

The Book Of Proverbs, Detailed Bible Study Outline

By Pastor James Moriello, Firm Foundation Christian Church, Woonsocket RI, 2023-24

(Sections 17-20, By Steve Jackson)

Exciting Prelude to the Study!

1. Proverbs are pithy sayings that impart divine wisdom (2 Timothy 3:16).
2. The Book of Proverbs is the third of the five poetry books in the Bible: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon.
3. Solomon wrote Proverbs 1-29 for sure (25-29 having been compiled by Hezekiah's scribes between 715-686 BC). Proverbs 30 and 31 are attributed to other authors (Agur and King Lemuel), but an etymological case can be made for either or both of these to have originated with Solomon. Solomon is also the author of Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Psalms 72, 127, and possibly Psalms 128, 129, and 130. See also 1 Kings 4:32 and Ecclesiastes 12:9.
4. Date written: Between 970 BC and 931 BC, Cf. 1 Kings 3 (Solomon asked for and received great wisdom at the beginning of his reign).
5. Main Themes of the Book of Proverbs (Sampling of Proverbs)
 - a. Fear of the Lord (1:7, 3:7, 15:16)
 - b. Pride and Humility (16:18-19, 18:12, 29:23)
 - c. Wisdom and Foolishness (10:21, 12:15, 23:9)
 - d. God's Pathways and Sin's Pathways (3:5-6, 4:14-15, 20:24)
 - e. The Greatest Theme, Jesus Christ, the Attribute of Divine Wisdom Personified, Cf. John 5:39 (The Old Testament is Christocentric), (Proverbs 8:1-11), Cf. Isaiah 11:2; Revelation 1:4, 3:1, Cf. Daniel 2:20; Romans 16:27; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 13:54, the greatest glory in getting the greatest theme (Proverbs 4:7-9 applied)

Proverbs Bible Study, Detailed Outline, Verse by Verse

1. 1:1-7, The Inspired Introduction
 - a. 1:1, “proverbs” are pithy sayings that impart divine wisdom, “of Solomon” (the third human) king of Israel, “son of David”, a type of the greater Son of David who also spoke with great wisdom (Matthew 1:1,6, 13:3)
 - b. 1:2-3, these things are spiritually discerned, and we do well to make application to prayer (Philippians 1:9-11)
 - c. 1:3, “equity” is impartial administration of justice and implies sincerity in all dealings, Cf. Psalm 99:4; Isaiah 59:14; Micah 3:9; Malachi 2:6, it does not mean equality of results attained even at the cost of impartiality as the term has been hijacked to mean today
 - d. 1:4, “simple” of mind, lacking and needing basic understanding, “young man” is needful of it, “knowledge” of the right kind is profitable (2 Peter 3:17-18), but the wrong kind of knowledge can be destructive, “discretion” is prudence, cautious reserve, and not overly impetuous
 - e. 1:5, the “wise” hear and do not shoot off the lip or come to the table seeking to fault find, “increase learning” is to gain useful knowledge, “attain wise counsel” to a right use of knowledge, wisdom is knowledge used rightly to and for the glory of God
 - f. 1:6, the wise put effort into understanding Bible truths (Acts 17:11; John 5:39)
 - g. 1:7, the first of our major themes is introduced directly, “The fear of the LORD” is healthy reverence for our Creator, God, Savior, Lord, and Judge, it is where it all begins, fools think they know everything, but having despised divine wisdom and doctrine, all they know is unrestrained sin, lawlessness, rebellion against authority, strife, societal disorder (Judges 21:25 applied)

2. 1:8-19, Shun Evil

- a. 1:8-9, familial honor and obedience lead to divine blessing as general principle (Ephesians 6:1-3; Exodus 20:12), Apply-the respect we give our earthly parents is often indicative of our hearts towards our heavenly Father
- b. 1:10, resist temptation as general principle (Cf. Proverbs 4:14-15), “Do not consent” even in the face of pressure, boundaries set firm internally and externally as aids
- c. 1:11-12, Cf. Exodus 23:2
- d. 1:13, robbery, looting, etc.
- e. 1:14, for there is no honor among thieves
- f. 1:15-16, ibid. prelude 5d, sin’s pathways, evil activity and rioting are in that path
- g. 1:17-18, sin is destructive, none escape, Numbers 32:23
- h. 1:19, the misery of greed (Cf. Matthew 27:5; Luke 12:16-21; 1 Timothy 6:9)
- i. Case Study, Gang Activity
 - i. 1:8, or its absence entirely
 - ii. 1:11a, a place to “belong”
 - iii. 1:11b, initiation rites
 - iv. 1:14, getting in deep
 - v. 1:17, the net is spread, then death, suicide, or jail

3. 1:20-33, Hear Wisdom

- a. 1:20, Jesus Christ is “Wisdom”, Cf. 1 Corinthians 1:24, Romans 16:25-27, He calls out to us today loudly and not in a secret unknown way (Isaiah 45:19,22; Acts 26:26)
- b. 1:21-22, there are two competing exhortations at every city square and life crossroads, Will it be the church house or the bar house?
- c. 1:23, repentance (Acts 3:19), the Spirit (1 Samuel 10:6; Psalm 51:11; Acts 1:8, 2:38; Ephesians 1:13-14), and God’s Word and words (1 Corinthians 2:14-16)

- d. 1:24, divine pleading, “stretched out my hand” in love and mercy, to disregard is to invite the stretching out of God’s hand in wrath (Isaiah 9:12,17,21),the gospel application (John 3:36)
 - e. 1:25-29, those who do “not choose the fear of the LORD” (v.29) will have other “terror” (v.27), Cf. Isaiah 2:10-11, note “calamity...terror...destruction...distress...anguish” all come but fools seek to find remedy apart from God—even the unbeliever knows the hopelessness and futility of it
 - f. 1:28, the frightening warning to those who might be inclined to come but too late, with a parable and an actual event (Matthew 25:1-13; Luke 16:19-31)
 - g. 1:30-33, v.31 Cf. Numbers 32:23, sin’s fruit for “fools” (v.32) contrasted with righteousness’ fruit of “whoever listens” (v.33) to the wisdom of God, let us both live and die according the wisdom of God “without fear of evil” (Cf. Psalm 23:4; Numbers 23:10)
4. Proverbs Chapter 1, Self-Test
- a. Who was the human author of the Book of Proverbs, and what other inspired books did he write?
 - b. Write out the last verse of the introduction (Proverbs 1:7).
 - c. “If sinners entice you”, how should you respond? What should we set as an aid?
 - d. Who is wisdom personified? Give Bible reference(s).
 - e. In Proverbs 1:23, what three major things are profitable for the godly individual?

5. 2:1-5, Conditional Promises (If...Then)
 - a. 2:1, “if you receive my words” (words of wisdom), “And”
 - i. 2:1, hide them in the heart (Psalm 119:11)
 - ii. 2:2, listen carefully to them
 - iii. 2:2, apply what you hear (Luke 11:28)
 - iv. 2:3, seek discernment (John 7:24)
 - v. 2:3, pray for understanding
 - vi. 2:4, seek and search daily, expend much effort
 - b. 2:5, “Then” spiritual understanding will follow
 - c. Apply, nature of conditional promises, and note one example of each of the six disciplines with results, set forth concisely by six different people

6. 2:6-22, Blessings of Receiving God’s Conditional Promises
 - a. 2:6, knowledge, understanding, wisdom
 - b. 2:7, a storehouse of wisdom, received cumulatively, a wellspring (source) from which to draw pure water
 - c. 2:7-8, divine protection and preservation (Jude 1:24-25)
 - d. 2:9, an understanding of justice and right application of it, both generally and personally, discuss “equity” and the concept of fairness
 - e. 2:9, “every good path”, *ibid.* 5d
 - f. 2:10, pleasantries of soul (Matthew 11:28-30; John 14:1,27)
 - g. 2:11-12, “Discretion”, defined by Thompson as “prudence, cautious reserve”, the Word of God brings into balance those who will listen to it, they will not speak, act, or think hastily but rather work through the potential consequences in consult with God in prayer and the counsel of His Word, Cf. James 1:19-20 applied—lack of discretion is at the root of the talker, who is also often angry at the root (note the connection made here)
 - h. 2:13, “Friend, why did you leave the faith and godly company?” For passing pleasures, misplaced priorities, or has the truth become an offense?, John 6:60-69 applied

- i. 2:13, Why do so many young people (pre-teens, teens, young adults) “leave the paths?” Temptations to and allures of sin now seen by those who had previously lacked exposure to them and opportunity. Our response in family and church, not compromise but reaffirmation of holiness and truth, and more prayer, Proverbs 22:6 does not guarantee consistency, but is general principle.
- j. 2:14-15, the many schemes of evil
- k. 2:16-19, the immoral woman (also apply to players)
 - i. 2:16, makes you feel special (by flattery)
 - ii. 2:17, never satisfied in marriage
 - iii. 2:17, covenant breakers, forgetting that marriage is “a threefold cord” (Ecclesiastes 4:12 applied)
 - iv. 2:17, puts pleasure before acting honorably
 - v. 2:18, spiritual death, and physical death (STD’s)
 - vi. 2:19, the secret life becomes a twisted web, people become trapped in it and/or hardened by it
- l. 2:20, the right example, the right less traveled path, “paths of righteousness” are absent guilt, shame, traps, treachery, and the tangled webs of life
- m. 2:21, “the land” as the place of promise (Hebrews 4:1-9)
- n. 2:22, the wicked who cast their lot here on earth only will be sore disappointed when they are cast out of it

7. Proverbs Chapter 2, Self-Test

- a. What seven things in Proverbs 2:1-4 result in the promise of Proverbs 2:5 if we do them?

- b. What things can dabbling with an immoral woman or player result in, according to Proverbs 2:16-19?

8. 3:1-12, General Exhortations Specifically Posed to the Young
 - a. 3:1, “My son” addresses younger folks, but applications are always to be had in a general sense, “do not forget my law” implies that the parent/mature party has imparted that which is meant for a lifetime
 - b. 3:2, “long life” is made more likely by right (wise and godly) living, “peace” (Cf. Psalm 119:165; John 14:27)
 - c. 3:3-4, “mercy” (not getting what you deserve) can “forsake you” in the sense of experiencing the sure consequences that follow sinful paths, departure from “truth” will introduce unnecessary heartache and make you a laughingstock, Christian/Church, Stand strong, and have grudging respect from men and reward from God.
 - d. 3:5, “Trust” (do you have a trust issue, with men it can be understood but with God why so?), “all your heart” means that our first inclination is to trust and to be all in the everlasting arms (Cf. Isaiah 26:3-4), this also is faith, “own understanding” is apart from the Lord, let not Judges 21:25 be your rule of life though it be the subjective clarion call of the world today
 - e. 3:6, “all your ways”, not being selective as to which areas of your life you will submit to God, divine direction promised to those who will follow the lead (Try it today!)
 - f. 3:7, conceit rebuked (it is a branch of pride), Cf. Proverbs 1:7 (ibid. 1g), “depart from evil” is to practice biblical separation (Cf. 2 Corinthians 6:11-18)
 - g. 3:8, “health” and “strength” the general results of living a godly lifestyle, but not guaranteed for the Christian, let us apply in context but not make a new gospel of it
https://www.firmfoundationri.com/images/The_Prosperty_Gospel-Another_Gospel.pdf
 - h. 3:9-10, honoring God with our God-given possessions, generosity results in blessings for the giver, Acts 20:35 as principle, and 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 applied for us today

- i. 3:11-12, divine chastening by a loving Father, always appropriate (not too soft and not too hard), of love and for the purpose of correction, Cf. Hebrews 12:3-11
9. 3:13-35, Wise People are Happy People! (As v.13 states!)
- a. 3:13-15, finding wisdom akin to finding a treasure, finding Wisdom personified in Christ, Cf. Matthew 13:44, trading the foolishness of humanism (false wisdom and vain philosophies) for that of Colossians 2:3-8
 - b. 3:16, wisdom is a causative agent of longevity, prosperity, and honor, though not a guarantee, Leviticus 19:32 applied, respect for elders is in part for their wisdom
 - c. 3:17, “Her ways” lead to a peaceful life, free from drama and full of quietness and peace, apply wisdom to live a life without manipulation, emotional roller coasting, and general strife (unnecessary arguments, anger, bitterness, fretting, anxiety, etc.), your spouse and family will love you for making such wise applications, they may follow suit or not but you conduct yourself wisely anyways
 - d. 3:18a, wisdom a tree of life (Genesis 2:9, 3:22,24; Revelation 2:7, 22:2,14), Apply- Wise living is the closest thing on earth to living in the Paradise of God
 - e. 3:18b, again, Wise People are Happy People!
 - f. 3:19-20, the exceeding wisdom of God evident by His work, Apply- So too wisdom ought to be evident by what we do, in our work, also note the inverse- that if wisdom is seen by work, then lack of work and effort in doing it right and well begets laziness and folly, a bad testimony
 - g. 3:21-24, security and fearlessness, the secret to a good night’s sleep is conducting your life wisely and with discretion, so that you need not fear that your sin will catch up with you when you awake in the morning

- h. 3:25a, “sudden terror” such as a crime scene, lockdown, contagious disease, or threat of someone to harm you or act disruptively in your life, “Do not be afraid” but fearless in spirit in the Lord during and through these times; 3:25b, “trouble from the wicked” as sin is the motive and the goal for such folks, KJV has “desolation of the wicked” which also brings in the sense of how their reaping what they sow may affect you, apply all of 3:25 to apply to taking courage to cast your lot with God and say to abusers “no more” (whether tyrants, authority figures, parents, spouses, or others) who seek to cause fear, entrap, and control (Cf. Proverbs 22:24; Ecclesiastes 7:26; 2 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Corinthians 7:15), “when it comes”- not if but “when” (Cf. Job 5:7)
- i. 3:26, adversity should increase your faith (Cf. Romans 5:1-5; James 1:2-6), the Lord “will keep your foot from being caught” if you walk towards Him and not away from Him when the storms of life come
- j. 3:27, benevolence “to whom it is due” (Cf. Romans 13:7-10), What “is in the power of your hand?”, a kind word, a handwritten note, a timely phone call, a word in season, a hand up (not a hand out; Cf. 2 Thessalonians 3:10-13)
- k. 3:28, benevolence should be automatic and without hesitation or procrastination (Cf. Matthew 5:42)
- l. 3:29, duty to neighbors, goodwill, neighbors in good standing look out for one another (Proverbs 27:10)
- m. 3:30, making trouble, initiating strife forbidden, Why do men do this? Jealousy, insecurity, prejudices, etc.

- n. 3:31, Cf. Proverbs 24:1-2, “oppressor” (Heb, Lit: “Man of Violence”), who seems to succeed by taking an aggressive approach, but does not succeed in God’s eyes, when we study his ways, we imitate him unawares (language, etc.)
 - o. 3:32, the “perverse” an “abomination” (Leviticus 18:29), spiritual knowledge attained and rewarded (Cf. Psalm 25:14; Daniel 2:19; Matthew 13:10-13)
 - p. 3:33, blessings and cursing abiding on a place, blessing of homes scriptural, and evil spirit may inhabit a place, there is peace there or unrest (apply to home, work, church, other)
 - q. 3:34, Cf. Galatians 5:7, “scorner” full of pride and own ways, “lowly” is emptied of pride, leaving room to add “grace” in
 - r. 3:35, Is this not the gospel? (John 3:36)
10. Proverbs Chapter 3, Self-Test
- a. Write out and recite Proverbs 3:5-6.
 - b. List four general results found in Proverbs 3 that are made more likely by following godly wisdom.
 - c. Where in Proverbs 3 do we find the secret to a good night’s sleep?
 - d. To whom does the wise Christian owe benevolence?

11. 4:1-13, Security in Wisdom
 - a. 4:1, the need to “give attention”, to slow down in this fast world, and take the time to learn truth and wisdom, Discuss—Examples of when we did and did not do this
 - b. 4:2, “good doctrine” is Bible doctrine, it is supernaturally revealed, Jesus Himself spoke and taught doctrinally (John 7:16-18), Timothy and Titus were instructed to teach “good doctrine” (1 Timothy 4:6; Titus 2:1), and every qualified elder holds fast to it (Titus 1:9)
 - c. “Do not forsake my law”, the OT Law of God had been made his own, Will you make the NT Law of Messiah your own? Cf. Galatians 2:16, 6:2
 - d. 4:3-4, the security of a good childhood can be brought into adulthood if we continue according to its godly foundations, this principle essential for youth, as so many reach the teens and twenties and lose biblical moorings
 - e. 4:5-9, Christologically understood and applied, *ibid.* Prelude 5e., (John 5:39, “search the scriptures” and find Him here), to “Get wisdom!” is imperative, spiritually speaking we must ‘Get Christ!’, He is “The Principal Thing” needful above all else (Matthew 13:45-46), and His wisdom is that which brings life and enjoyment of it (Matthew 13:54; Isaiah 11:2 [Cf. Revelation 1:4, 3:1]), “Exalt” Jesus and He will promote you spiritually (even to heaven), “honor” if found in a life lived godly and with integrity, “crown of glory” our reward (specifically for shepherds in 1 Peter 5:4, but every glorious crown is from Him and rightly His [Cf. Revelation 4:10-11]).
 - f. 4:10, a general truth but not a guarantee, sin erases years from our lives
 - g. 4:11, Solomon (the preacher, and the father in this context) has done his job, You have the same job to do for those in your sphere/entrusted to your care. 1 Peter 4:10.

- h. 4:12, When we walk and run with the Lord, there are no spiritual hindrances. But when we don't what hindrances hold us back? For what reasons do we fall? 20 Pitfalls-
 - i. Lack of sympathy, Matthew 15:23; Mark 10:13
 - ii. Discouraging circumstances, Luke 5:18-19
 - iii. Unbelieving friends, Mark 5:35
 - iv. Scoffers, John 9:24; Nehemiah 4:10
 - v. Failure to wait for divine delays, John 11:3-6,32-33
 - vi. Worldly allurements, Genesis 19:26
 - vii. Attempting to rely on worldly means, 1 Samuel 17:39
 - viii. Unbelief, Matthew 13:58
 - ix. Worldly possessions, Matthew 19:22
 - x. Imaginary hindrances, Mark 16:3-4
 - xi. Family ties, Luke 9:59-62
 - xii. Every weight generally, That sin which is most tempting to you rearing its ugly head specifically, Hebrews 12:1
 - xiii. Prayerlessness, or praying in a state of sin, James 4:1-3; 1 John 5:16
 - xiv. Infrequent repentance, 1 John 1:9 and its context
 - xv. Failure to resist sin, Hebrews 12:4
 - xvi. Spiritual Laziness, Matthew 25:26-27
 - xvii. Neglecting to use spiritual gifts, 1 Timothy 4:14
 - xviii. Not holding to sound doctrine, 1 Timothy 4:16
 - xix. Failure to prioritize the Word of God, 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 1, Psalm 119 (too many verses to list)
 - xx. Neglecting the church assembly, Hebrews 10:25; Acts 2:42
- i. 4:13, "instruction" necessary for godliness, and is a twin sister of "wisdom" (Proverbs 4:5-6)

12. 4:14-19, Do Not Enter
 - a. 4:14-15, “DO NOT ENTER” is a big Bible sign, this path is closed to you, there is ample signage at the entrance and along the way with 5 instructions-
 - i. “Do not walk the way of evil” (when you see a situation arising, flee from it)
 - ii. “Avoid it” (the next time you cut through Sin’s yard, go around)
 - iii. “Do not travel on it” (this is not the Christian life)
 - iv. “Turn away from it” (if you find yourself on this path, repent, do a 180)
 - v. “Pass on” (when you see the sign, don’t stop to deliberate whether or not you will indulge)
 - b. 4:16, As Haman, a preoccupation with evil, vengeance, revenge, hate, Cf. Esther 3:5-6, this happens so often at night, with drink, and/or in crowds
 - c. 4:17, “bread of wickedness”, Cf. Psalm 14:4; Jeremiah 10:25; “wine of violence” is unrestrained violent behavior, the inhibitions being down, literally by alcohol or drugs, or more broadly, lacking moral inhibitions and stifling conscience
 - d. 4:18, “ENTER PATH OF THE JUST HERE”, spiritual progression of children of the Light, “Sun of Righteousness” is the “Light of the World” and our guide (Malachi 4:2; John 8:12), Psalm 84:5-7 is a preeminent pilgrim passage in the Psalms, “the perfect day” is that day when we will find ourselves in our God and Savior’s presence in heaven
 - e. 4:19, “the way of the wicked” is that of spiritual darkness, and temporal and eternal insecurity

13. 4:20-27, The Heart, Man's Inmost Being
 - a. 4:20, a restatement (Cf. 4:1,10), we recall Jesus' words recorded in John 12:46-50 as we read this verse following Proverbs 4:18-19 (ibid.12d-e)
 - b. 4:21-22, taking care of our spiritual health
 - c. 4:23, the centrality of the "heart" as man's inmost being, who a man or a woman truly is, the negative- Cf. Matthew 15:15-20 as expositing Jeremiah 17:9-10, the positive- Cf. Psalm 51:10; Ezekiel 36:26; John 14:15-17; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 8:7-13
 - d. 4:24, sins of the tongue, which originate of the heart (as in prior verse and Cf. Matthew 15:18), "deceitful mouth" (reflective of the heart, Cf. Genesis 3:1), Solomon learned well from his father David (Psalm 34:13)
 - e. 4:25, Cf. Job 31:1; Psalm 5:3
 - f. 4:26-27, the believer's walk
 - i. A faith walk, 2 Corinthians 5:7
 - ii. A walk with God the Holy Spirit, Galatians 5:16
 - iii. A consistent walk, Ephesians 4:1
 - iv. A walk in love, Ephesians 5:2 (Christ's example, that by which love is defined, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7)
 - v. A cautious walk, Ephesians 5:15 (in wisdom)
 - vi. A walk in the light, 1 John 1:7
 - vii. An imitative of Christ walk, 1 John 2:6 (Matthew 5:48 sets the divine bar, which promotes humility)

14. Proverbs Chapter 4, Self-Test
 - a. Proverbs 4:2 speaks of "good doctrine." Whose doctrine is it? And which individuals stress the need for sound doctrine in the New Testament? Give Scripture references.

15. Proverbs 5:1-14, The Perils of Adultery
 - a. 5:1, “My son”, every man being Solomon’s “son”, applicable to daughters also, but the preoccupation is more peculiar to men
 - b. 5:2, “preserve discretion”, which is cautious reserve, temperance in behavior, self-control (Galatians 5:23), “keep knowledge”, to preserve and keep emphasizes consistency in one’s heart, mind, walk, speech, and life
 - c. 5:3, the temptress uses seductive speech, including innuendo (suggestive speech) and flattery; Application can be made to all sin, and its appeal to the three areas of temptation (1 John 2:16)
 - d. 5:4, the end result is much worse than the promise of a night or season of pleasure, “bitter as wormwood”, a bitter plant associated with alcohol and medicine, in the Bible it has negative meaning in which divine wrath is invoked in context (used that way here, and also in Deuteronomy 29:18; Jeremiah 9:15; Revelation 8:11), “sharp as a two-edged sword” so that if you touch the blade of this sin on either side, you are sure to get cut
 - e. 5:5, this is dabbling with hell, of which you have been warned, lust is a kingdom of darkness in whatever form, and it is most often done in darkness for shame of sin
 - f. 5:6, such ways stand in stark contrast to that which your conscience informs you of, and which you have learned from the Lord (and parents, teachers, etc.)
 - g. 5:7-8, Solomon speaks to the one who may still yet coddle the opportunity to eat of the forbidden fruit of sexual sin, to stay away, not to find reasons to drive by her house or look at those images, stay on God’s side of the street, and be holy in all your conduct, Isaiah 59:5-8 applied
 - h. 5:9-11, there is no honor in sin, no profit in sin, and no life in sin, and the one who chooses sin will rue the day

- i. 5:12-13, having fallen prey to sin's devices, the sinner has no one to blame but himself, for he was duly warned, so are all those who are partakers of this study
 - j. 5:14, the first aspect of this is the loss of testimony and reputation among the people of God, and the second aspect is the depravity of the one who enters the church house and/or joins holy company with a heart bent on sin (be it lust or otherwise) rather than on communion with God, Cf. Numbers 25:6,14-15 (Bible example, case study)
16. Proverbs 5:15-23, "Drink Water from your own cistern"
- a. 5:15, a "cistern" is a waterproof receptacle for holding liquids, and a "well" is a deep place from which one may draw water, let our marriages be both waterproof (not allowing anything out or foreign matter in) and deep
 - b. 5:16, the KJV translation seems odd to us in the vernacular of 2024, but the NKJV translation brings the sense of the word in a rhetorical way, as water is a valuable commodity, why would we waste the blessing of the resource?, Apply to marital (eros) love, Apply to John 3:5 to the phrase "born of water"
 - c. 5:17, monogamy is God's design for marriage, and even mutually agreed upon expediency does not abrogate that
 - d. 5:18, "wife of your youth", how wonderful it is when young sweethearts make a life of it, and have a happy and fulfilling lasting marriage
 - e. 5:19-20, there is only one place a man should go to find fulfillment—his wife, further principles for both man and wife are found in 1 Corinthians 7:1-5
 - f. 5:21, no adulterer will get away unseen by God, our lives are cycloramas set before Him, Cf. Hebrews 13:4
 - g. 5:22-23, a final plea by Solomon (inspired by God the Holy Spirit) to reiterate the gravity of the instruction found in Proverbs Chapter 5

***Sections 17-20 of this study outline are by Steve Jackson

17. Proverbs Chapter 5, Self-Test
 - a. How is the adulterous woman described in verses 1-6?
How could we explain this in non-figurative language?

 - b. What are three instructions/warnings given to avoid the pitfalls of sexual sin?

 - c. How can we deal with lustful temptations in a healthy way?

 - d. True or false: If a husband and wife both agree to sleep with other people, this is okay as long as it is completely mutual. Why or why not?

18. Proverbs 6:1-5, Dangerous Promises
 - a. 6:1-2, Surety is the act of taking responsibility for another's debt or obligation. Modern vernacular "cosigner." Wisdom precludes making rash decisions about our financial responsibilities. Do not be "snared" or trapped by another's debt. Better to give what help you

can than risk what God has given you (Proverbs 11:15, 17:18, 22:26).

- b. 6:3, Under such circumstances, the best approach is to humble yourself. Whether before your friend or the creditor demanding payment. You are at their mercy should payment default. Pleading in humility is superior to anger driven demands.
 - c. 6:4, Make every effort to discharge this obligation with all due diligence. The lack of sleep implies urgency and seriousness.
 - d. 6:5, Free yourself at all costs. The image is that of a wild animal attempting to escape.
19. Proverbs 6:6-11, The Folly of Laziness
- a. 6:6-8, Avoid laziness at all costs. Be wise and consider the work ethic of ants, for they are a prime example of industry, diligence, and planning, working in due season to provide for their needs all year long (Proverbs 13:4, 15:19, 26:16).
 - b. 6:9-11, While the ant works all day long, mankind often indulges in laziness, to his own detriment. A little here, a little there...The more we indulge, the easier it becomes, until we find ourselves in a place of need, seemingly out of nowhere and against our true will. But God intended from the beginning that man should work (Genesis 2:15; Ecclesiastes 10:1; 1 Corinthians 5:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:10)
20. Proverbs 6:12-19, The Wicked Man
- a. 6:12, Literally translated “man of Belial”, A wicked man is a worthless man to the kingdom of God, good for nothing. A perverse mouth is not just filthy language, but any speech that is ungodly. Lies, deceit, flattery, blasphemy, maliciousness, etc. (Proverbs 4:4; Matthew 12:30,34-37; Colossians 4:6).

- b. 6:13, In this sense, wink, shuffle, and point are indications of deceit. Purposefully concealed signs so as not to convey ulterior motives to another person, without detection (Psalm 35:19; Proverbs 10:10).
- c. 6:14, The heart of the wicked man is filled with evil thoughts, as proven by his speech. His actions follow his heart's desire, and he deliberately causes problems (Matthew 15:18-19; Proverbs 16:27-28, 17:14, 26:18-21)
- d. 6:15, The destruction that awaits a wicked mouth will come as a surprise to he who enjoys it so thoroughly. Seemingly out of nowhere, at times irreversible (Proverbs 29:1; Ecclesiastes 9:12; Jeremiah 15:8,1; 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3)
- e. 6:16-19, God hates all sin, but the seven listed here act as a generalized summary of the previous warnings (Deuteronomy 25:16; Psalm 11:5; Romans 8:6-7).
 - i. "A proud look"- conceited, self-love, haughtiness, arrogance (Proverbs 11:2, 16:18; 1 Peter 5:5)
 - ii. "A lying tongue"- falsehood, deceit (Psalm 5:6, 31:18; Proverbs 12:22)
 - iii. "Hands that shed innocent blood"- unjust violence, murder (Exodus 20:13; Joel 3:19)
 - iv. "A heart that devises wicked plans"- schemers (Exodus 1:10; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Micah 2:1-2)
 - v. "Feet that are swift in running to evil"- intentioned toward evil (Isaiah 59:7; Romans 3:15)
 - vi. "A false witness who speaks lies"- (Exodus 20:16, 23:1-3; Proverbs 12:17, 19:9)
 - vii. "One who sows discord among brethren"- deliberately causing problems between others, busybodies (Job 4:8; Proverbs 16:28)

21. Proverbs 6:20-35, Beware of adultery
 - a. 6:20, filial obedience and honor, those predisposed to these will also be predisposed to giving obedience and honor to God (who designed these lines of authority)
 - b. 6:21-22, the duty of the children corresponding to the duty of the parents as spelled out in Deuteronomy 6:1-9
 - c. 6:23, Cf. Psalm 119:105, “reproofs of instruction” are guidance to “the way of life” (Proverbs 4:18; Cf. John 14:6)
 - d. 6:24-25, do not open yourself up to the “seductress”, her “beauty” is external only but inside is rot, “eyelids” a means of flirting, and makeup is applied with seductive purpose, a wise man once said, “If God had wanted that stuff on your face, He would have put it there!”
 - e. 6:26-27, sin is surely destructive, this sin particularly so, “precious life” in view is both physical and spiritual
 - f. 6:28-29, the man who indulges his flesh with such a woman (or women), likewise the woman who will dabble with the man (or men) willing to stray, will bear guilt and consequences, this deals with extramarital relations on the part of one or both parties
 - g. 6:30-31, stealing does not bring forth the same deep emotional heart responses as adultery, which include anger, betrayal, revenge, and all with passion
 - h. 6:32-35, there is no way out, consequences shall ensue and they will bring shame, there will not be a point where forgiveness (or appeasement or a bribe) takes over even if passion does not get you killed or otherwise reputationally destroyed (Cf. Song of Solomon 8:6-7), for the Christian this is more so (loss of fellowship with God, putting a nail in the Savior Jesus Christ by presumptuous sin, and divine judgment on top of consequences with men—especially those closest to you)

23. Proverbs 7:1-5, “My son, keep my words”
 - a. 7:1, we learn that the continuing exhortations for the young man (or any person of any age) to follow divine wisdom are necessary (2:1-2, 3:1, 4:1, 5:1, 6:20), the importance of staying in prayer, the word, the church
 - b. 7:2, “live” (Deuteronomy 8:3; Job 23:12), “apple of your eye” is the object of one’s affection (Cf. Deuteronomy 32:10; Psalm 17:8; Zechariah 2:8; Ezekiel 24:16)
 - c. 7:3, not to display them in phylacteries with a heart of hypocrisy, but to take them in heart, the heart of the New Covenant as expressed in Jeremiah 31:33
 - d. 7:4, kinship with Christ can be found and cultivated by kinship with the divine attributes, Christ is Wisdom in its fullness and the subject and object of Proverbs
 - e. 7:5, coming back to a reminder of the subject of the previous chapter, because the Lord judges that needful

24. Proverbs 7:6-27, The Harlot and the Unwise Young Man
 - a. 7:6-9, Solomon tells the story of a scene that he has seen play out over and over again, the imagery of heading into temptation as heading into darkness
 - b. 7:10-11, “loud and rebellious” women are not marriage material, and should be avoided by all, they are not of the light but of the darkness
 - c. 7:12, unsettled nature of the loose woman
 - d. 7:13-14, she fancies herself religious, thus seeking to assuage the man’s shallow conscience, he will deceive himself and (he thinks) others by presenting her as a strong Christian woman who is in a season of struggle
 - e. 7:15-18, the appeal to the pleasure seeker, ‘if it feels good, do it’ crowd, indeed this is a tempting appeal to any man (young or old), and increasingly the reverse is true regarding men (often irresponsible men at home because they will not work) towards women

- f. 7:19-20, the adulteress reassures the simple man that they will not be caught, he is away on business, such job arrangements in marriages provide unique temptations to the spouse away and the spouse at home
 - g. 7:21-23, the young man yields, his moral, religious, and safety objections being removed by her speech, but he failed to see that sin is destructive and “would cost his life”, discuss the many ways this is so
 - h. 7:24-27, the conclusion, wandering down the pathways of sin leads to spiritual death, for the believer temporal consequences and loss of rewards for a life ill-lived, God’s Pathways and Sin’s Pathways one of the five main themes of Proverbs (Fear of the Lord, Pride and Humility, Wisdom and Foolishness, Jesus Christ our Wisdom)
25. Proverbs Chapter 7, Self-Test
- a. God’s Pathways and Sin’s Pathways is one of the five main themes of the Book of Proverbs. What are the other four?
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
 - iv.
 - b. What does the phrase “apple of your eye” (7:2) mean?
 - c. What can we say about “loud and rebellious” women?
 - d. If a woman is a seductress , will she always reject religion? Where in Proverbs 7 is the answer?
 - e. In Proverbs 7, where is the woman’s husband? Does this living and employment situation present unique temptations? Should the arrangement be avoided in Christian marriages? Why or why not?

26. Proverbs 8:1-11, Wisdom Cries Out
- a. Ibid. 5e. The Greatest Theme, Jesus Christ, the Attribute of Divine Wisdom Personified, Cf. John 5:39 (The Old Testament is Christocentric), (Proverbs 8:1-11), Cf. Isaiah 11:2; Revelation 1:4, 3:1, Cf. Daniel 2:20; Romans 16:27; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 13:54, the greatest glory in getting the greatest theme (Proverbs 4:7-9 applied)
 - b. 8:1, Wisdom and Understanding are calling out, they are not operating in secret, but God has raised up His preachers, teachers, and evangelists to proclaim Him
 - c. “Does not wisdom cry out...Jesus stood and cried out” (John 7:37-39). The Word of God calls from without, and the Spirit of God from within. And we are left without excuse.
 - d. 8:2, “takes her stand on the top of the high hill” as one does in battle, as at Gettysburg (Little Round Top, Big Round Top, Cemetery Hill, and Culp’s Hill), we engage in a spiritual battle, a “civil war” within us for our soul, “where the paths meet” the outcome of each skirmish is determined, which path will you choose?
 - e. 8:3-5, at the entry of the city and its doors we find wisdom crying out, whenever you go about your business, do it wisely, avoid the merchants and women of ill repute who dwell there seeking to entrap the simple, do not be ignorant of God’s will, go about your business accompanied by Christ (Wisdom Personified)
 - f. 8:6-8, a very good description of the Bible, the Word of God, Cf. Psalm 12:6
 - g. 8:9, the counsel of the Lord is “plain”, easily understood to everyone who doesn’t overthink it, have an agenda to make it mean what one wants, or dwell in Youtubeland or Googleworld to get every opinion of man from those who bloviate in cyberspace without accountability