

**“An Introduction to Proverbs”, Proverbs 1:1–7
July 12, 2026, Pastor Shawn Newberry**

Wisdom is the God-given ability to understand reality from God's perspective and to skillfully live according to His will.

I. The Purpose of Proverbs (vv. 2–4)

Proverbs was written so that we would:

- Know wisdom and instruction
- Understand words of insight
- Receive instruction in wise living
- Live in righteousness, justice, and equity
- Develop prudence, knowledge, and discretion
- Pass wisdom to the next generation

Wisdom is a process:

Knowledge → Instruction → Understanding → Receiving → Wise Living → Passing it on

II. The Practice of Wisdom (vv. 2–6)

Wisdom Begins with Humility

- "To know" means learning under authority.
- A teachable spirit is essential.

Wisdom Shapes Character

God's wisdom corrects our moral lives.

Examples:

- Honesty
- Purity
- Diligence
- Humility
- Faithfulness
- Integrity
- Generosity

Wisdom Requires Discernment

Knowing:

- **What** is right
- **When** to apply it
- **How** to apply it
- **To whom** it should be applied

Wisdom Produces Wise Living

- Righteousness
- Justice
- Equity

- Prudence
- Knowledge
- Discretion

III. The Pursuit of Wisdom (vv. 5–6)

The wise never stop growing.

- Listen
- Continue learning
- Seek guidance
- Grow in understanding
- Dig deeper into God's Word

A wise person always remains teachable.

IV. The Foundation of Wisdom (v. 7)

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Everything begins here.

- Reverence for God
- Humility before God
- Submission to God's authority

Without the fear of the Lord, biblical wisdom cannot truly be understood.

Key Principles

- Proverbs are **principles**, not unconditional promises.
- Wisdom is more than knowledge—it is skillful godly living.
- Wisdom is demonstrated by how we treat people.
- Godly wisdom always reflects His righteousness, justice, and truth.
- We never outgrow the need to learn.

Memory Verse

Proverbs 1:7

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." (ESV)

Summary:

The book of Proverbs was given by God to teach His people how to live wisely in a fallen world. Biblical wisdom is more than knowledge; it is the God-given ability to understand life from God's perspective and to skillfully apply His truth in everyday decisions. Proverbs shows that wisdom is a lifelong process of learning, receiving correction, developing discernment, and living with righteousness, justice, and integrity. Those who are truly wise remain humble, teachable, and continually grow in understanding. Ultimately, all genuine wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord, for reverence and submission to God are the foundation from which all true knowledge and wise living flow.

