

# The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

## SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 14

*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 11:2

Related Passages: Proverbs 16:5; 16:18;  
18:12; 21:4; 21:24; 25:6-8

Sermon Date: January 6, 2008

### **The wise humble themselves before God and men.**

As we prepare for this most sacred time of the year, commemorating the Lord's birth, we will be studying the characteristic of "humility". The greatest example of humility is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let's consider Philippians 2:5 –11:

<sup>2:5</sup>Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

<sup>2:6</sup>Who, being in very nature<sup>[a]</sup> God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

<sup>2:7</sup>but made himself nothing, taking the very nature<sup>[b]</sup> of a servant, being made in human likeness.

<sup>2:8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

As we study the verses in Proverbs, think about the Lord Jesus humbling himself and, using him as an example, consider how then should we live our lives.

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><b>Key Verse Proverbs 11:2</b> (NIV)</p> <p>11:2 <b>When pride comes, then comes disgrace,</b></p> <p><b>but with humility comes wisdom.</b></p> <hr/> <p>6:5 <b>The LORD detests all the proud of heart.</b></p> <p><b>Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.</b></p> <p>16:18 <b>Pride goes before destruction,</b></p> <p><b>a haughty spirit before a fall.</b></p> <p>18:12 <b>Before his downfall a man's heart is proud,</b></p> <p><b>but humility comes before honor.</b></p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>21:4 <b>Haughty eyes and a proud heart,</b></p> <p><b>the lamp of the wicked, are sin!</b></p> <p>21:24 <b>The proud and arrogant man-"Mocker" is his name;</b></p> <p><b>he behaves with overweening pride.</b></p> <p>25:6 <b>Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence,</b></p> <p><b>and do not claim a place among great men;</b></p> <p>25:7 <b>it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here,"</b></p> <p><b>than for him to humiliate you before a nobleman.</b></p> <p><b>What you have seen with your eyes</b></p> <p>25:8 <b>do not bring [a] hastily to court,</b></p> <p><b>for what will you do in the end</b></p> <p><b>if your neighbor puts you to shame?</b></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. The theme of this weeks study is humility, the wise humble themselves before God and men. What does “humble” mean? Write a definition here.
5. Notices in Proverbs 16:5 that God detests the proud of heart. Why does God hate pride in a person? Consider Deuteronomy 8:11-20.
6. How does a person make themselves humble before men? See Philippians 2:3-8.
7. In Proverb 18:2 it says that a proud heart comes before a man’s downfall, but humility comes before honor. Why does humility come before honor? Consider Phil. 2:5-11. What does honor mean in this context?
8. Proverb 21:4 speaks of “haughty eyes, what does “haughty” mean? Why do you think that the Lord hate haughty eyes and proud hearts so much? Consider Proverbs 6:16-19.
9. In today’s world where Christians are often called intolerant and narrow minded, how can a follower of Jesus be humble and still be a bold witness for Christ.
10. There is a fine lined between a person having a good self-image of themselves and a person being prideful. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to maintain good balance and humility in your life this week?

**Memory Verse**

**Proverbs 16:18**

**<sup>16:18</sup> Pride goes before destruction,  
a haughty spirit before a fall.**

As human beings, I think that we walk a fine line between being prideful about our accomplishments and being humble because of what God has done for us. It is so easy for us in a gathering of our business associates or friends to take pride in our accomplishments and feel that we are the ones who made it all happen.

Pride is a dangerous thing and one that God hates as evidenced by the number of verses that are devoted to warning us about it. How, you ask, can we put all of this into perspective? It begins by giving to God the proper reverence that is due to him and giving him our heart, accepting Jesus as our savior and Lord. Then, following this, we need to continually spend time in God's word studying and getting to know him better. Keeping our minds on Christ and Christ alone will keep us from becoming proud, because we will realize all that God has done for us and the sinfulness of our lives if we are left on our own.

Our minds and hearts should always seek to carry out the words of Romans 12:10-13: "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

*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***

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