

“Without Vision, the People Perish”.

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he (Proverbs 29:18, KJV).

The book of Proverbs is one of the most practical books in the Old Testament. With its thought-provoking wisdom and memorable epigrams, the writings of King Solomon have provided inspiration and instruction to generations of God’s followers looking to practice righteousness in every area of life. In fact, many of the principles touched on in Proverbs offer warning, correction, encouragement, and practical steps for godly living.

What Is the Book of Proverbs All About?

In the first few verses of Proverbs 1, Solomon outlines the purpose of Proverbs, by saying that the Proverbs are written:

- *for gaining _____ and _____;*
- *for understanding words of _____;*
- *for _____ instruction in prudent _____, _____ what is _____ and just and fair;*
- *for giving _____ to those who are simple;*
- *_____ and _____ to the young — let the wise _____ and add to their learning, and let the discerning get _____*
- *for _____ proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the _____ (Proverbs 1:2-6).*

The theme of Proverbs is then laid out in the following verse, “**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction**” (Proverbs 1:7).

What Is God’s Law?

Without God’s law, founded on His _____ and _____ of goodness, never ours, humanity has:

- the tendency to _____ or _____.
- We become like “sheep _____ a shepherd,” inventing our own answers and meaning to life.

- We are also more _____ and _____ to sin's devastating _____.

What Do Other Translations Say about Proverbs 29:18?

When there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but the one who keeps the law, blessed is he (ESV).

Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but happy is he who keeps the law (NASB).

Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint, but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction (NIV).

Where there is no understanding of the Word of the Lord, the people do whatever they want to, but happy is he who keeps the law (NLT).

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law (NKJV)

If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; but when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed (The Message).

Why Is it Important to Follow the Instructions of the Bible?

Having encountered the life and wisdom of God, Solomon encouraged his children and future generations of the benefits of following God's word.

My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So, you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths (Proverbs 3:1-7).