

The Beginning of Wisdom

The batter hit a long line drive into left field. Hoping to make a double, he ran as hard as he could toward second base. As he neared second, he looked into the outfield and saw that the two players who were trying to field the ball had collided. The baseball lay unattended on the ground, and the third base coach signaled him to try for home. He ran with all his might, and made it to home plate just before the throw from the outfield arrived. He had stretched a long liner into a homerun!

To his complete surprise, the umpire called him out. It seems that in his rush to get to second base, he somehow failed to step on first base. His great hit and his extra effort to reach home plate didn't matter at all because he failed to touch first base.

A lot of people are like that baseball player. They work hard, they want to make wise decisions, and they try to succeed in life, but their efforts are useless because they overlook the **first and most important issue in life**.

This first lesson in Proverbs will give us an introduction to the entire book, and teach us the **beginning point of all true wisdom**.

- Prov. 1:1** These Proverbs were written by _____, the son of King _____.
- Prov. 1:2** The Proverbs will enable us “to know _____ and _____; to perceive the words of _____.” Wisdom may be defined as the skillful use of knowledge.
- Prov. 1:3** What else will the Proverbs enable us to do?
- Prov. 1:4** The word **subtlety** refers to prudence and discretion. Who do you think “*the simple*” refers to?
- Why do you think these Proverbs are directed toward “*the young man* (person)?”
- Prov. 1:5** What will a wise man do?
- Who will seek wise counsel?
- Prov. 1:6** A wise person will continue learning, and seek wise counsel, so he can “understand a _____, and the _____; the words of the _____, and their dark sayings” (riddles, mysteries).

Verses 2-6 state the purpose of the book of Proverbs. How would you describe this purpose?

- Prov. 1:7** What is the **beginning point** of knowledge?

“Fearing God” in the Old Testament is much like salvation in the New Testament, because it involves recognizing **WHO** God is, and admitting our utter **HELPLESSNESS** apart from His grace.

Prov. 1:7 What do foolish people despise?

Prov. 1:8-9 What are the benefits of hearing and obeying one’s parents?

Proverbs 2:1-4 present a **condition**: **IF** we will receive godly instruction and diligently seek wisdom, **THEN** we will receive the benefits described in verses 5-9.

Prov. 2:5 What will we understand?

What will we find?

Prov. 2:6 Where does real wisdom come from?

Prov. 2:7-8 What does God do for us? “He _____ up sound _____
for the righteous: He is a buckler (shield) to them that walk
_____. He _____ the paths of judgment, and
_____ the way of His saints.”

Prov. 2:9 What can we then understand?

Turn now to chapter 9.

Prov. 9:10 What is the **beginning point** of wisdom?

How do we get understanding?

Prov. 9:11 What blessings come to those who are wise?

Prov. 9:12 Our decisions and actions have consequences: wisdom brings blessings,
but foolishness brings problems.

Concluding Thoughts: Do you remember the baseball player who failed to step on first base? He lost everything because he didn’t make the right **first** step. The first step (**beginning point**) of true wisdom is respecting, fearing, and knowing the Lord Jesus Christ. You may have four earned doctorates, but if you don’t know the Lord you are **NOT** wise; your thinking and intellect are flawed.

The good news is that you don’t have to be a “rocket scientist” to know the Lord. If you honestly admit that God is holy and righteous, but you are a sinner without any way to save yourself, then you can trust Jesus to save you. When you do, you will have reached the **beginning of true wisdom**. Read the verses printed on the back of this book and ask Christ to save you now.

Project: Memorize **Proverbs 1:7**. When you need wisdom, ask God (James 1:5) and seek counsel from godly people. Make your decisions based on the instructions and warnings in the Bible.