

# **Proverbs: The Beginning of Knowledge**

*A Thirteen Lesson  
Bible Class Study*



*a topical study of the wisdom gleaned from  
God's book of Proverbs*

*by  
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## *Introduction*

The thirty-one chapters of the Proverbs provide a cache of invaluable and timeless wisdom from the mind of the Lord. The book identifies itself as being for the young, but the instruction found within its pages are fit for those of any age who desire to follow the paths of righteousness and avoid the pitfalls of foolishness. The Proverbs are intensely pertinent in this age of temptation and declining morality. The young will find answers and the old will find validation provided each hunger and thirst after the right way to go.

## *Syllabus*

Lesson One	Wisdom
Lesson Two	Family
Lesson Three	Spirituality
Lesson Four	Sobriety
Lesson Five	Humility
Lesson Six	Tongue
Lesson Seven	Sexual Morality
Lesson Eight	Industry
Lesson Nine	Integrity
Lesson Ten	Friendship
Lesson Eleven	Self-Control
Lesson Twelve	Reproof
Lesson Thirteen	Review



# Lesson 1: *Wisdom*

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

--Proverbs 1:7

Wisdom tends to be defined differently by people who have different perspectives. What may seem wise to one group will be deemed foolish by another. For the Bible student and anyone interested in God's perspective, the heart of wisdom is identified in the opening of the Proverbs. A healthy fear of God is where knowledge and wisdom commence.

This introductory lesson to the virtues extolled in the Proverbs focuses upon the apprehension of knowledge and wisdom.

## Questions

1. (Prov. 1:1-7) As this study begins, the student is challenged immediately to commit himself to the pursuit of wisdom and knowledge. According to verse 5, what will a wise and understanding man do? How will he or she accomplish these objectives?

2. In your own words, define the "fear of the Lord."

3. (Prov. 1:20-33) Does this passage seem to indicate that wisdom is nearly impossible to obtain or always present to be grasped by those interested? According to verses 26-29, what will wisdom do to those who reject it?

4. (Prov. 2:1-22) What is the implication of verse 2 regarding man's responsibility in the search for wisdom?

5. What will wisdom accomplish for man, especially the young (verses 10-12)?

6. (3:1-8) The pride of man often gets in the way of the quest for wisdom. What decision must a person make regarding his own opinions and the revealed will of the Lord, according to verses 5-7?

7. (3:13-18) What role does wisdom play in planning for eternity?

8. (4:1-13) What makes wisdom the principal thing?

9. (9:1-6) Wisdom's house is sound and well constructed. Consider the sermon by Jesus in Matthew 7:24-27. How might wisdom be applied to life in order to construct a sound "house" (cf. Prov. 10:23-25)?

10. (10:14) What is the difference in speech between the wise and foolish?

11. (11:30) Why is soul-winning evidence of wisdom?

12. (13:13-14) When it comes to sin and temptation, wisdom is the ability to avoid the snares of death. What does 1 Corinthians 10:13 identify as the wisest means to avoid such a fall?

13. (14:6-8) Sometimes wisdom is confused with humanistic pragmatism, a form of morality which values feelings over facts and allows for situation ethics and "little white lies." Does the Holy Spirit allow that deceit might be a mark of wisdom under the right circumstances?

14. (14:15-19) The New Testament tells us to give people the benefit of the doubt and avoid jumping to conclusions about them (1 Cor. 13:4-7). How is the line drawn then between this attitude and sheer gullibility?

15. (18:1) A man who always insists on having his way will alienate his friends and loved ones. He will ignore the counsel and concerns of others to his own detriment. What do the following New Testament passages say about influence?

- Matt. 5:13-16:
- Romans 14:7:
- 1 Corinthians 15:33:

16. (30:2-6) What are God's credentials for authoring wisdom?

## Lesson 2: *Family*

*A wise son makes a glad father, But a foolish son is the grief of his mother.*

--Proverbs 10:1

Commentators blame much of modern America's ills on a breakdown of the traditional family. Children are allowed to show disrespect to their parents and the parents are often absent more than they are present. Men have been feminized and women have been masculinized to the destruction of God's wisdom in the home.

The answer to many of our problems is a revolutionary return to Bible values. The proverbs provide us a strong blueprint in that regard.

### Questions

1. (Prov. 11:29) What does it mean to "inherit the wind." List two ways that the following people can trouble their houses (cf. Prov. 14:1).

- Fathers/Husbands:
  
- Mothers/Wives:
  
- Children:

2. (12:4) In what way is an excellent wife the crown of her husband (cf. 31:23)?

3. (17:14) What wisdom does God offer husbands and wives who are engaged in a disagreement over some matter (cf. Eph. 4:26)?

4. (18:22) This proverb almost always seems very evident on the wedding day, but can be forgotten over time. How can husbands keep it before them always and improve their marriages in so doing (cf. 19:14; Eph. 5:25-29)?

5. (Prov. 31:10-31) What can we do with this passage to keep it practical?

6. (17:1) In your own words, explain this proverb.

7. (Prov. 10:1) So much of a parent's happiness is wrapped up in the behavior of his or her children. In rather general terms, how do children cause their parents gladness or grief?

8. (13:24) Which father shows greater love for his child—the one who disciplines a wayward son promptly or the one who grows tolerant of a child's errors and eliminates all negative responses in favor of totally positive reinforcement (cf. Prov. 22:15)?

9. What effect should discipline have on a child (22:6, 23:13-14; Heb. 12:7-11)?

10. (19:18) What is the effect on a child when the parent refuses to correct him or waits to do so until the child reaches his teen years?

11. (19:26) What is a child's responsibility to his parents later in life (cf. 28:24; Matt. 15:3-6, 1 Tim. 5:4, 16)?

12. (21:9, 19) What makes a woman "contentious"?



## Lesson 3: *Spirituality*

*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

--Romans 8:1

To the Holy Spirit, man's lifestyle choice is not a matter of moral relatives and shifting gray areas. It is a black-and-white choice between right and wrong, spirituality and carnality. Often, this decision is reflected in our decisions regarding money. Greed betrays a carnal heart, while sharing points to a spiritually-minded person.

### Questions

1. (Prov. 1:18-19) Explain how greed takes away one's life. (cf. 15:27).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What did Paul call greediness in the New Testament (Col. 3:5)? How does this concur with the Lord's teaching in Matthew 6:24?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. (Prov. 3:9-10) What relationship does this passage describe between giving and receiving (cf. Prov. 21:13)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How are we to give to God today (1 Cor. 16:1-4; cf. Prov. 19:17, James 1:27)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. List the principles from the following verses that govern our giving to God:
  - a. 2 Cor. 8:5:
  - b. 2 Cor. 8:12-13:
  - c. 2 Cor. 9:5:
  - d. 2 Cor. 9:6:
  - e. 2 Cor. 9:7:
  - f. 2 Cor. 9:8:

6. (Prov. 10:22) How do we see the pure goodness in God's nature when it comes to his habit of blessing his people (cf. James 1:13-17)?

7. (Prov. 11:24-26) How did Jesus teach the same thing, according to Paul, speaking in Acts 20:35?

8. (Prov. 11:28) There is also a potential danger attached to riches. What is it?

9. (Prov. 12:25) Being consumed with money and things often leads to physical and emotional problems, attached to this weakness of faith. In your own words, summarize the teaching of Jesus on this matter in Matthew 6:25-34.

10. (Prov. 13:7) Richness and poverty are usually confused to the human perspective. Consider Revelation 2:9 and determine how the saints in Smyrna were rich in God's eyes, but not man's. Consider Revelation 3:14-17 and determine how the Laodicean saints were poor in God's eyes, while rich in their own.

11. (Prov. 14:20) What is envy? What does it cause (James 3:14-16)?

12. (Prov. 30:7-9) Explain the wisdom of asking God to give neither riches nor poverty.

13. (Prov. 15:16-17) Money can't buy happiness. What comes closer?

14. (Prov. 21:6) How do people use lies today to get treasures?

15. (Prov. 28:20) What happens to a man's priorities when getting rich is most important (cf. Prov. 23:4)?

## Lesson 4: *Sobriety*

*Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.*

--Romans 13:13

Alcohol use and abuse have troubled the world almost as long as it has spun. For all his admirable qualities, Noah's life was blemished by the events of one drunken day. The proverbs go to great lengths to expose the folly of drink and the teachings of Jesus Christ uphold sobriety as virtue.

### Questions

1. What pleasure or benefit do people claim to receive through alcohol use?
2. (Prov. 20:1) How could wine cause people to mock when they would not otherwise do so?
3. How could strong drink cause people to brawl when they ordinarily would not?
4. (Prov. 23:19-21) List some specific ways in which alcohol use can lead a person and family into poverty.
5. Read Proverbs 23:19-21 carefully. There is one specific bit of advice the writer is trying to communicate. Identify it and then describe the dangers associated with rejecting it.
6. (Prov. 23:29-35) List the six consequences of alcohol abuse named in verse 29.
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.

7. Some people have a tremendous weakness for alcohol, which they must constantly battle and overcome in order to live a holy life. What benefit would following verse 31 give such a person?

8. Proverbs 23:32 tells us that alcohol in the glass is like a snake in the grass, which suddenly strikes with great fury. Name some unexpected consequences of alcohol abuse.

9. Verse 33 points to the effects of lowered inhibitions through alcohol use. Name some of the results when inhibitions are eliminated through intoxication.

10. Explain the characteristic of alcohol use described in verses 34-25.

11. (Prov. 31:4-7) For whom does the writer reserve alcohol use?

12. Consider 1 Peter 4:1-5. Peer pressure is one of the chief reasons that people take their first drink. What do young people often imagine about the use of alcohol?

13. How are older people influenced to drink, at least socially?

14. Does verse 3 sanction social drinking?

15. What is the surest way to guard against becoming an alcoholic?

## Lesson 5: *Humility*

*God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.*

--James 4:6

A special facet of Bible wisdom is humility. The Proverbs assert that pride leads to shame and life experience bears this out. Because of pride, a person is often tempted to take risks and commit acts of dishonesty to protect his reputation from being soiled by the exposure of a failure. Humility, on the other hand, allows a man to confess his shortcoming and ask for assistance.

### Questions

1. List at least four sources of sinful pride of life.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

2. (Prov. 11:2) To what does pride lead? How?

3. Consider Acts 5:1-11. How did pride play a factor in the actions and downfall of Ananias and Sapphira (cf. Prov. 25:14)?

4. (Prov. 12:9) How do some people honor themselves (cf. Prov. 14:3; 1 Cor. 13:4, 1 Tim. 2:9)?

5. (Prov. 13:10) How does pride lead to strife (cf. Mark 10:35-45)?

6. (Prov. 15:33) Wisdom states that humility precedes true honor. The proud may receive earthly accolades, but heavenly rewards are reserved for the humble. Explain how the parable of the Pharisee and publican illustrates this distinction (Luke 18:9-14).

7. (Prov. 16:18-19) Explain the meaning of this proverb.

8. (Prov. 20:6) What do the following passages say about arrogance?

- Galatians 5:24-26:

- Galatians 6:3:

- 2 Timothy 3:1-2, 5:

- 1 Corinthians 3:18:

- Romans 12:16:

9. What was the source of the Laodiceans' pride (Rev. 3:17-18)?

10. (Prov. 21:4) What is a "haughty look"?

11. (Prov. 25:6-7) Jesus turned this proverb into a parable in Luke 14:7-11. What point was he attempting to make?

12. (Prov. 25:27) How does this proverb relate to Christ's teaching in the sermon on the mount (Matt. 6:1-7)?

## Lesson 6: *The Tongue*

*And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.*

--James 3:6

James gives a completely realistic description of the sins committed by the tongue, showing the incongruity between a profession of faith and an untamed tongue which resorts to gossip and curses.

The wisdom of the proverbs exposes also the travails of the tongue and admonishes us to do better and tame the tongue.

### Questions

1. (Prov. 18:6-8) To what does a fool's mouth lead?
2. (Prov. 10:18-21) Why is it a lie to hide hatred? What should one do instead?
3. What is slander? Is slander the same thing as gossip? Does the condemnation of slander thus prevent us from ever marking an individual for his sin (cf. Rom. 16:17)?
4. (Prov. 25:11-12) What example of a word fitly spoken is given here?
5. What is the writer talking about when he speaks of "restraining the lips" (cf. Prov. 15:28 and Prov. 17:28)?
6. List the three facets of James's advice in James 1:19-20 (cf. Prov. 18:13).
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
7. (Prov. 10:30-32) How does man distinguish between "what is acceptable" and "what is perverse"?

8. How do we know which words in our languages are perverse or dirty?

7. Read Ephesians 4:25-32. How does verse 29 help us to make the distinction between language that is corrupt and that which is good?

8. (Prov. 11:13) Often, gossip statements are actually true, at first, but should have been concealed instead of revealed. What does a true friend, brother, or neighbor do when he finds someone involved in iniquity, instead of gossip (cf. Prov. 16:27-30 and James 5:19-20)?

9. (Prov. 12:17-22) What tempts people to lie?

10. (Prov. 13:5) What should be our attitude toward all lies, even the little “white” ones?

13. (Prov. 19:5) What punishment awaits the liar in the end (Rev. 21:8)?

11. (Prov. 15:4) How can our words build up or tear down the wayward and weak (cf. Prov. 16:24)?

14. (Prov. 20:19) What is the difference between flattery and genuine compliments?

16. (Prov. 27:2) What does the Bible say about flattering oneself?



## Lesson 7: *Chastity*

*For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality.*

--1 Thessalonians 4:3

According to the Holy Spirit, sexual chastity is a virtue which helps to set the children of God apart from those enslaved to the devil. The New Testament of Jesus Christ upholds the notion that while the marriage bed is undefiled, all other intimate contact is vile and sinful. The timeless wisdom of the proverbs helps to direct us along safe and chaste paths.

### Questions

1. (Prov. 2:10-11, 16-19) How does the seductive woman entice the foolish man?
2. How might he have been preserved and kept?
3. Sometimes fornication and adultery are excuses as “one night stands” or “flings.” Is it reasonable to believe that sin in moderation will do no damage? Why or why not?
4. List at least four negative effects of fornication and adultery.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
5. What does the writer mean by describing the immoral woman as forsaking the companion of her youth and forgetting the covenant of her God?
6. (Prov. 5:1-6) A great enticement of the immoral woman is in the immediate pleasure of fleshly indulgence. What does the writer ask the young man to consider instead?
7. What example does Moses offer in this regard (Heb. 11:24-26)?
8. (Prov. 5:7-14) The wisdom of this passage was practiced by Joseph in Potiphar’s house and recommended by Paul in 2 Timothy 2:22. What is it?

9. What are some things that people do which bring them nigh unto sexual temptation? Name at least four.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

10. (Prov. 5:15-20) What is meant by drinking water from your own cistern?

11. Is it proper to suggest that a wife belongs to her husband (1 Cor. 7:1-4)? Why or why not?

12. (Prov. 6:20-29) Is it also possible for a man to be the seducer and one who tears a woman away from righteousness?

13. (Prov. 7:1-20) What is the attire of a harlot?

14. (Prov. 11:22) Explain this proverb.

15. (Prov. 7:21-27) Can “strong men” disregard these warnings because they are just too spiritually strong to succumb to any woman’s enticements (cf. 1 Cor. 10:12)?

16. (Prov. 16:3) Is sexual chastity also a consideration for the mind? How (cf. Matt. 5:27-30)

17. How does one overcome these temptations of the mind?

18. (Prov. 23:26-28) How does the seductress increase the unfaithful among men?

## Lesson 8: *Industry*

*If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.*

--2 Thessalonians 3:10

The old Puritan work ethic has waned much in America, but its root in the Bible is still strong. While the modern welfare state has contributed to a contentment with laziness, God's word upholds a virtue in industry and hard work.

### Questions

1. (Prov. 6:6-11) What lesson does the writer attempt to illustrate with the ant?
2. Is sleeping wrong? Why or why not (cf. Prov. 20:13)?
3. (Prov. 6:30-31) A situation ethics argument contends that stealing is okay if a man is starving. Does the Bible concur?
4. What is the answer to this situation (Eph. 4:28)?
5. (Prov. 10:4-5) Whose hand makes rich? What does this mean?
6. (Prov. 10:26) What do people—employers especially—think of a lazy man? Explain (cf. Prov. 18:4).
7. (Prov. 12:11) How can frivolity get in the way of hard work?
8. (Prov. 12:24) Nowadays education is extremely important in landing a good job. Explain how this proverb might inspire a student in a trade or profession to be more serious about his studies.

9. (Prov. 13:4) Is a man's desire for a better life enough? What about prayer and hope for a better job? What does he need to do as well (cf. Prov. 21:25-26)?

10. (Prov. 14:4) Explain this proverb about industry.

11. (Prov. 14:23) How might this proverb affect the level of work we give on the job? Compare to Colossians 3:22-25.

12. (Prov. 19:24) Perhaps this proverb illustrates the habit some have of starting something and not finishing it. Why is this dishonorable?

13. (Prov. 20:4) What does the lazy man deserve from his fellows when he has no harvest due to sloth (cf. Prov. 30:15 and 2 Thess. 3:7-11)?

14. Is it right, though, to assist a poor person, in despair not because of laziness, but illness, handicap, age or some other like cause?

15. What is Christ's attitude about those who will not help those in need, according to the following passages?

a. Matthew 15:1-9:

b. 1 Timothy 5:8:

c. 1 John 3:17-18:

16. (Prov. 21:5) What does haste make?

17. (Prov. 22:13) What excuses do lazy people make to avoid work?

18. (Prov. 23:4-5) Is it possible to take industry to the other extreme? How?

19. (Prov. 27:23-27) What is the lesson here, in a single word?

## Lesson 9: *Integrity*

*Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love.*

--1 Corinthians 16:13-14

The dictionary definition of integrity involves soundness, incorruptibility, completeness and honesty. Some have defined it as doing the right thing even when nobody is looking. A person with integrity is trustworthy in every situation.

### Questions

1. (Prov. 3:27-30) Integrity is abundantly a matter of relationships with other people that reflect the influence of our relationship with God. What would it say about me if I had the power to help someone but refused?
2. Consider 1 John 3:16-17. How does the love of God abide in someone who shuts up his heart to a brother in Christ?
3. What warning did Jesus issue about being angry without a cause (Matt. 5:21-22)? How is this conflict best resolved (Matt. 5:23-25)?
4. (Prov. 3:31-35; 23:17-18) Why would somebody envy an oppressor?
5. (Prov. 4:14-19) In order to maintain one's integrity, how much would he be permitted to flirt with the ways of evil?
6. (Prov. 6:12-19) How does this passage describe a person who has no integrity? How does Proverbs 25:26 describe one who falters under stress?
7. (Prov. 11:1) Name some specific situations in which we have opportunities to show integrity in the marketplace.

8. (Prov. 11:3-11) What lofty promise does this proverb make to a man with integrity?
  
9. (Prov. 11:16-21) How does showing mercy do good for the soul of the merciful, according to Matthew 5:7?
  
10. What should be our example for extending mercy to others (Col. 3:12-13)?
  
11. (Prov. 13:11) How do people sometimes act dishonestly at work or in school? What is the result in the end (cf. Prov. 20:17)?
  
12. (Prov. 15:8-9) What distinctions does God make regarding a worshiper's integrity?
  
13. (Prov. 16:2) Who gets to decide what is integrity and what is wrong? How is it communicated to us?
  
14. Is getting rich sufficient justification for compromising one's integrity? How are tempted to compromise our integrity to get ahead?
  
15. Consider Revelation 3:16-18. Were the Laodiceans rich? Really? Why or why not?
  
16. (Prov. 20:7) What does it mean to "walk in integrity"?
  
17. (Prov. 20:1) By what are people judged—their intentions or their results?
  
18. (Prov. 20:14) Explain this proverb.
  
19. (Prov. 26:2) What happens to a man with integrity who is falsely accused (1 Peter 4:13-16)?

## Lesson 10: *Friendship*

*Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please himself.*

--Romans 15:2-3

Friendship is a very broad term, often used flippantly. In the scriptures, the best friends are one's neighbors and his brethren. The Proverbs, in particular, explain how children of God may find and be worthy friends.

### Questions

1. (Prov. 1:8-19) What can happen when we choose our friends poorly?
2. Consider 1 Corinthians 15:33-34. What deception are we to avoid?
3. (Prov. 12:26) What are some guidelines to use in choosing friends?
4. (Prov. 22:24-25) What are some other bad habits that Christians can learn from ungodly friends (cf. Prov. 24:1-2)?
5. (Prov. 10:12) How does love cover others' shortcomings (cf. 1 Cor. 13:4-7)?
6. (Prov. 15:22) How valuable is a friend who always tells you that you are right, even when you are horribly wrong (cf. Prov. 27:9)?
7. (Prov. 16:7) What should be our attitude toward those who would be our enemies, according to the following passages?
  - a. Matthew 5:43-48:

b. Romans 12: 18-21:

c. Acts 7:57-60:

8. (Prov. 17:17) What is a “fair weather friend”?

9. What does a true friend provide in times of adversity, according to the following passages?

a. Galatians 6:1-2:

b. 1 John 3:16:

c. 1 John 3:17:

10. (Prov. 18:24) What does it take to make friends?

11. (Prov. 24:11-12) What does it take to be a true friend to someone stumbling into sin (cf. Prov. 27:6)?

12. (Prov. 25:17) Explain this proverb.

13. (Prov. 26:18-19) Explain this proverb.

14. (Prov. 27:17) Explain this proverb.



## Lesson 11: *Self-Control*

*But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

--1 Corinthians 9:27

The modern age is one of self-indulgence. The sexual revolution collided with the drug revolution; duty to country was neglected and a generation of people were raised thinking that “if it feels good, do it.” The lengthening shadows of sin engulf more and more of our neighbors and principles in darkness, making the light of truth and self-control increasingly distinct.

The proverbs offer timeless instruction on self-control, regarding anger, sexual chastity, drink and other matters.

### Questions

1. (Prov. 5:21-23) What leads to straying from righteousness? What causes death?
2. The writer is explaining the self-destructive nature of sin. How are the following sins self-destructive?
  - a. Alcohol abuse:
  - b. Sexual immorality:
  - c. Uncontrolled anger:
3. (Prov. 9:13-18) What is the allure of stolen water and secretly eaten bread?
4. How does the lottery fit this description?
5. (Prov. 12:10) How do people sometimes lose self-control with animals? On what basis would it matter how we treated animals (cf. Gen. 1:26 and 1 Cor. 4:2)?
6. (Prov. 14:12) Why is self-control necessary to avoid choosing the way that only seems right, but is actually wrong (cf. Matt. 7:13-14)?

7. (Prov. 14:29) How did the man who is slow to wrath get such great understanding (cf. 18:13 and James 1:19-20)?

8. (Prov. 15:1-2) How should one answer a person who is hot with anger and making accusations or threats against us? What is the worst thing we can do in such situations (cf. 26:4)?

9. (Prov. 15:18, 19:11) Vengeance is usually the first impulse when we are wronged? What is a better response (cf. Rom. 12:17-21)?

10. (Prov. 16:32) To what two things does James compare the ability to rule one's spirit (James 3:3-5)?

a.

b.

11. (Prov. 17:27-28) There are times when we don't know the right thing to say and times, when feeling the need to say something, we end up saying the wrong thing. What is the advice of this passage?

12. (Prov. 20:3) Who is honorable in God's sight: the man who picks a fight and then stands up to fight them or the man who refuses to engage in such a thing and walks away?

13. (Prov. 24:10) There are some fights that require us to stand up, though (1 Cor. 16:13). A lack of self-control, when faced with an unpopular or seemingly impossible conflict, will often cause people to crawl away and concede defeat. What is the fate of cowards, according to Revelation 21:8?

14. (Prov. 26:17) Explain this proverb (cf. 2 Thess. 3:11-12).

15. (Prov. 25:16) Is it possible to have too much of a good thing? Explain.

15. (Prov. 30:32-33) What does the Bible say about self-exaltation (cf. Prov. 27:2, Gal. 5:26 and Mark 10:35-45)?

## Lesson 12: *Reproof*

*Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*

--James 5:19-20

The Lord's admonition to "judge not, lest you be judged" has become very popular, but equally distorted. Christ was condemning hypocritical judgment, while encouraging people to get their own lives in order that they might better assist others to serve God honorably.

The New Testament continues the wisdom of Proverbs in encouraging the friendly practice of reproofing those we see involved in sin, trying to prevent them from meeting their doom unrestrained.

### Questions

1. (Prov. 3:11-12) How is true love expressed at times?
2. What would be true of parents if they refused or neglected to discipline their children (cf. Eph. 6:4 and Heb. 12:7-10)?
3. What is the goal of divine discipline (Heb. 12:11)?
4. What action did the apostle Paul recommend for a member of the Corinthian church who had not repented of his sin (1 Cor. 5:1-13)? What was the stated goal of this action (verse 5)?
5. Did this action apparently work (2 Cor. 2:6-11)?
6. What sin did Paul accuse the Corinthian church of committing (1 Cor. 5:1-2)?
7. (Prov. 5:11-14) What becomes of someone who refuses genuine and deserved rebuke? Why?
8. Read Mark 10:17-25. For what cause did Jesus rebuke the rich young ruler? How did the ruler respond? What fate did he thus choose?

9. (Prov. 9:7-12) How do scoffers respond to deserved rebuke? How do wise men respond? How did Simon the sorcerer respond (Acts 8:18-24)?

10. (Prov. 12:1) What is true of someone who hates being corrected?

11. Read Galatians 6:1-2. What is true of someone who is willing to correct a friend who needs it?

12. (Prov. 13:17-18) Why is a friend who tells us the uncomfortable truth so valuable (cf. Prov. 20:30)?

13. (Prov. 15:10) Are strong words sometimes necessary to correction? How strong?

14. (Prov. 19:19 and 26:3-12) What is true of a man who appears to accept correction, but never really overcomes his problem (cf. Prov. 29:1)?

15. Read Matthew 18:15-17. What steps should be taken when a brother has personally offended you?

1.

2. If he does not repent,

3. If he does not repent,

4. If he does not repent,

16. (Prov. 27:5) How do you answer those who claim that love is only expressed by “positive” things and not correction?

17. (Prov. 28:13) What happens when we confess our sins, instead of covering them up or denying them (cf. 1 John 1:9)?

## Lesson 13: *Review*

### Questions

1. (Prov. 1:7) What is labeled here “the beginning of knowledge”? Why (cf. 16:6; Heb. 12:28-29)?
  
2. (Prov. 2:16-19) How does immorality often appeal to a foolish person? How did Moses see through the thin veneer of sinful temptation (Heb. 11:24-26)? How can we rise above the appeal of sin (2 Cor. 4:16-18)?
  
3. (Prov. 3:11-12) How does God chasten his children (cf. 1 Cor. 11:28-32, James 5:19-20, Heb. 12:3-11)?
  
4. (Prov. 4:7-9) What is the principle thing? What is one important factor in getting it (James 1:5-8)?
  
5. (Prov. 5:21-23) How is sin usually self-destructive?
  
6. (Prov. 6:12-19) What are the seven things that God hates?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.
  - 7.
  
7. (Prov. 7:21-23) Why is it so foolish to deceive ourselves into thinking that sin won't harm us (cf. Gen. 3:1-7, Rom. 6:23, Gal. 6:7-9)?
  
8. (Prov. 10:26) What makes laziness so distasteful (cf. 2 Thess. 3:10-11)?
  
9. (Prov. 11:22) How does this passage affect a person's attire (1 Tim. 2:9-10)?

10. (Prov. 12:22) Does this passage make allowance for “little white lies” or times in which necessity outweighs precept?
11. (Prov. 13:24) Does a father show love for his children by refusing to punish them when they are wrong? What does he show (cf. Eph. 6:4)?
12. (Prov. 14:1) List some ways that modern women tear down their houses.
13. (Prov. 15:1) How should we answer a person who is trying to pick a fight with us (cf. James 1:19-20)?
14. (Prov. 16:3) How can our very thoughts destroy us (Matt. 5:28, Heb. 4:12)?
15. (Prov. 17:27-28) What is one mark of wisdom revealed here?
16. (Prov. 20:1) What are some of the negative consequences of alcohol abuse?
17. (Prov. 22:6) Explain this proverb.
18. (Prov. 23:23) How do we obtain truth (John 8:31-32, 2 Tim. 3:16-17)?
19. (Prov. 25:14) What New Testament couple committed this sin?
20. (Prov. 30:1-14) What was wrong with that generation?



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OT3 Taming Canaan  
OT4 The Throne of David

OT5 Israel and Judah  
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OT7 The Minor Prophets  
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NT02 Acts of the Apostles  
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NT04 Liberty Epistles  
NT05 First Corinthians  
NT06 Second Corinthians

NT07 Prison Epistles  
NT08 Preacher Epistles  
NT09 Hebrew Epistle  
NT10 Minor Epistles  
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