

# The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

## SSBC Proverbs Bible Study #3

*Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.*

Passage: Proverbs 1:7

Related Passages: 8:13-14; 14:2, 26-27;  
15:33; 16:6; 19:23; 28:14

Sermon Date: Oct. 14, 2007

## **Fear of the Lord is Key to Wisdom**

Have you ever been to the Grand Canyon? I have not, but have flown over it and seen its length and breadth. I have seen programs on the Discovery Channel showing fantastic panoramas of the canyon. I can remember one such program that shows the camera up on the edge of the canyon just before sunrise and as the sun comes up over the horizon, one can see the canyon come to life in brilliant changing colors and features that could not be seen before the sunlight shown directly into the canyon. The view and its colors is breath taking even on the television screen. There is a sense of majesty and wonder in viewing this scene. How was this great geologic wonder formed, how long did it take, and what tremendous force it must have taken to cut through the bedrock surface to form this great wonder of the world. This sense of wonder and amazement at the creator of the Grand Canyon is in a sense like unto the point of this week's study. Read the verses in Proverbs this week and see if you can capture the feeling and sense of Proverbs 1:7 in your life.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have.

Keeping the key verse (1:7) in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key Verse: Proverbs 1: 7</b></p> <p><b>1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.</b></p> <p>8:13 To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.</p> <p>8:14 Council and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power.</p> <p>14:2 He whose walk is upright fears the Lord, but he whose ways are devious despises him.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>14:26 He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.</p> <p>14:27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.</p> <p>15:33 The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.</p> <p>16:6 Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the Lord a man avoids evil.</p> <p>19:23 The fear of the Lord leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.</p> <p>28:14 Blessed is the man who always fears the Lord, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father, Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it Say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **Sins** to avoid
- ◆ **Promises** to believe
- ◆ **Examples** to follow (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **Commands** to obey
- ◆ **Knowledge** to share

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

4. This week's study is concentrating on Proverbs 1:7, which begins with "the fear of the Lord". Look in the dictionary for definitions of the word "fear", and write several of them below.
5. How does the phrase "fear of the Lord" in 1:7 relate to the our more common uses of the word fear? What is similar? What is different?
6. On Sunday, September 9th, Pastor Jeramie spoke on the book of Job. Look up Job 1:1-5 and Job 42, and write below the characteristics in Job that you find that provide an indication of Job's "fear of the Lord".
7. Where do you get your security? Job? Money? Home? Family? Why is one who fears the Lord secure and how then are his children able to seek refuge in our security? (See 14:26)
8. Verse 19:23 indicates that the "fear of the Lord" leads to life and contented rest. Cross reference Psalm 1 where further insight into the Lord's watching over the Godly and "contented rest". What does this teach us about wisdom?
9. In Job 28:28 God tells us that "fearing the Lord" is the beginning point and a fundamental starting point in our search for wisdom. How does the second half of verse 28 describing departing from evil demonstrate a real understanding of the phrase "fear of the Lord"?
10. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life?

**Memory Verse**

**Proverbs 1:7**

**The fear of the Lord is  
the beginning of knowledge,  
but fools despise wisdom and discipline.**

Finding and gaining wisdom is no easy task. Wisdom cannot be found by taking a night course in one of our secular colleges. True wisdom is found in the Lord. The Lord teaches us through reading his word and through the lessons and disciplines of living our lives. The purpose of God's discipline is to teach us, to instruct us. Having a "fear of the Lord" is the key to and beginning of wisdom. If we seek wisdom, we will trust it and act upon it. A good first step in the process of seeking wisdom is trusting in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Have you trusted in Him? If not, won't you do so today? Do it now

*These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact **studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com***

*South Shore Baptist Church  
578 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043  
(781) 749-2592*