

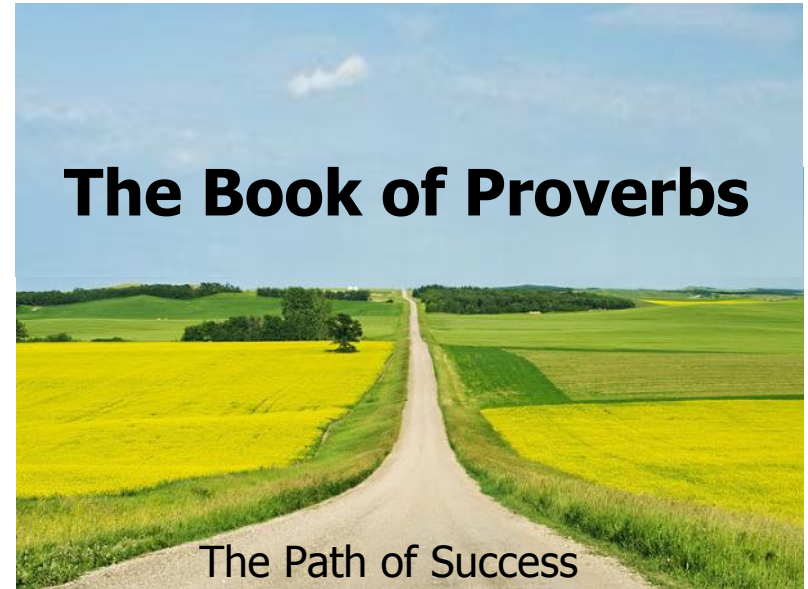


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# The Book of Proverbs

The Path of Success

#3. Who do you listen to?



Calvary Baptist Church

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“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another”



DOING LIFE  
TOGETHER

# The Book of Proverbs



**M**en, you don't have to hate Jesus to ruin your life, you just have to be ok with who you are. Proverbs continually confronts us with the problem of staying as we are (an impossibility -we always digress) or growing into who God expects us to be.

After the goal of the book (1:1-6) and the theme of the book (1:7) is presented we are immediately confronted with "The Counsel of a Father" -1:8-19 and the "Call of Wisdom" 1:20-33. Imperative in both is a willingness to hear and to listen. Men who do you listen to?



1. What is the Father's purpose in 1:8, 1:10, 1:15, 1:19?
2. How does the Father's counsel benefit you according to 1:9?
3. What does the world offer? -1:11-14
4. According to 1:18,19, what happens if we listen to the world rather than the Father?

15. What is the major difference between the men in -1:32 and the men in 1:33?

16. What is the benefit of listening to Wisdom? -1:32

17. How does Jesus warning in -Mt. 7:24-27 and Wisdom's warning compare?

18. Have you yet made a decision who you will listen to?

12. How can calamity -1:26, terror -1:22,27, storm -1:27, whirlwinds, -1:27 be useful in our life?

No one laughs at God in a hospital, No one laughs at God in a war,  
No one's laughing at God when they're starving or freezing or so very poor.  
No one laughs at God when the doctor calls after some routine tests.  
No one's laughing at God when it's gotten real late and their kid's not back from the party yet.  
No one laughs at God when their airplane starts to uncontrollably shake.  
No one's laughing at God when they see the one they love hand in hand with someone else, and they hope they're mistaken.  
No one laughs at God when the cops knock on their door, and they say we got some bad news, sir.  
No one's laughing at God when there's famine or fire, or flood.  
No one laughs at God on the day they realize that the last sight they'll ever see is a pair of hateful eyes.  
No one's laughing at God when they're saying their goodbyes. –Regina Spektor

13. What is it that slays the simple? -1:32

14. What destroys the fool? -1:32

“God ordained the family not just to be fruitful and fill the earth with people, but to fill the earth with instructed people and taught people. The family is the place where the next generation is born and where the next generation learns how to live.” –John Piper

The Father is a life coach who only wants the best for His children. He sets before us instruction for successful living. But the world has its own ideas of life, living, and success. The world has a million voices that compete for influence in our lives. Who will we listen to the Father or the world?

From the counsel of a Father we move to the “Call of Wisdom” 1:20-33. Wisdom is personified as a Woman calling all men. This section breaks down into three parts:

1:20-23	The Demand of Wisdom
1:24-32	The Discretion of Wisdom
1:33	The Delight of Wisdom

5. Where does wisdom call from? -1:20-21

6. Why does she lament? -1:22

7. What is the difference between “simple ones”, “scorners”, and “fools”? -1:22

10. What are the attitudes that keep us in foolishness? - 1:24,25,29

8. What does wisdom require? -1:23

11. If we fail to listen to Wisdom’s what’s her discretion? -1:26-28, 1:31

9. What does wisdom offer? -1:23

“Wisdom is not handy tips to improve our lives like a software upgrade. Wisdom is not a high-octane added ingredient to boost our performance. Wisdom is a matter of life and death because wisdom reveals we are listening to God with an eager heart.”  
—Ray Ortland

“There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, “Thy will be done”, and those to whom God says “Thy will be done” - C.S. Lewis