



Candlewood Church



## Doing Life Well - Wise Wit or Wacky Woes?

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### BIG IDEA – There are two paths, one of wisdom and one of folly?

**scripture focus - Get wisdom;** develop good judgment. Don't forget my words or turn away from them. Don't turn your back on wisdom, for she will protect you. Love her, and she will guard you. **Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do!** And whatever else you do, develop good judgment. **Proverbs 4:5-7.**

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**Proverbs is the best book in the Bible to determine the kind of life you want to lead. And in Proverbs, there are only two paths: One of wisdom, the other of folly (foolishness).**

**Which one do you want? Which one leads to the Good God Life?**

In the series IDENTITY, we discussed what people are generally looking for – **The Good Life**. And we talked about the fact that we were created in God's image to be like God, but not to **be** God.

**The “good life” is supposed to be the “God life.”**

**Proverbs is a book, assembled by King David's (as in David and Goliath) son, Solomon.**

#### **Who wrote the book of Proverbs?**



Argur, King Lemuel, Solomon, and others. Many believe that King Hezekiah's men may have contributed some of the Proverbs. They most certainly were responsible for collecting and organizing them (as indicated in Proverbs 25:1-29:27 of the Hebrew text). **Proverbs was written primarily to first born, young royal men who were in training, preparing to lead their nation** according to Deuteronomy 17. Daniel and his peers would have been an example of such.

Solomon impressed God with his attitude of putting God first! So much so that **God asked him what he wanted!** Solomon became the wisest person in the entire world because he humbly asked God to help him lead Israel well.

**Solomon showed wisdom before God multiplied it abundantly!**

[1 Kings 3:3-4](#)

Solomon loved the Lord and followed all the decrees of his father, David, except that Solomon, too, offered sacrifices and burned incense at the local places of worship. The most important of these places of worship was at Gibeon, **so the king went there and sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings.**

**God really like Solomon's passion and generosity.**

[1 Kings 3:5](#)

**That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"**

**Solomon also showed great humility in his own inability to lead well.**

[1 Kings 3:6-9](#) Solomon replied, "You showed great and faithful love to your servant my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued to show this great and faithful love to him today by giving him a son to sit on his throne. "Now, O Lord my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around. And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! **Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong.** For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?"

And God granted Solomon unequaled and unequivocal wisdom - [1 Kings 4:29-34](#).

**Q: Wouldn't you like a roadmap or Google map pins for doing life well?**

God gave Solomon **the** roadmap for **doing life well!** God gave Solomon the **wisdom to rule a nation of two million people.**

Let me ask a question. **Do you think we could learn something about life from a guy who was a good and godly leader over two million people?**

Sure, Proverbs may have been written as a young man's curriculum, but that doesn't mean it is not applicable to anyone who wants to live a **wisdom-driven** life!

**Some of the major themes in Proverbs are making plans and decisions, wealth and money management, attitudes and words we speak, relationships, and learning.**



Proverbs has 31 chapters in the book with many of those themes.

### How do we start on the path of wisdom?

There is no better place than to read exactly what Solomon wrote in the introduction of the book.

#### Proverbs 1:2-7

Their purpose is to **teach people wisdom and discipline**, to help them **understand the insights of the wise**. Their purpose is to **teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair**. These proverbs will give **insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young**. Let the wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser. Let those with understanding receive guidance by exploring the meaning in these proverbs and parables, the words of the wise and their riddles. **Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools ('ē wîl) despise wisdom and discipline.**

### What is wisdom?

Some say that wisdom is a **combination of knowledge, situational insight, and resolve**. It can lead to success in achieving righteous goals and can also lead to lasting happiness.

**My simple definition is wisdom is applied knowledge.**

**There are three words for wisdom and four words for fool in Proverbs.**

1. "Chokmah" (38 times) - This is the most common Hebrew word for wisdom in the Book of Proverbs. It refers to practical wisdom, skill, and expertise in various areas of life.
2. "Binah" (16 times) - This word is often translated as "understanding" and is closely related to wisdom in the context of discernment and insight.
3. "Tushiyah" (4 times) - This term is used to describe wisdom as sound judgment, abiding success or discretion.

### HOW DO I GET MORE WISDOM?

**Proverbs actually encourages us to GET IT!**

**Proverbs 4:5-7 Get wisdom; develop good judgment. Don't forget my words or turn away from them. Don't turn your back on wisdom, for she will protect you.**

Love her, and she will guard you. Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do!  
And whatever else you do, develop good judgment.

Short answer, James, the brother of Jesus and leader of the first century Church says you just ask for it!

### [James 1:5-8](#)

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

Long answer, Bible Soaking! You spend time not just reading the Bible, but slowing your pace to read it slowly, letting each word go from your eyes to your thoughts.

Reading or listening to the Bible out loud. This is meditating on God's Word. This is not a [New Age](#), [Transcendental](#) or [Yoga](#) Experience – it's an ancient Biblical method of quieting ourselves before God for Him to speak to us through His written Word. It is NOT emptying yourself or your mind; it is filling yourself with God's truth.

Bible Soaking or [Biblical meditation](#) is - a **spiritual practice** that involves **contemplating the Bible's words with an open heart and trusting the Holy Spirit to work through them**. It's a form of prayer that's different from other types of meditation because **it focuses on Scripture**. The goal is to renew thoughts by focusing on God's words, and to be drawn closer to God.

**This is how we gain wisdom through the Bible, by letting God first change our attitudes that helps us change our behaviors. Romans 12:2, Ephesians 4:21-23, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.**

[Romans 12:2](#) **Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

[Ephesians 4:21-23](#) **Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.**

[2 Corinthians 10:4-5](#) **We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.** The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

## [Psalms 1:1-2](#)

Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. **But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.**

**There is wisdom, but there is also the way of the fool!**



**How do I avoid the way of the fool?**

**Proverbs is full of wisdom sayings, poems, songs and lessons. But Proverbs is also full of warnings about the fool!**

**There are five Hebrew words in Proverbs that help us understand the lifestyle of a fool.**

**I have done foolish things.**

- Trying to pop a tire by throwing a Buck Knife.
- Using a Ballpeen hammer to fix a dented rim.
- Pulling the vehicle handbrake, while traveling on a small icy road, to do a cool spin with my girlfriend and her brother and sister in the car.

I have done **plenty** of **foolish things**, but at a young age I was determined to **not** live a **foolish life!**

**What foolish things have you done?**

**Does doing foolish things make us a fool?**

**It's not the one-offs, it's the consistent small decisions that make up a lifestyle of being the fool.**

Let's look at these five Hebrew words that describe the different **life path** themes of the foolish!



**Kesil** – *Kesil* is someone who is simply ignorant of the moral demands of God. While this person acts against God's instructions at the time, it is still possible for an awakening since their disobedience is not deliberate. For this person, Leviticus provides restoration and renewed access to the Kingdom. If

you run across a *kesil*, there is still time for recovery. **Kesil is the sensual Fool** - One who rejects the correction of parents or other authorities. **They do not have a mental deficiency but reject the wisdom of God.** The **sensual fool's focus is on that which brings them immediate pleasure. They glory in that of which they should be ashamed. A sensual fool is unreasonable.**



**Pethîy** - The root word from which it is derived, *pâthâh*, implies **extreme vulnerability, literally meaning "to be opened up."** The **simple fool opens their mind to any passing thought, and they opens their arms to any passing stranger.** In other words, **they lack discernment. They have an oversimplified view of life and fail to recognize the cause-and-effect sequences** that affect every area of life. Because the simple fool is not discerning, they are easily captivated by all kinds of enticements and deceptions. **They are dangerously immature, extremely gullible, and intensely curious.** In the absence of instruction and consistent discipline, the simple fool will naturally become more foolish. **A simple fool is especially vulnerable to seduction, lacking an understanding of the irreversible consequences of moral failure.**



**Luts.** This is a person of contempt; one who mocks and ridicules. Amazingly, **our culture often idolizes such people as if scoffing or taunting others is a mark of supremacy.** We might want to reconsider the real impact of making jokes at another's expense. This person **satirizes their opponents, derides their morality and generally jeers at any ethics they do not wish to endorse.** As far as the biblical text is concerned, such a person is without hope. It is far better to simply walk away than to engage this kind of fool. In at least one sense, even God has written them off. **This is a Scornful Fool** The Hebrew word that denotes a "scornful fool" is *lûwts* (LOOTS). It means **"to make mouths at, i.e. to scoff."** The scornful fool's **facial expressions communicate the disdain and contempt they have in their heart toward his authorities,** including parents, civil authorities, and God. This type of fool not only has rejected truth; **they also has embraced that which is abominable to God.**



**'ewil** - 'ewil is someone who **not only lacks sense but is morally deficient or corrupt. 'ewil is in far more trouble.** They act with **intentional disregard for what they know to be true,** claiming that as long as no immediate

consequences befall them, no real harm is done. They operate on **the moral principle of what they can get away with**. They are a walking, waiting disaster. They are a person who has all the answers and proudly announces such. But they are lies.



**Nabal** - This word is used sometimes to describe a false prophet. This is **a person who shames their parents, disregards civility, runs at the mouth and will eventually die a disrespectful death**. They have no fear of God or Man and their life displays the consequences of this attitude. Proverbs strongly suggests avoiding such a person since this attitude about life will also lead others astray. If you encounter an 'evil, you will know as soon as their mouth opens that **there is no end to their protests and they are a bottomless pit in their demands**. Let them go. **No honor is found in arguing with one who does not wish to learn. It is interesting that [Psalm 14:1](#) Only fools (Nabal) say in their hearts, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and their actions are evil; not one of them does good!**

### Two paths, one decision.

**One act of foolishness does not make for a foolish life. But each step, each decision to choose these foolish behaviors makes it more difficult to get off the one path and onto the other.**

Neither does one act of wisdom make for a wise act. But also each step, each decision not only builds on previous ones, but begins to reinforce the heart, attitude and behavior of a wise person – thus helping us build a life on solid ground as Jesus spoke of in the parable of the two houses.

**Plus, by God's grace and power, anyone one of us can start today – start right now. Start while you're young and just starting out or start when your old and have a made a few trips around the sun!**

**When we sin, when we stumble, when we've done foolish things, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.**

**[1 John 1:9](#)** But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

**Will you join me in asking God for forgiveness of our folly and to give us His wisdom?**

Father, there is nothing hidden from you. There is not one moment, one decision that you have not seen us, even when we think it's in secret. But your Word promises that you would forgive and clean us. I confess my foolishness before you today. Help me to turn from being foolish to being someone who is wise. I ask for wisdom, I will seek it in Your Word. Thank You. Amen.

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## NOTES

### Scriptures

[1 Kings 3:3-9](#) Solomon loved the Lord and followed all the decrees of his father, David, except that Solomon, too, offered sacrifices and burned incense at the local places of worship. The most important of these places of worship was at Gibeon, **so the king went there and sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings. That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"** Solomon replied, "You showed great and faithful love to your servant my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued to show this great and faithful love to him today by giving him a son to sit on his throne. "Now, O Lord my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around. And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! **Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong.** For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?"

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**Proverbs 4:5-7 Get wisdom**; develop good judgment. Don't forget my words or turn away from them. Don't turn your back on wisdom, for she will protect you. Love her, and she will guard you. **Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do!** And whatever else you do, develop good judgment.

[James 1:5](#) If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.



**Proverbs 17:28.** Even fools ([Ewil](#)) are thought wise when they keep silent; with their mouths shut, they seem intelligent.

**[Psalms 1:1-2](#)** Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.

**[1 John 1:9](#)** But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

## Further Notes for Study

### Downloads

[Facets of the Wise through three Hebrew words](#)

[Faces of a Fool through five Hebrew words](#)

**Kesil** – *Kesil* is someone who is simply ignorant of the moral demands of God. While this person acts against God's instructions at the time, it is still possible for an awakening since his disobedience is not deliberate. For this person, Leviticus provides restoration and renewed access to the Kingdom. If you run across a *kesil*, there is still time for recovery. **The only obstacle to a morally upright life is education** (by the way, this is *not* "information"). **Ignorance is not bliss. In this case, it is considerable danger.** A fool (*kesil*) who thinks God doesn't care what we do, laughs at the fact that he can get away with things. After all, punishment is not instantaneous. His behavior confirms to him that there are no gods for if there were, his "sins" would be instantly disciplined. Who could imagine that you could insult a god and he would do *nothing* about it? In the ancient world of the Near East, an insulted god sought vengeance—immediately! Since YHVH does not do that (at least, not often), the *kesil* assumes that this impotent God doesn't really even care. So he laughs. - [Skip Moen, Ph.D.](#)

**Kesil is the sensual Fool** - One who rejects the correction of parents or other authorities often becomes a sensual fool. This type of fool is identified in Scripture with the Hebrew word *keciyl* (kess-EEL), which means "fat, i.e. stupid or silly [or sluggish]." The word denotes a person who seems determined to make wrong choices. **He does not have a mental deficiency but rejects the wisdom of God. The sensual fool's focus is on that which brings him immediate pleasure. He glories in that of which he should be ashamed. A sensual fool is unreasonable.** As a silly fool, his mouth got him into trouble. Now, as a sensual fool, his mouth gets him into more trouble. "A fool's [*keciyl*] lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes [blows]. A fool's [*keciyl*] mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul" ([Proverbs 18:6-7](#)). Scripture gives more warnings about the sensual fool than about any other type of fool. **His motives and methods are subtle.** He should be avoided, because those who follow him will be led astray. "A companion of fools [*keciyl*] shall be destroyed" ([Proverbs 13:20](#)). Severe punishment is prescribed for the sensual fool: "A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass,

and a rod for the fool's [keciyl] back" ([Proverbs 26:3](#)). (See also [Proverbs 19:29](#).) [Institute in Basic Life Principles](#).

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**Luts – as the Scornful Fool** The Hebrew word that denotes a "scornful fool" is *lûwts* (LOOTS). It means "to make mouths at, i.e. to scoff." The scornful fool's **facial expressions communicate the disdain and contempt he has in his heart toward his authorities**, including parents, civil authorities, and God. This type of fool not only has rejected truth; **he also has embraced that which is abominable to God.** [Psalm 1:1](#) describes the blessing of **not** proceeding into the *progression of foolishness*, which is first walking "in the counsel of the ungodly," then standing "in the way of sinners," and finally sitting "in the seat of the scornful [*lûwts*]." The scornful fool utterly detests people and ideas that contradict his false thinking. He expresses his contempt through derisive attitudes, behavior, and speech. **The scornful fool turns a deaf ear to rebuke:** "A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner [*lûwts*] heareth not rebuke" ([Proverbs 13:1](#)). Those who attempt to lead the scornful fool away from the path of destruction that he seems determined to follow will suffer his wrath. "A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise" ([Proverbs 15:12](#)). "He that reproveth a scorner [*lûwts*] getteth to himself shame . . . . Reprove not a scorner [*lûwts*], lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee" ([Proverbs 9:7–8](#)). **A scorner must be punished—for his own sake and for the sake of those whom he can potentially influence.** "Smite a scorner [*lûwts*], and the simple [*pethiy*] will beware" ([Proverbs 19:25](#)). "When the scorner [*lûwts*] is punished, the simple [*pethiy*] is made wise" ([Proverbs 21:11](#)). (See also [Proverbs 22:10](#).) [Institute in Basic Life Principles](#).

**'evil** - 'evil is someone who **not only lacks sense but is morally deficient or corrupt.** **'evil is in far more trouble.** He acts with **intentional disregard for what he knows to be true**, claiming that as long as no immediate consequences befall him, no real harm is done. He operates on **the moral principle of what he can get away with.** He is a walking, waiting disaster. He is a man who has all the answers and proudly announces such. But they are lies. - [Skip Moen, Ph.D.](#)

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Pairing of fools. A few times Proverbs lists two words for "fool" in the same verse: Proverbs 14:7-8, 15:2,5, 26:4-5.

**Are Proverbs promises or principles? Here's some [links](#) that discuss it.**

Not only are they Godly principles, but they are also Godly **warnings.**

**Understanding Proverbs 3:5 as an example.**

[Proverbs 3:5-6](#) Trust in the Lord with all your heart; **do not depend on your own understanding.** Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

The word for understanding is the Hebrew word, "**binah.**" However, not leaning on our own understanding does not mean we throw out all human wisdom, rather we lean more on God's wisdom as He leads and directs our life. Our preference is God's wisdom **over** our own.

The admonition does not mean that we are not to **use** our own understanding (**binab**), **i.e.** form plans with discretion, and employ legitimate means in the pursuit of our ends; but that, when we use it, we are to depend upon God and his directing and overruling providence (Wardlaw); cf. [Jeremiah 9:23, 24.](#) "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom," etc. The teacher points out not only where we are to rely, but also where we are not to rely. Proverbs 3:5

**Common foolish sayings often highlight the humorous or ironic aspects of unwise actions or thoughts. Here are a few:**

1. ["Fools rush in where angels fear to tread."](#) - Alexander Pope<sup>1</sup>
2. **"A fool and his money are soon parted."** - Thomas Tusser

3. **“The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool.”** - William Shakespeare
4. **“Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain - and most fools do.”** - Dale Carnegie
5. **“Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.”** - Chinese Proverb

These sayings serve as witty reminders of the pitfalls of foolishness and the value of wisdom.

## Key Themes in Proverbs

Here is a general summary of some key themes in the Book of Proverbs:

1. The importance of wisdom and understanding.
2. The contrast between wisdom and folly.
3. The value of seeking knowledge and understanding.
4. The benefits of living a righteous and virtuous life.
5. The consequences of foolishness and wickedness.
6. The importance of humility and integrity.
7. The role of discipline and hard work in achieving success.
8. The significance of good relationships and friendships.
9. The fear of the Lord as the beginning of wisdom.

## Wisdom, Gender, and Strength in Proverbs

## Counseling Teens from Proverbs

### Wisdom Quiz

#### Are You Walking in Wisdom? A Proverbs Quiz

1. Decision-Making: When faced with a decision, do you:
  - A) Seek advice from various sources before acting.
  - B) Go with your gut, regardless of the consequences.
  - C) Look for a sign and then act impulsively.
2. Money Management: How do you handle your finances?
  - A) Save diligently and give generously.
  - B) Spend everything you earn on pleasures.
  - C) Borrow money without a plan to repay it.
3. Speech: What does your speech reveal about you?
  - A) It's thoughtful and edifies others.
  - B) It's often regrettable and hurtful.

C) It's full of gossip and lies.

4. Learning: How do you approach learning and correction?

A) Embrace it as a path to growth.

B) Dismiss it as unnecessary.

C) Take offense and ignore advice.

5. Planning: Do you plan for the future?

A) Yes, with careful consideration.

B) No, you live only for today.

C) You worry about the future but do nothing.

### Scoring:

- **Mostly A's:** You're walking in wisdom! Keep seeking knowledge and understanding.
- **Mostly B's:** You may be treading the path of folly. Reflect on your choices.
- **Mostly C's:** You're at risk of being called a fool. Consider the wise teachings of Proverbs.

Remember, this quiz is meant for self-reflection and a bit of fun. It's not a definitive measure of one's wisdom or foolishness. For a deeper understanding, studying the book of Proverbs is recommended. Enjoy your journey through wisdom!

### 3 Week Series: Doing Life Well

Week 1: Wise Wit or Wacky Woes?

Week 2: NO DAD JOKES HERE

Week 3: More Walk Less Talk