

The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 10

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.

A portrait of the wise

Key Passage: Proverbs 20:9

Related Passages: Proverbs 14:12; 16:25; and 28:13

Sermon Date: December 2, 2007

The wise recognize their sin and need of mercy and wisdom.

For the next several weeks we will be looking at verses in Proverbs that depict characteristics of wisdom living. This week we will be looking at the theme of the wise recognizing their sin and need for mercy from the Lord.

Did you ever stop to think about this? Why would it be wise to recognize that you have sinned and need mercy? Would that not be a sign of weakness in us?

Which person has the stronger character, the one who keeps on sinning without asking for forgiveness or the one who sins and immediately asks God for forgiveness and a change of heart? James 3:13-18 speaks about two kinds of wisdom: a wisdom that comes down from heaven and wisdom of this world.

As you think about these verses in James and look at this weeks verses in Proverbs, ask yourself which kind of wisdom is being discussed in each verse. Let's look together at our verses for this week and determine why it takes wisdom to recognize our sin and need for mercy and recognize a need for more wisdom.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have. The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>Key Verse Proverbs 20:9 (NIV) 20:9 Who can say, "I have kept my heart pure;</p> <p>I am clean and without sin"?</p> <hr/> <p>14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man,</p> <p>but in the end it leads to death.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper,</p> <p>but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.</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. Looking at the theme for this study, what is the writer trying to say to us in Proverbs 20:9? Consider Romans 3:9-12 and Psalm 32:1-5.
5. Proverbs 14:12 talks about a way that seems right to us but leads to death. What is the writer trying to tell us to be watchful of in this Proverb? Consider Proverbs 5:1-6 and Proverbs 9:13-18.
6. If, as mentioned in our theme, the wise recognize their sin, how do you recognize sin in your life? What brings it to your attention? Consider Leviticus 4:1-12, Genesis 3:1-24 and Romans 7:7-9.
7. In Proverbs 28:13 it says that those who confess and renounce their sins find mercy. Where does mercy come from? Consider Titus 3:1-10 and Psalm 51:1-12.
8. Why does it take wisdom to recognize our need for mercy and for more wisdom? Consider Psalm 51:1-12.
9. Consider Psalm 139:1-24, 1 John 1:7-9 and II Samuel 12:13-20. What is our proper response when we realize that we have sinned against God?
10. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life this week?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 14:12

**^{14:12} There is a way that seems right to a man,
but in the end it leads to death.**

Psalm 51: 10 so beautifully presents what should be the prayer of every believer in Christ, “ create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit in me.” Psalm 139:23-24 also says it beautifully, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

As believers in Jesus Christ, these words should make us want to shout from the roof tops, yes Lord do it for me, create in me a pure heart, and lead me in the way of everlasting. If you are a believer that needs a new start with God, ask him right now to create in you a new heart and a new steadfast spirit in you.

If you have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you can do it now by just asking Jesus to forgive you for wanting to go your own way and ask Jesus to be Lord of your life. Surrender you life to him and he will create in you a new heart as well.

*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*