CALVARY CHAPEL
MARTIN COUNTY

Living in the Last Days
Becoming Biblically Literate
Learning How to Study the Bible
Part 2

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We are learning how to study the Bible here in the last days. Why is that, because liberals and conservatives both use the Bible out of context in order to justify their views. For those of us who are followers of Jesus Christ, we are the ones who should “know” our Bibles and be able to tell our friends and neighbors the truth when some politician, media star, or whoever, misquotes the Bible to defend their position and their sin.

So, we are learning how to do that.

When last we were together I gave you “homework” involving our first steps towards learning how to study the bible for ourselves. We want to be fully equipped in the last days to be Bereans and to discern the false teachers and teaching that now come pouring on us from all over.

The task was to read through Proverbs 1-3 and discover the four kinds of people that are described there.

As we dug in, we all discovered that Solomon was introducing us to the wise person, the simple or naive person, the fool as well as the scorner.

The wise is the person who is a believer. How do we conclude that? Two key verses pop up.

Proverbs 1:5
“A **wise person will hear and increase in learning**, And a person of understanding will acquire wise counsel,” (NASB 2020)

Proverbs 3:35
“**The wise will inherit honor**, But fools increase dishonor.” (NASB 2020)

The wise person will listen to instruction and since they will inherit honor, the key word is inherit. They are part of the family, they are the Lord’s people and as such would be considered to be believers.

Then there are the simple or naïve ones. First, we see that they are those who are young and still growing up.

Proverbs 1:4
“To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion,” (NASB 2020)

We learn just a little but further here in Proverbs 1 that they are contrasted with the others we have yet to talk about, the scorner and the fool. Wisdom, the word of God, is crying out and the simple, the naïve are listening to what the word says. But they still have not decided yet, they are still engaged in life as usual.

Proverbs 1:20–22
“Wisdom shouts in the street, She raises her voice in the public square; At the head of the noisy streets she cries out; At the entrance of the gates in the city she declares her sayings: “**How long, you naive ones, will you love simplistic thinking**? And how long will scoffers delight themselves in scoffing And fools hate knowledge?” (NASB 2020)

The simple still has a chance to believe, and the offer is still there for the scoffer and the fool as well. But more so for the fool.

Proverbs 1:23
““Turn to my rebuke, Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.” (NASB 2020)

We also learn that the offer of salvation has an end date and continual rejection of the Spirit provides the result we see for the simple who do not turn towards the Lord, but instead turn away.

Proverbs 1:32–33
““**For the faithlessness of the naive will kill them**, And the complacency of fools will destroy them. But whoever listens to me will live securely And will be at ease from the dread of evil.”” (NASB 2020)

Then there is the fool, they have gone beyond being simple to rejection. They are lost. We learn that very early in Proverbs 1.

Proverbs 1:7
“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; **Fools despise wisdom and instruction**.” (NASB 2020)

This is not someone who has not made a decision yet about the Lord, they have made one. They despise, and that is indeed a strong word, wisdom and instruction. They have rejected wisdom meaning, they have rejected the Lord. Here will learn they hate instruction. We also learn that they hate knowledge.

Proverbs 1:22
““How long, you naive ones, will you love simplistic thinking? And how long will scoffers delight themselves in scoffing And **fools hate knowledge**?” (NASB 2020)

The bottom line that we learn here is that fools are lost, they are not saved. The offer still is extended to them, but odds are they will not accept it. They are doomed.

Proverbs 3:35
“The wise will inherit honor, But **fools increase dishonor**.” (NASB 2020)

This brings us to the last person we are introduced to here in the first three chapters, the scorner or scoffer. Yes, the scorner is lost.

Proverbs 1:22
““How long, you naive ones, will you love simplistic thinking? **And how long will scoffers delight themselves in scoffing** And fools hate knowledge?” (NASB 2020)

The scoffer or scorner is someone who is actively opposed to what it is the Lord is doing. They are lost and make fun of those who are wise or potentially could become wise by coming to the Lord. They are the roadblocks to belief we see all over today running the gamut from atheists to false teachers.

Proverbs 3:34–35
“Though **He scoffs at the scoffers**, Yet He gives grace to the needy. The wise will inherit honor, But fools increase dishonor.” (NASB 2020)

Not a really good ending for the scoffer or the fool. They are both lost.

So, what is it that we just did? We did a topical study looking at four words, or people that we were introduced to here in the beginning of the book of Proverbs. There is even more going on as well since there are four people here and in the New Testament Jesus talked about four kinds of soil.

But for those who decided to engage and do this, was it easy? Let me ask it this way, after praying about and asking the Holy Spirit to guide you, was it easy? Did you find out there are other questions popping up and ideas that the Holy Spirit began to also flood into your mind. That is the Lord talking to you through His word.

This is the how it is so important for us to not only be in the word but learn how to study it here in these last days. Our enemy, Satan, would prefer for us to be fed on milk at all times and never go any deeper. He wants us to thing we are spiritual because we go to church, live in the US, and crack our bibles open at least on Sunday. But what happens if you decide to engage with God’s word seriously. Then you and I

have a fight on our hands. Satan will do all that he can to keep you out of the word. He does not want you in the word, he does not want you studying the word and he does not want you to learn how to do so. Here in the last days, it is imperative that we are in the word.

A little about analog tools. As I went through this, I used a concordance and a couple of different translations of the text. Some Bibles have a concordance in them, but not all. For example, there is Strong's Concordance. As you look for, buy or use a concordance, be aware of the translation it is keyed to. Strong's is keyed to the KJV.

By using a concordance, it becomes simpler to find the specific types of individuals because you can look up the word and look for the various scriptural references the word appears in, focusing in on Proverbs.

For example, going analog, I look up the word simple and on page 1060 I get a list of all verses in the that have the word simple in them or in the KJV version, page 1055. And the cool thing, I can do this with each of the four types of people we wanted to look at.

There is also a number next to the references and that number points me to a word I can then look up without knowing Hebrew. For simple it is 6612, that is referred to as a Strongs number, and it corresponds to Greek or Hebrew depending on whether or not you are in the OT or the NT

Let me give you the other Strong's numbers.

Wise – 2450
Fool – 3684
Scorner / scoffer 3887

There is another tool that is keyed into this called Vine's Expository Dictionary. There is a section for OT words and for NT words. Again, know where your reference is from. Using the word wise, Strong's number 2450. There is a transliterated Greek word index and there is a topical index. All very useful but if you really want to go topical, then there is Nave's Topical Bible.

Going further with scoffer, I discover using this tool I can look up scoffing as a topic and it provides me each verse where that is used in the Bible. There is also a reverse index so you can see, by reference number, what topics a verse may speak to.

But for those who found themselves asking questions after reading and looking at these four types of people, specifically questions about the bool of Proverbs, or any book in the Bible, there is a Bible Handbook.

Current Kindle Cost
Strong's concordance – $1.49 and up
Vines - $17.08
Nave's Topical Bible - $2.99 or $1.99
Halley's Handbook - $8.49
Unger's Bible Dictionary - $24.83
ISBE - $2.99 and up
As of 11/28/26

These are not all the tools that are out there. There are electronic ones as well and I will have more on those next time.

We will also look at some terms and more how to do keys.

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And yes, another ”homework” assignment. We have been studying the book of Romans and in it, Paul prays and tells us about what he prays. So, when he prays, what does he pray about?

Let’s pray.

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