

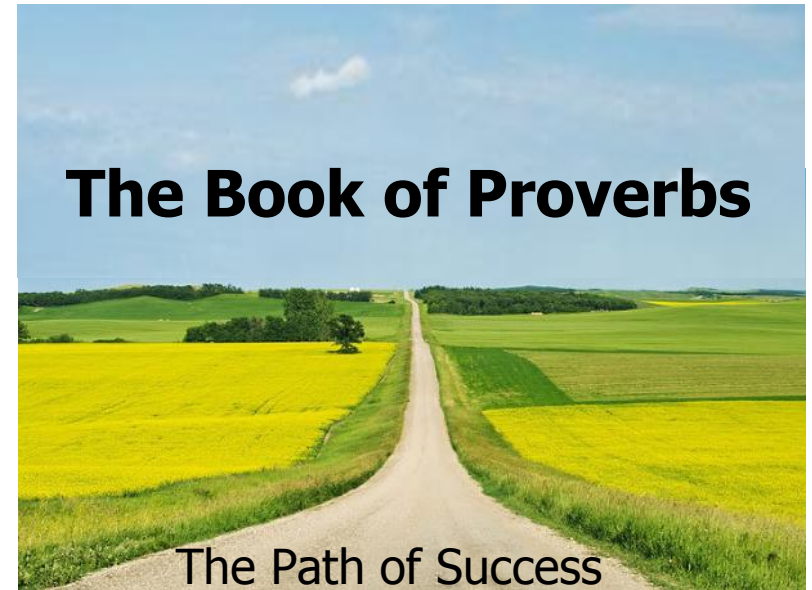


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#1 A Father's Dream



Calvary Baptist Church

CONNECT * GROW * SERVE

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another"



**DOING LIFE
TOGETHER**

The Book of Proverbs



Millions of men seek to be successful in life but fail.

Will you be one of them?

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” –Prov. 14:12

Millions of voices scream about success and how to find it. They may *seem* right but God says the end of those ways (paths) are death. That’s major failure!

Proverbs is a book that God has provided to help us find “***the path of success***”. In the book of Proverbs, God coaches on the wisdom we need for the path called life. It’s a book that God has given us to help find the fountain of life, rather than the way of death –(“the teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death” –Proverbs 13:14). So let’s turn our attention to study what God has for us in Proverbs.

1. Get an overview of the whole book.

Read the book of Proverbs and make a note of anything that impresses you. (You can read a chapter in about 2 minutes. That’s about a hour max of reading. You can break it up into three day by reading ten chapters a day or for twenty minutes.)¹

12. What is the theme or motto of this book? -1:7, (see -9:10)

13. What is the contrast in -1:7?

14. With what you know about the word “peti” and the theme of this book –what must we commit ourselves to?

15. As a Father –what is your dream for your son? What is your heavenly Father’s dream for you?

10. How many different men are mentioned in –vs. 4 & 5?
 What are the differences between them?

11. What does the word “simple” mean in –vs. 4? (If you do not have a good bible study software tool you may want to download e-sword. It can be downloaded free at www.e-sword.net)

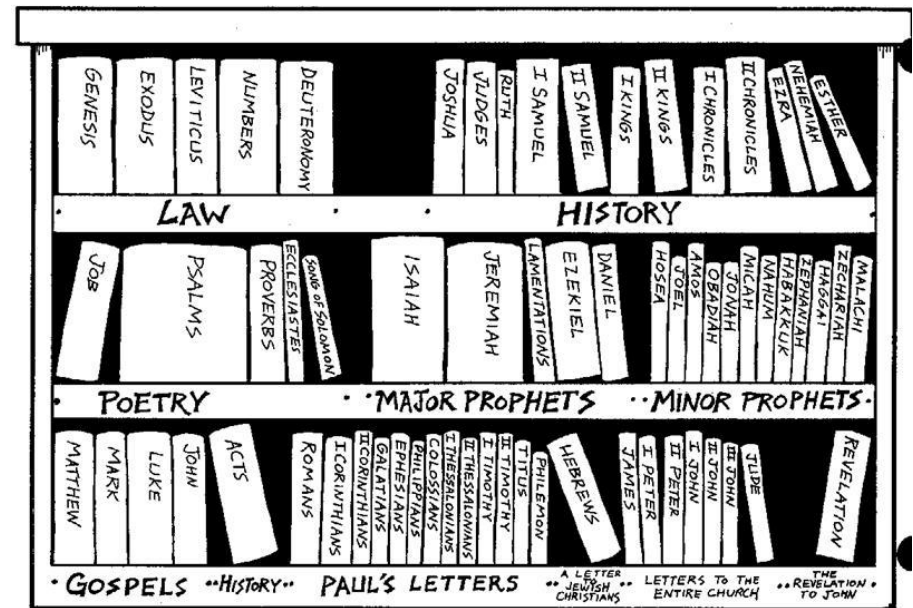
The word “simple”, “naïve”, or “ignorant” in –vs. 4 is where all we start as men. Simple is the Hebrew word “pethiy” (petty) which basically means to “be open” or “seducible”. A petty man keeps his options open. He wants to remain uncommitted. He may see himself above commitment –but it gets him into trouble (read 1:22). We all start as “peti” men and we can go up... or down from there.

The purpose of the book of Proverbs is to coach us upward and warn us about the danger of moving downward.



2. Did you notice any repeated words, or themes? What is the tone of the book? How many times is the phrase “my son” repeated? How does that phrase relate to the book?

The book of Proverbs is a collection of wisdom writings within a bigger collection of wisdom books in the bible. The Wisdom books –sometimes called Poetry- include the books of –Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.



1. You may want to pick up a copy of Howard Hendricks’ “Living by the Book”. It’s a great tool for learning bible study skills. If you’d rather watch youtube videos, he’s posted some short teaching segments on “how to study your bible”. Check them out here...

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S55huHC_0_k&list=PLr5Jr-Rw2sdvISSvb9EqZJQhT8_VmLcvD 2

3. How does chapter 1-9 differ from chapters 10-31?

4. How many different collections of “proverbs” did you find?
What is a proverb?

5. Read the first six verses of Proverbs chapter 1 again and identify the author. What was unique about him according to 1 Kings 3:12, and 1 Kings 4:32?

6. What is his purpose for writing in –vs. 1-6?

7. Are these things that you want for yourself? How desperate are you for them?

8. Read the first seven verses of chapter one again. How many times is the word wise, or wisdom used? What is wisdom?

9. How do the words instruction, knowledge, and understanding relate to wisdom?