

Proverbs Chapter 1

“The Foundation of Wisdom”

Text: Proverbs 1 (NKJV)

Key Verse: Proverbs 1:7

INTRODUCTION

- We live in an age of **information**, but not always **wisdom**.
- Knowledge tells you *what you can do*; wisdom tells you *what you should do*.
- The book of Proverbs teaches us how to live skillfully in everyday life.
- Proverbs chapter 1 lays the **foundation** for all biblical wisdom.

*“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.”* (Prov. 1:7)

Transition:

Before God teaches us *how to live*, He teaches us *how to listen*.

I. THE PURPOSE OF GODLY WISDOM (vv. 1–6)

A. Wisdom Comes from God (v.1)

- Solomon did not invent wisdom; he **received** it.
- True wisdom begins with God, not experience alone.

B. Wisdom Is Practical (vv.2–4)

- “Wisdom and instruction” – learning how life works.
- “Prudence” – making wise decisions before mistakes are made.
- Proverbs teaches **character before success**.

C. Wisdom Is for Everyone (vv.5–6)

- The simple, the young, and the wise can all grow.
- Even mature believers never outgrow wisdom.

Application:

If you stop learning, you stop growing.

II. THE FOUNDATION OF ALL WISDOM (v.7)

A. The Fear of the LORD

- Reverence, honor, submission, obedience.
- Not fear of punishment, but respect for God's authority.

B. Two Responses to Wisdom

- **The Wise:** Fear the Lord.
- **The Fool:** Despises instruction and correction.

Statement:

You cannot build a wise life without honoring God first.

III. THE VALUE OF GODLY VOICES (vv. 8–9)

“My son, hear the instruction of your father...”

A. God Uses Authority to Teach Wisdom

- Parents, pastors, mentors, and spiritual leaders.
- Wisdom is often spoken through **relationship**, not revelation alone.

B. Obedience Brings Honor

- Instruction is compared to a crown and necklace.
- Godly counsel adds value; it never diminishes you.

Application:

Whoever you listen to today will shape who you become tomorrow.

IV. THE DANGER OF SIN'S ENTICEMENT (vv. 10–19)

A. Sin Is Persuasive (v.10)

- “Entice” – sin appeals to desire, not reason.

- Sin rarely looks dangerous at first.

B. Sin Promises Quick Gain (vv.11–14)

- Wealth without work.
- Success without integrity.
- Belonging without accountability.

C. Sin Always Leads to Loss (vv.18–19)

- The trap catches the one who sets it.
- Greed destroys the greedy.

Statement:

Sin never tells you where it's taking you; it only shows you what you'll gain.

V. WISDOM IS CALLING (vv. 20–23)

A. Wisdom Speaks Publicly

- Streets, markets, gates, everyday life.
- God's wisdom is not hidden; it is **available**.

B. Wisdom Calls for Repentance

“Turn at my rebuke...”

- Correction is an invitation, not rejection.
- God responds to humility.

Application:

Ignoring wisdom is a decision, and every decision has a destination.

VI. THE CONSEQUENCES OF REJECTING WISDOM (vv. 24–32)

A. Rejected Wisdom Leads to Crisis (vv.24–27)

- Repeated refusal hardens the heart.
- What could have been avoided becomes overwhelming.

B. Missed Opportunities Cannot Be Recovered (vv.28–30)

- There comes a time when people want help—but not change.
- Delayed obedience becomes disobedience.

C. People Reap What They Choose (vv.31–32)

- God allows us to eat the fruit of our ways.
- The tragedy is not God's silence, it is ignored truth.

Statement:

Correction is painful, but consequences are far worse.

VII. THE PROMISE TO THOSE WHO LISTEN (v.33)

“But whoever listens to me will dwell safely...”

A. Safety

- Wisdom protects from unnecessary destruction.

B. Peace

- Freedom from constant fear and regret.

C. Security

- A life anchored in God's truth.

Statement:

Wisdom doesn't remove storms; it gives you peace in them.

CONCLUSION & CALL TO RESPONSE

Key Questions:

- Whose voice are you listening to?
- What instruction have you been resisting?
- Where is God calling you to turn today?

Final Challenge:

- Fear the Lord.
- Receive correction.
- Choose wisdom now, not after consequences come.

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge...” (Prov. 1:7)