

1. Proverbs 5-7 - This passage is mostly given over to the subject of sexual immorality - the temptations have been the same since the beginning of time. It is significant that more time is spent in this book in warning us about sexual immorality than any other subject. The warnings here are addressed entirely to men - this is part of their cultural setting.

2. The principles embedded in these chapters:

Sexual relationships outside the bounds of marriage are evil.

They dishonor God and devastate lives.

In light of the fact that this relationship is going to ruin my life, is it really worth it?

Solomon is very explicit about the ways we may “pay if we play”.

Loss of wealth

Physical illness and disease

Guilt and public shame

Human sexuality is wonderful and very proper in the context of the marriage relationship - it is gift from God to us.

3. Other subjects these chapters touched upon:

Being surety for another person - do not co-sign a loan, for example, for another person without first exercising great caution.

Industriousness - take a lesson from the ant

Duplicity and craftiness - do not seek to deceive others or you will be ruined

4. Seven things that are detestable to God:

haughty eyes

lying tongues

hands that shed innocent blood

hearts that devise wicked schemes

feet that are quick to rush into evil

false witnesses who pour out lies

anyone who stirs up dissension among brothers

1. Proverbs 8, 9 and 11 - 8 and 9 are about wisdom; 11 is full of many topics
2. \*In chapters 5-7, the adulteress calls out loudly and strongly.  
  
\*In chapter 8 and 9, we are told that wisdom calls out in the most public places. "The call of wisdom, the call of God, the call to righteousness is also everywhere around us."  
  
\*Which call will we hear and listen to? - the one we are listening for. It is a decision!
3. The fruits of listening to God's wisdom:  
    \*riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity that are better than gold and silver - the treasure in heaven that Jesus talks about  
  
    \* The favor of the Lord - this is a promise - a pledge that Scripture repeats over and over again from Genesis to Revelation  
  
    \*Long life - this is a precept, not a promise - it is a general principle, but it does not always happen this way
4. The personification of wisdom:  
    \*Personification is a literary device that imbues a non-living thing with the traits of a living being. Wisdom is being allowed to "speak" here as a person would.  
  
    \*Is more going on here, though? "Jesus IS wisdom. He is the one who was there at the beginning, even before anything was created..."  
  
    \* In the progress of revelation in the Bible, it is easier to understand the concept that Jesus existed with God because He was God long before creation and His birth in Bethlehem. (Philippians 2 contains clear and important teaching on this subject).
5. Proverbs 11: The characteristics and rewards of righteousness as opposed to the characteristics and rewards of wickedness.  
  
    \*Righteous people are established, delivered, and prospered by God.  
  
    \*Wicked people are trapped in their own devices, disappointed and brought down to nothing.  
  
    \* 11:21: "Be sure of this: the wicked will not go unpunished, but those who are righteous will go free."
6. Many of the proverbs paint very vivid pictures in your head.

**1. Subjects of these chapters:**

1. The comparison between the thinking and actions of a fool and those of a wise person.

a. The Wise person's characteristics:

- 1) 13:1 - He listens to his father's instructions
- 2) 13:16 - He acts out of knowledge
- 3) 13:20 - He walks with others who are wise and gains more wisdom
- 4) 14:1 - She is occupied with building her house
- 5) 14:6 - Exercises discernment
- 6) 14:8 - Thinks and reflects on her actions
- 7) 14:16 - He fears the Lord and shuns evil
- 8) 14:29 - He exercises patience
- 9) 15:18 - He calms a quarrel
- 10) 15:20 - He brings joy to his parents
- 11) 15:21 - He keeps a straight course

b. The Fool's characteristics:

- 1) 13:1 - An unwillingness to listen to rebuke
- 2) 13:10 - An attitude of pride that lends itself to quarreling
- 3) 13:16 - A pattern of acting foolishly
- 4) 13:19 - A heart that hates turning away from evil
- 5) 13:20 - A habit of choosing the wrong kinds of friends
- 6) 14:1 - Those who tear down their own families by their words and actions
- 7) 14:9 - Those who think asking for forgiveness when they have wronged another is a stupid thing to do
- 8) 14:15 - They believe anything they are told without finding out the facts.
- 9) 14:16 - They get angry and lose their tempers easily.
- 10) 15:18 - They stir up dissension.
- 11) 15:20 - They despise their parents.
- 12) 15:21 - They display a lack of judgment.

Look through that list and identify the areas of wisdom that need to be strengthened and the areas of foolishness that need to be corrected in your own life.

2. Results: a. Those who embrace wisdom will be crowned with knowledge; they are a fountain of life to others. b. Fools inherit folly and are on a path that leads down to the grave.

3. Wisdom and righteousness have a very close connection. There is no wisdom without righteousness and no righteousness without wisdom. BUT the path to wisdom lies through righteousness, not the other way around.

Plato's Theory: "Knowledge breeds wisdom; wisdom is the fount of goodness."

Solomon's Understanding: "First comes righteousness; then comes wisdom and that brings knowledge."

**4. Other topics on these chapters:**

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|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1) The use of the tongue             | 4) Industry  | 7) Parenting | 10) National policy |
| 2) Attitudes toward money & wealth   | 5) Happiness | 8) Pride     |                     |
| 3) Response to discipline and advice | 6) Humility  | 9) Greed     |                     |

\*Twice we are reminded that "the eyes of the Lord are everywhere keeping watch on the good and the wicked."

1. Proverbs 17-19 - a dozen more topics
2. You can study this book by categorizing everything and then going back and looking at all those topics.

You can also read it in small but regular doses, like a chapter a day for a month. See what “pops out” at you each time read through this book.

3. What these chapters teach us about God:  
17:3: “The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but God tests the heart.” He is looking for genuineness, motives as well as actions.
4. The use of our tongue - our words:
  - \*The damage done by lying lips
  - \*Gossip
  - \* Silence sometimes IS really golden
5. Money and becoming surety for another comes up again - basically he says, ‘Don’t do it.’
6. Laziness that brings on poverty is different than the poor whom we are urged to serve.
7. Marriage and family relationships:
  - \*Peace and quiet versus strife
  - \*Righteous spouses, children and grandchildren area gift from God
  - \*Quarreling spouses and rebellious children are sources of grief and trouble
  - \*18:19 - discipline and hope
8. There is more in these chapters on the topics of:
  - \*The righteous and the wicked
  - \*How important doing justice is to God
  - \*Handling disputes and quarreling people
  - \*People who cause dissension

1. Proverbs 20 and 22 - at least some of the proverbs in chapter 22 originate with other sages.

2. Subjects we have not yet talked about:

Chapter 20 : 20:1- alcohol: "Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler..."

Fools get led astray by alcohol.

The Bible never commands total abstinence, but demands careful guard and tells us to not get drunk.

20:6 - Words are cheap; actions to go with those words are the key.

20:11 - "Even a child is known by his actions..."

Parables that have to do with kings:

20:8 - Good kings have discernment in judgment coupled with a firm commitment to justice

20:26 - Good kings "winnow out the wicked"

20:30 - Solomon believed in corporal punishment, it seems

Chapter 22: 22:28 - "Don't move an ancient boundary stone" - in effect you would be stealing property from your neighbor

The award for the most picturesque proverb today: 20:17 - "Food gained by fraud tastes sweet to a man but he ends up with a mouth full of gravel."

3. There are 2 more proverbs warning us about being surety for others.

4. Proverbs 20:9 - "Who can say, 'I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin?'"  
Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Solomon knew he was a sinner.

5. Proverbs 20:27 - "The lamp of the Lord searches the spirit of a man; it searches his inmost being."