

Series Theme: *Proverbs: The Right Walk*

Series Description: If the Book of Psalms is designed to help our devotional life, Proverbs intends to give direction for our daily life. The psalms speak to a right worship, the proverbs to a right walk. While other parts of the Bible show us the glory of our precious new life in Jesus, this book maps out how to walk worthy of it. Proverbs teaches that there is not a temper, a look, a word, or a movement in the routine of daily life that does not reflect in some way on the Lord Jesus. This book will help us honor our God.

July 2

Title: Diligence in Our Work

Text: Proverbs 6:6-11

Description: This is a book of wise sayings that is written entirely in Hebrew poetry and covers many subjects. Today we look at some of God's creatures found in Proverbs because they can teach us a great deal about living and working in this world.

July 9

Title: Discernment in Who Influences You

Text: Proverbs 13:20

Description: We can influence people and they can do the same to us. Either can be negative or positive. God has been very clear that the choice of your companions is extremely important. This is an early lesson from parents to their children and this foundation can serve well throughout life.

July 16 (Tom)

Title: Use Words Wisely

Text: Proverbs 12, 18

Description: There are many references to "the tongue", or our words in Proverbs. The wonderful gift of speech ought to be guarded and used to the glory of God. Our words can be used to build others up or to tear them down.

July 23

Title: The Value of a Good Name

Text: Proverbs 22:1

Description: You want a good name. Here we're talking about the impressions people associate with that name—your reputation. It's something the Bible says is worth some effort.

July 30

Title: Relationships that Hold You Accountable

Text: Proverbs 27:6

Description: Christian accountability is about inviting one, two, or a few trusted believers into the core of your life to walk through difficulties with you, to celebrate happy events, to help you grow as a Christ follower, and to challenge you when you start down a wrong path.

Proverbs

1. *Authorship:*

Solomon was the wisest man of his day. He wrote 3000 proverbs. Guided by the Holy Spirit, Solomon collected several of his proverbs into this book that has a place in the sacred collection. Solomon himself was responsible for writing major chunks of this book (1:1–22:16; chapters 25-29). Solomon was probably responsible for collecting the material in 22:17-24:34. Chapters 30-31 are of non-Israelite origin, the first being by Agur the son of Jakeh the Massaite, and the second by King Lemuel of Massa. Nothing is known about the identities of these two men. Probably it was Solomon who was guided to incorporate these two chapters into his book. King Hezekiah and his company of scribes had some role in the editing of the book (25:1).

2. *Situation:*

The bulk of the Book of Proverbs began to take shape about 950 B.C. The book may not have taken its present form prior to the time of Hezekiah, about 700 B.C. Proverbial wisdom literature is documented in Egypt and Babylonia long before the time of Solomon. The Holy Spirit directed Solomon to use this ancient literary form to communicate divine wisdom to His people. The age of Solomon was one of peace and would lend itself to literary activities of this sort.

3. *Synopsis:*

“A proverb is a short sentence based on long experience,” according to a recent definition. The proverbs find their power in repetition, comparison, and contrast. Many of them sparkle with wit. The form of teaching in Proverbs is different from that in every other book in the Bible. It speaks in the terms of a father instructing his son. The book urges the same virtues which the prophets did—honesty, sexual morality, thrift, justice, reverence, and self-control, especially in the use of the tongue.

4. *Points of Interest*

- The book of Proverbs is one of the easiest and most entertaining to read in the entire Bible.
- Proverbs has a nine-chapter introduction—a lengthy essay contrasting wisdom with foolishness.
- Proverbs ends with an acrostic poem praising a good wife.
- Although Solomon wrote 3000 proverbs, only about 800 have survived the book of Proverbs.
- There are at least fourteen New Testament quotations or allusions to Proverbs.

5. July Reading Guide

Week of Jun 25-Jul 2	Proverbs 1-7
Week of Jul 3-9	Proverbs 8-13
Week of Jul 10-16	Proverbs 14-19
Week of Jul 17-23	Proverbs 20-25

2023 Sermon Plan

Week of Jul 24-30

Proverbs 26-31