

THE WAY OF THE WISE: A STUDY OF PROVERBS

The Path of Flourishing, Proverbs 1

LEARNING THE WORD

1. Read Proverbs 1:1-7. What words or phrases stand out to you? What is the big idea?
2. Verses 2-6 give the purpose of the book of Proverbs. How would you describe the goals of this book in your own words?
3. Verse 7 provides the overall theme of the book of Proverbs. How does this provide a theological foundation for the book?
4. What is "the fear of the Lord"? What other words or phrases come to mind to describe it?
5. Why is the fear of the Lord the only doorway through which we can enter the realm of wisdom?
6. In the literary form of Proverbs, it is common for the second line in a verse to either expand on the first line or show a contrast with the topic of the first line. In verse 7, for example, the second line (fools despise wisdom and instruction) shows a contrast in order to help us to better understand the first line. How do these two lines work together to demonstrate us the difference between two types of people?

LIVING THE WORD

7. How does our response to the Lord's wisdom reveal whether we have a prideful heart or a humble heart?
8. Read Proverbs 1:20-23. These verses personify wisdom as a lady, calling out for people in the streets to listen to her voice. This is meant to be encouraging, since wisdom is available to everyday people and not just for the elites or super-spiritual types. Do you consider yourself a wise person? According to Proverbs 1, what would be required for you to grow in wisdom?
9. What are you personally excited about as you look ahead to our study of Proverbs?