

LESSON 16: Proverbs

LOGOS

A General and Light Survey of the Bible

By Dr. Steven Wood

(REVISED) TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Lesson 1:	Overview
Lesson 2:	Genesis
Lesson 3:	Exodus
Lesson 4:	Leviticus
Lesson 5:	Numbers
Lesson 6:	Deuteronomy
Lesson 7:	Joshua
Lesson 8:	Judges, Ruth
Lesson 9:	1st & 2nd Samuel
Lesson 10:	1st & 2nd Kings
Lesson 11:	1st & 2nd Chronicles
Lesson 12:	Ezra, Nehemiah
Lesson 13:	Esther
Lesson 14:	Job
Lesson 15:	Psalms
Lesson 16:	Proverbs,
Lesson 17:	Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

--- SUMMER ---

September 4, 2024:	Isaiah
September 11, 2024:	Jeremiah, Lamentations
September 18, 2024:	Ezekiel
September 25, 2024:	Daniel
October 2, 2024:	Hosea, Joel, Amos
October 9, 2024:	Obadian, Jonah, Micah
October 16, 2024:	Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah
October 23, 2024:	Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
October 30, 2024:	INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT
November 6, 2024:	The Synoptics (Matthew, Mark, Luke)
November 13, 2024:	John
November 20, 2024:	Acts
November 27, 2024:	Romans

--- ADVENT / CHRISTMAS ---

January 8, 2025:	1st & 2nd Corinthians
January 15, 2025:	Galatians
January 22, 2025:	Ephesians
January 29, 2025:	Colossians
February 5, 2025:	1st & 2nd Thessalonians
February 12, 2025:	1st & 2nd Timothy
February 19, 2025:	Titus, Philemon
February 26, 2025:	Hebrews
March 5, 2025:	Ash Wednesday
March 12, 2025:	James
March 19, 2025:	1st & 2nd Peter, Jude
March 26, 2025:	1st, 2nd, 3rd John
April 2, 2025:	Revelation

Lesson 16

PROVERBS

- Whereas The Book of Psalms was a hymnal of worship, Proverbs is a collection of divinely inspired practical life wisdom.
- Proverbs are short statements inspired by God and drawn from life experiences.
- A proverb does not argue — it assumes.
- Solomon is the author of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon (aka Song of Songs).
- Many of the Proverbs are Solomon's and others were collected by him.
- *"God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than anyone else... And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five... From all nations people came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom."* (1 Kings 4:29-34)
- There are 917 proverbs in this book.

FORMS

- Parallelism: short repeat or back up statements.
- There are three kinds of parallelism:
 - Synonymous Parallelism: the second clause restates what is given in the first clause. For example, *"Penalties are prepared for mockers, and beatings for the backs of fools"* (19:29).
 - Contrast Parallelism: a truth stated in the first clause is made stronger in the second clause by contrast with an opposite truth. For example, *"The light of the righteous shines brightly, but the lamp of the wicked is snuffed out"* (13:9).
 - Synthetic (or Completive) Parallelism: the second clause develops the thought of the first. For example, *"A king's wrath strikes terror like the roar of a lion; those who anger him forfeit their lives"* (20:2).

OUTLINE

- Wisdom and Folly (Chapters 1–9)
 - *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction* (1:7).
 - *How long will you who are simple love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? Repent at my rebuke! Then I will pour out my thoughts to you, I will make known to you my teachings* (1:22-23).
 - *Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.* (3:3-4)

- *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (3:5-6)*
- *Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. (3:7-10)*
- *Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. (3:9-10)*
- *The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble. (4:18-19)*
- *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil. (4:23-27)*
- *There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community. (6:16-19)*
- *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer. (9:10-12)*
- *Proverbs of Solomon (Chapters 10–22)*
 - *Ill-gotten treasures have no lasting value, but righteousness delivers from death. (10:2)*
 - *Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out. (10:9)*
 - *Whoever heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray. (10:17)*
 - *When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. (11:2)*
 - *A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. (11:25)*
 - *Fools show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook an insult. (12:16)*
 - *Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm. (13:20)*
 - *The wise fear the LORD and shun evil, but a fool is hotheaded and yet feels secure. (14:16)*

- *A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones. (14:30)*
- *A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (15:1)*
- *The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good. (15:3)*
- *Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil. (15:16)*
- *Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. (15:22)*
- *All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD. (16:2)*
- *Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city. (16:32)*
- *Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children. (17:6)*
- *A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. (17:22)*
- *Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues. (17:28)*
- *To answer before listening— that is folly and shame. (18:13)*
- *He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD. (18:22)*
- *Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done. (19:17)*
- *The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out. (20:5)*
- *A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much. (20:19)*
- *A person may think their own ways are right, but the LORD weighs the heart. (21:2)*
- **Sayings of the Wise (Chapters 22-24)**
 - *Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, for the LORD will take up their case and will exact life for life. (22:22-23)*
 - *Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared. (22:24-25)*
- **Proverbs of Solomon compiled by the men of Hezekiah (Chapters 25–29).**
 - *If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you. (25:21-22)*
 - *Like one who grabs a stray dog by the ears is someone who rushes into a quarrel not their own. (26:17)*
 - *Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down. (26:20)*

- *Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring. (27:1)*
- *Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips. (27:2)*
- *Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses. (27:6)*
- *As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. (27:17)*
- *As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart. (27:19)*
- *The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern. (29:7)*
- *Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end. (29:11)*
- The Words of Agur (Chapter 30).
 - *Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar. (30:5-6)*
 - *If you play the fool and exalt yourself, or if you plan evil, clap your hand over your mouth! For as churning cream produces butter, and as twisting the nose produces blood, so stirring up anger produces strife. (30:32-33)*
- The words of a mother. *Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. (31:8-9)*
- The Wife of Noble Character (31:10-31).