news in the newspaper more than the good news of the Bible? Remember it’s better to say it with pleasant words instead of trying to say it with the help of FTD and Hallmark.
6. Verses 26-30 form a group of verses about different types of troublemakers who disrupt community life. We have the hungry man, (hunger is not the best incentive) the worthless man, the perverse man, the violent man, and the wicked man. These types of people destroy close relationships. Solomon warns us to keep away from such villains. Are you finding yourself enticed or influenced by such people?
7. The Hebrews believed that long life was a sign of God’s blessings. Therefore gray hair and old age were good. Proverbs 20:29 tells us that the young glory in their strength and gray hair the splendor of the old. Gray hair is not a sign of disgrace to be covered up by Grecian Formula. It is a crown of splendor. How are you dealing with older people? Are you treating them with respect?
8. Verse 32 describes a human being who has his emotions under control. Our home life can be ruined by a person who loses control of his or her temper. Are you struggling to control your temper? Pray to the Lord to give you victory. By losing control of your temper you could lose what you want the most.

Chapter 17

1. In order to purify gold and silver you must use intense heat. In our lives, the heat of trials purifies us. Peter tells us that these trials are only to test our faith and to show that it is strong and pure. Verse 3 tells us that what fire does for the metal, God does for the heart. Have you come to the realization that when tough times come your way that God wants to use those times to refine your faith and clean your heart of the dross?
2. Verse 5 talks about speech that mocks the poor. Making fun of the less fortunate is one of the cruelest things we can do. Most people do it to make themselves feel good. There are those who mock others to give themselves a sense of superiority. Anyone who mocks the misfortunes of the poor is really mocking God because He made them. Have you in the past mocked the unfortunate? From this day forward stop and think before you put others down. Stop and think of who created them.
3. Verse 9 talks about disregarding the faults of others. Were you ever in an argument and were tempted to bring something up from that person’s past? Love for that person will keep our mouth shut. Let’s face it that can be difficult at times. If we don’t, the Bible says that it separates close friends. 1 Corinthians 13 tells us that love doesn’t

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keep records of wrong doing. If you are having difficulty covering over the offenses of others, pray for God's ability to forgive and forget the sins that people tell you.

4. Verse 17 deals with loyalty in time of adversity. What kind of friend are you? The love of a true friend is strong and constant. In this verse the "friend and the brother" are equal. Have you experienced the fair weather friend? This is the one that sticks around when the relationship helps them but leaves when they're not getting anything out of it? It's one of the disappointments in life when someone professes to be your friend but when the chips are down you realize that their real name was Judas Iscariot or Absalom. Are you growing into the kind of friend the Bible encourages?
5. Verse 22 shows us that our emotions can affect our health and God want us to have a merry heart. When we're at church our fellowship should be filled with joy and fun. Are you cheerful and ready to welcome others? Are you being encouraging to others regardless of how you feel? According to this verse a merry heart is like pain relieving medicine to the bones.
6. Verses 27-28 talk about keeping your mouth closed. If you have nothing worthwhile to say it's always the best policy to keep quiet. The benefit of that is it allows you the blessing to learn to listen and then listen to learn. Are you in the habit of pausing and listening before you speak?

Chapter 18

1. In verses 6-8 we have speech that invites trouble and gossip. Here the fool is always the wellspring for trouble. He is the one who always stirs the pot of contention and mocking. When the tail bearer or whisperer consumes the choice morsels of gossip they become tasty bits and stimulate the desire for more. You can resist these tasty trifles by not opening the box. Do you find yourself listening to a gossip or gossiping yourself?
2. Verse 10 gives us the security in the Lord's name. The Lord is fully able to protect those of us who trust Him. He is described as a tower of strength. When you feel afraid, uncertain, alone, and weary do you seek refuge in the fortress of His name?
3. Verse 11 deals with security in wealth. Wealthy people often assume that their wealth brings security. Psalm 49 teaches money cannot bring ultimate security. Where are you looking for ultimate security? Do you think it's in uncertain riches or God who is always faithful?
4. Verse 24 gives us the value of loyal friendship. It is better to have one good faithful friend than a number of unreliable ones. The world is full of people looking for that friend who sticks closer than a brother. That is a rare treasure. Are you longing for a true friend? If so, seek to become one. Ask the Lord to bring people into your life. Be challenged to be a true friend.

Chapter 19

1. What do we learn about being a son or a wife from verse 13?

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2. What are the benefits of wise counsel found in verse 20?
3. What are the dangers of ignoring godly counsel found in verse 27?

Chapter 20

1. What does Solomon say about alcohol in verse 1?
2. How can you apply verse 3 today?
3. Take a few moments to consider verse 24 and give an answer to the question it asks.
4. Choose a favorite verse from this chapter and write out your thoughts on how to apply it to your life.

Chapter 21

1. How does verse one give you comfort as you look at world leaders.
2. What are the characteristics listed in verse 21 that lead to life?
3. How can you apply verse 23 today?
4. Choose a favorite verse from this chapter and write out your thoughts on how to apply it to your life.

Chapter 22

1. How can you establish a good name?
2. According to verse 4 what are the benefits of humility and fearing God?
3. The rod mentioned in verse 15 in no way suggests the beating or injuring of a child, but rather is a reference to loving discipline. If you are a parent, use a concordance and look for the benefits of this loving discipline on a child listed in Proverbs.
4. Choose a favorite verse from this chapter and write out your thoughts on how to apply it to your life.

Chapter 23

1. Verses 1-3 are a poetic description of the need for self-control. What areas do you need to apply self-control to your life?
2. According to verse 17 what do we need to guard our hearts against?
3. Verse 29-35 speaks to the folly of alcohol or substance abuse. What do we learn about the danger of being under these influences?
4. Choose a favorite verse from this chapter and write out your thoughts on how to apply it to your life.

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Chapter 24

1. Why is it foolish to be envious of the wicked?
2. First 10 seems to state the obvious, yet it is the times when our strength fails that we learn to understand our need for God. What do you need strength from the Lord for to face today? Pray for that right now.
3. What do we learn about the righteous on verse 16?
4. What do verses 28-29 teach about relationship with others?
5. Choose a favorite verse from this chapter and write out your thoughts on how to apply it to your life

Chapter 25

1. Much of proverbs 25 are written to the king. What do we learn about the characteristics of a godly leader?
2. What do we learn about our words from vs. 11-15?
3. Think of a practical way you can apply verse 21 today?
4. Choose a favorite verse from this chapter and write out your thoughts on how to apply it to your life.

Chapter 26

1. Solomon has much to say about the fool. List all the traits of a foolish person.
2. Compare your actions to the list you made. Are there any changes you need to make in your life?
3. From Verse 14- 16 what do we learn about laziness?
4. A tale bearer is one who spreads gossip. What does Solomon say about that man?
5. Choose a favorite verse from this chapter and write out your thoughts on how to apply it to your life.

Chapter 27

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1. Solomon tells us not to boast about tomorrow. Look up Matthew 6:33-34, what does Jesus teach us about our tomorrow's?
2. Solomon makes many references to friendship in this chapter. What do you learn about friends?
3. How can verse 20 be applied to dealing with the sins of the eyes?
4. Choose a favorite verse from this chapter and write out your thoughts on how to apply it to your life.

Chapter 28

1. Verse 13 reveals one of the key principles to successfully walking with Jesus. Take the time needed to apply that verse this morning.
2. Verse 26 reveals one of the most common and most foolish guides a person can follow. What is it? What should be our guide?
3. Choose a favorite verse from this chapter and write out your thoughts on how to apply it to your life.

Chapter 29

1. Solomon has a lot to say about the wise man. Make a list of the traits of the wise from this chapter.
2. Compare your life to the list and make any necessary changes.
3. If you are a parent, look through this chapter for what Solomon writes about children.
4. Choose a favorite verse from this chapter and write out your thoughts on how to apply it to your life.

Chapter 30

Agur is considered by many to be another name for Solomon.

1. Take a moment to consider the question found in verse four, and then give the Biblical answer.
2. What do we learn about the Word of God from verses 5-6?
3. Examine the prayer found in verses 7-9, what do you notice.

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4. Choose a favorite verse from this chapter and write out your thoughts on how to apply it to your life.

Chapter 31

1. Make a list of the qualities of a virtuous woman.
2. Which of these qualities do you see evident in you or in your wife?
3. Which of these qualities is lacking?
4. Take a few moments to consider how you can apply verse 30 to your life?