

# Proverbs 1

Sunday 8/18/2013

If you have your Bibles, I would like to invite you again to turn to Proverbs 1. As you know, we started the Book of Proverbs a couple of weeks ago, and we finished a very solid introduction. I think it is very important to understand what the Book of Proverbs is all about before you try to get into it. We have now defined for you the two main components that make this book what it truly is, and it really forms the theme of the Book of Proverbs. We have talked about a wise man and defined a wise man, and we talked about a foolish man last week and defined a fool.

The Book of Proverbs takes these two men and, by comparison and contrast—you have heard me teach many, many times that those are two great words in the Bible, comparison and contrast—it shows you the key to a successful life. You should now fully understand that we have talked about this many, many times, but it really comes home when you study the Book of Proverbs: life is about the choices that we make. It is about the choices we make, and it is also about the people, the influences, and the circumstances that we allow in our lives that will either help you or hurt you.

We have defined for you a wise man. Remember, I gave you the nine things that make up a wise man. Then last week, we defined for you a foolish man. The warning and the lessons are very clear, and the Book of Proverbs in the first seven chapters really hits this home, as does the instruction to stay away from the one who would be the fool and to embrace the other, the wise man. One of the greatest truths in life that I ever learned is simply that you will be who you associate with. Negative people will make you negative. People who are positive will make you positive, and it is just that simple.

Now, the Book of Proverbs will do for you what no other book in the Bible will do, and I think this is what really sets it apart. It not only tells you what a wise man is and what a foolish man is, but the Book of Proverbs goes a step beyond that. The Book of Proverbs defines wisdom for you itself, not just showing you the qualities of a wise man, which we already looked at, but it really dissects the concept of the word "wisdom." It shows you and me what makes wisdom truly wisdom, and it will actually show you the components that make up what we call wisdom itself, not a wise man, but wisdom. I think that is very important.

Now, I want to begin reading today in Proverbs 1:1-6. Here is what it says:

*The proverbs of Solomon, the son of David, king of Israel;*

*To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;*

*To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;*

*To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.*

*A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:*

*To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.*

Now, Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus Christ. We ask You, Father, today to take the Word of God and to open up our hearts and to show us the great things that You have here in this great book. Lord, these are good people, and most of them, I believe, want to do what God wants them to do with their life. They all have issues. We all have circumstances we have to work through and work around. Help us and show us today how the Proverbs makes that possible. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

## I. The Bible's Format for Training

Now, the first thing I want you to see here, and this is before we even get into defining what wisdom is, is that I want you to look at the format that I use in training you all the time. I try to keep our church, I try to keep everything that we do, as close to the Bible as humanly possible. The Bible is filled with procedures. The Bible is filled with format that you will want to follow. If you look at Proverbs 1, you will see exactly the same format that I use all the time in trying to train you and get you to the place where you can really be used of God.

1. The first thing it says in Proverbs 1:2 is "to know."
2. The second thing I want you to see in Proverbs 1:3 is "to receive."

You see, that is really important, and that is what I try to tell you all the time. You have to come to the place where you first know what God wants you to do. You have to come to the point in your life where you know what the Bible is. You do that around here by coming on Sunday morning, coming Thursday night, and the one-on-one are the specialty things that we do. You come away understanding and you come away knowing the things that God wants you to know.

But you know what? That is not enough. It is one thing to know the Word of God, but it is something else to receive it into your own life, and that is the second thing he says here, "to receive." It will not solve your problems just recognizing that the Bible is the Word of God. It will not solve your problems by understanding that the Word of God is everything in your life that you need. What you have to do is receive it. The Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 2:13:

*For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

It is one thing to know the Bible is the Word of God, but something else to receive it into your life. Those are two formats that I teach you, and those are inwardly. Those are the things you have to do inside you. You have to know what the Bible is, know what it is all about, and then you have to receive it.

3. Then the third thing that you find in Proverbs 1:4 is "to give."

That is outwardly. Once you take it in, you have to do something with it. That is the basic format that I teach you. I tell you and teach you the Bible and give you everything that I can about it to help you and bring you where you need to be, but at some point, you have to take what you have received and you have to give it to somebody else. When you do that, you do that by ministry. You do that by getting to the point where you, like you are going to do this afternoon, go out to

ReStart, like some of you are doing when you are working at Turnaround or with the people you are working with through the people ministry or whatever.

Through that process of knowing what the Word of God is, through the process of receiving it, and in the process of giving it out, Proverbs 1:6, you get understanding. I tell you all the time that the greatest teacher that you will ever have is working with people. The greatest teacher that will ever be in your life outside the Holy Spirit of God and the Word of God will be the Holy Spirit of God taking what you have put inside you and, when you give it to somebody else, teaching and training you by that process. So we see that. We see that in the very opening verses of the Book of Proverbs.

## II. Biblical Examples of Wisdom

In this passage, I am going to show you today 10 principles that define what wisdom is, not defining a wise man. We have already done that. I am going to show you 10 principles today that define wisdom, and they are found in this passage right here. These 10 areas are what you get in your life when you get God's wisdom, and it only comes from recognizing and understanding and receiving the Book of Proverbs. I want to talk today and look at wisdom defined for you. Proverbs 1:1-7 will be the definitive passage on wisdom.

In the Bible, there are many good examples of a wise man. There are many good examples of foolish men. But these two always come to my mind when I think of the wisdom of God. When somebody brings up the wisdom or knowledge or wisdom of God or being a wise man, these two men automatically pop into my mind. I know there are many of them, but these two stick in my mind all the time.

The first one will be a story of the birth of Christ at His first coming. We know that to be Matthew 2, and it is really the whole chapter, Matthew 2:1-23. The Bible says that around the time that Christ was born, three wise men showed up. Those three wise men have always been an incredible study for me. I would not argue with somebody. Somebody challenged at one time and said, "Well, there could have been more." There could have been. The reason why they call it the three wise men is basically because of the three gifts that were listed. But you know what? It is immaterial. There could have been more. But the Bible talks about these wise men and the three gifts that they brought.

The Bible says they were wise men from the East. It amazes me. It always amazes me that these guys knew exactly where Christ was to be born. God had departed from Israel 400 years. In 606 BC, He left Israel, and Israel got into the times of the Gentiles, and God forsook Israel. Yet 400 years later, there is no revelation from God to man during that 400 years other than what God already wrote in the Old Testament. These men studied the Old Testament. The Bible calls them wise men because they obviously used the Old Testament to figure out and find out exactly where and when Christ would be born and where to go to look for Him as Israel's Messiah.

I think the three gifts are amazing. If you go back in there, you will find that those three gifts they give you, I think that is amazing. Christ has three offices. He is a King, He is a Priest, and He is a Prophet. The only other man in the Bible that has all three of those offices is David. But

Christ holds those three offices, and yet when these men come, they bring three gifts that in the Bible represent those three offices. Now, how did they know that? They bring Him gold, and gold represents the King. They bring Him frankincense, that represents His Priesthood. And they bring Him myrrh, that represents the fact that He is a Prophet.

Now, how did they know that? Here they are over there in the East, somewhere around Babylon, and yet they knew almost exactly where He would be born. They went to the exact city. Do you know how many cities were in that area at that particular time? There were thousands of them. How did they know to go to that city? How did they know out of 400 years they picked one year? And how did they know to bring the three gifts that would match up to His three offices?

Well, it is the Bible.

- 1 Kings 10:18 would tell you that He needed to bring gold for a King.
- Exodus 30:14 would tell you that frankincense was for a Priest.
- Song of Solomon 5:5 would tell you that myrrh was for a Prophet.

They got it all out of the Scriptures. The Bible says they are from the East. Remember, that is out around the Babylon area, and that is where Daniel wrote the Book of Daniel. It would have been clear to these men, if they were studying the Bible, and obviously they were, that Daniel 9 would give them the exact year He was born. Daniel 9 tells them that is the annual 70th week. It tells anybody who is paying attention and reading it, the year Christ would be born. Numbers 24:17, they were obviously studying that, would tell them that there was a star that was going to be associated with His King. So they follow the star. Micah 5:2, long before Christ was ever born, He was foretold that He would be born, that He would be in Bethlehem. So they go to Bethlehem.

Everything is there. God gave them everything that they needed, and it always amazed me that every, and you know, when you look at that, here are three wise men that found Him. But what really amazes me is that every Jew, every Jew that was alive at the first coming of Christ, had access to the same information that they had. Every Jew in Jerusalem, every Jew in Judea, every Jew around that area anywhere, had the exact same material that these guys had. How come only three guys found Him? How come the parking lot was not full? The answer is that Israel is a fool. The answer is that Israel has rejected God in His Word and has missed His coming.

Now I like parallels in the Bible. I think parallels are crucial to see something that happened in the Bible that applies to us. When I look at this, I see the exact same thing today. We have all the information on Christ's second coming, plus a whole lot more. We have the complete Bible. Yet only a few wise men today will read His Word and find the keys to the successful Christian life looking toward the Lord's coming.

My prediction is based on Bible formula and the repetition of history. Just as the nation of Israel missed the first coming of Christ, I believe the body of Christ is going to miss the second coming of Christ. We are going to get caught unaware where one day when you get up and you go out there to do your own thing again, to go do what you want to do, you are going to find yourself smack dab right in the middle of the rapture of the church and find yourself standing before the

Lord. The Bible says you should know the times and the seasons. The problem is, just as the nation of Israel were fools, Christianity is foolish today. It is.

The two greatest events in history that are key to the whole world events: all history before Christ points to His birth, so we call it BC, Before Christ. All history after His birth points to the second coming and is called AD, which means in Latin, "the year of the Lord," showing you that every year after His birth could be the year that He comes. And 99% of God's people in the Old Testament, the nation of Israel, and in the New Testament, the body of Christ today, they are going to miss the greatest event in history, the second coming of Christ. Both of them had all the material that they needed, but they were fools.

Now, the second great example to me is Daniel and the Hebrew children found in the Book of Daniel itself. You want to turn over to Daniel 1 here for just a second. Now, that is the East, by the way, where these guys came from. You know the story of Daniel in Daniel 1, and I am not going to bring you through it again. You know that the times of the Babylonian captivity have taken place. You know that the times of the Gentiles have started. And you know that the devil is going to try to destroy the line of Christ.

These young men here, Daniel and the boys, the Bible tells us they are of no blemish. They are the princes of Israel. They are of the king's seed. Every one of them is in the line of Christ. And you know what the king wants to do? He wants to integrate them into the ways of Babylon. So he goes into a process of feeding them all the garbage and slop of Babylon. He changes their name. He goes through all of those things. But the great role model here for Daniel for us is, and I talk about this all the time, is Daniel simply smarter than the problem. He tells the king, "Let us eat our own food. Do not give us. You want us to be like you. You like the fact that I can interpret dreams and all that. I will tell you what, give us 10 days. We will eat what we want, pulse and water," both a type of the Word of God, by the way. "And you let the best of your kingdom eat what you have for them. And at the end of 10 days, you set us side by side, and let us see who is better."

*As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.*

*Now at the end of the days that the king had said he would bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.*

*And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.*

*And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.*

Now you see that? God gave them, Proverbs 1:17, knowledge. God gave them learning. God gave them wisdom. God gave them understanding. And then the Bible says that God gave them skill. Now that is the ability to use all of the things above that He gave them. The Bible says they were 10 times better than anything that Babylon or the world had to offer.

You know in the Bible, the number 10 is the number of the Gentiles. Everything in that Bible is connected. The Gospel goes to the Gentile in Acts 10. You will find it in Romans 10. It is all connected. The first Gentile kingdom is in Genesis 10. The last Gentile kingdom in the Bible is represented by 10 toes. It all ties together. You know, number 10 is a standard that is set even in life. I remember back when I cannot think of her name now. Bo Jackson? No, that was a guy. Bo Derek. Yeah. She made a famous movie. Anybody know what the name of it was? \*10\*. From that point on, a beautiful woman is a 10. We talk about it all the time. "All right, tell me on a scale of 1 to 10." See? We talk about everything in that concept. Everything. And everything that we talk about, we use it as a standard.

I want to tell you something. Every Christian should be a 10. Every Christian should be a 10. My job is simple. My job, I mean, it is not simple, but in concept, it is simple. My job is to make you 10 times better than the world system. It is just that simple. When we talk about wisdom, the wisdom of God, when we talk about what wisdom is, biblical wisdom is found in 10 qualities that you find in Proverbs 1:1-5. These 10 qualities of wisdom are what made Daniel and his friends 10 times smarter than all the kingdom of Babylon and all the magicians and all the astrologers.

When you decide in your life—and life is choices—when you decide to make God's wisdom your wisdom and get these 10 things down and get them in your life, and get these 10 things working for you, you are going to be 10 times smarter than the world. That is the way it works. When you look at those 10 Hebrew children over there, it says they were 10 times smarter. When you come through Proverbs 1:1-7, you find 10 attributes of wisdom that when you have them in your life, makes you 10 times smarter than the world. That is the way it is. It is just the way that it is.

David said it best in Psalms 119:97-104:

*O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.*

*Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.*

*I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.*

*I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.*

*I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.*

*I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me.*

*How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

*Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.*

This is one of the greatest things that I am going to show you today that you are ever going to get out of the Bible. That will change your life from this day forward. In your life, everybody here, if you are ever going to do something for God, if you are ever going to be something for God, you are going to go along for a while and you are going to bang up against all kinds of circumstances

and situations. You are going to come to church. You are going to get in the Bible. You will get disciplined. You will have some issues you have got to work through and work around. Obviously, some of God's people never get through their issues, but for some of you, there will come a point in your life. There will come a point in your life where God flips that switch. There will come a point in your life where you are never going to look back. There will come a point in your life where the Bible now is going to be everything to you, and it does not matter who, what, where, when. Nothing is going to take precedence in your life over that Bible.

I was thinking about that as I wrote this down. For me, it was April of 1972. I had just come back, gotten right with God. My father had passed away, and God had struggled with some things, and God had really began to work in my heart and bring me to the place and change my life. I remember sitting in church that night, and I wanted to do what God wanted me to do. I wanted to be what God wanted me to be. I was tired of the way it went. I wanted that time of my life. The Bible looked like an incredibly hard book to me, and I will never forget the man that preached that night was Dr. Peter S. Ruckman. This was back in 1972. I still have the original cassette. It is all yellowed and faded, and I would not dare put it in a machine; it would probably break, but I still have that. To me, that is where I go back when I look at that, and I will never forget that night. He preached on the Gospel according to Exodus. He drove that thing out up there, and I stood there with my mouth hanging open and my eyes as big as pie plates, and I heard a man dissect that Bible and put things together and say things about this passage and this verse and show the typology and run it back and forth. I was just dumbfounded. I thought the Bible was just a book that you set out and you read, and it told you a great thing. He connected so many things together. He showed so many concepts. He laid that thing out. When I went out of that night, I said to myself, "I am not going to rest the rest of my life until I know that Bible just like that." My life was changed. I knew it would take me years. It took me plenty of years, and I still have a long way from it, but I knew that night I was never going back. I knew that night that that book had what I wanted like nothing else I had ever seen in life. It took me a while to get there, but when I got there, it changed my life. It will have to happen in your life at some point. It is just that simple. My first advice to you today is, do not let that life-changing day pass you by, or do not trade it in for something or somebody that the world wants to give you. Remember now, life is choices.

### III. The 10 Principles of Wisdom Defined

Now, with that little short introduction, let us look at this passage, Proverbs 1:1-6. I think this is instructive. It opens up in Proverbs 1, "The proverbs of Solomon, the son of David, king of Israel." Now look at that. Right there is the goal for every child of God in this room, if not every child of God on the planet. It says, "The proverbs of Solomon." Put your name in there. "The son of David, the king of Israel." You see those two concepts. Right now, you and I are a son, our sonship. But there is coming a day that we are going to be a king. Remember, I gave you the wise man a couple of weeks ago, and the second aspect was a wise man will inherit glory. Proverbs 3:35. Right now, you are a son, but there is coming a day you need to be a king. It says, "Solomon, the son of David, the king of Israel." Right now, I am into my sonship, but Christ is coming back, and there is coming a day that I want to reign with Him, and I am going to be a

joint heir with Jesus Christ, Romans 8. I am going to be a king if it is conditional, if we get and use God's wisdom down here right now.

Now, I already told you this, and I break down the book. God gave you and me Proverbs 1:1-7 to make sure it would happen. It is all addressed to "my son." It is all a personal inscription to you and to me as God's son. At the end of the day, it has to be my choice, just like it has to be your choice. Just like God wants me to be wise, God wants you to be wise. God wanted His own Son to be wise, but His Son chose to be a fool, and some of God's people will choose to be foolish. Life is choices.

Now, let us look at these 10 things that define not a wise man, but what wisdom is. The same 10 things that made Daniel and his boys 10 times better than the world and all that offered them will be the same 10 things that will make you 10 times smarter than what you have got to deal with on planet Earth. All right, let us look at Proverbs 1:2. There is one and two here in the same verse.

4. > **\*\*To Know Wisdom\*\***The Book of Proverbs is for me as a son "to know wisdom and instruction." He says in Proverbs 1:2, "to know wisdom." That indicates the ability one gets to draw judgment in moral or spiritual matters and to be able to discern spiritual issues. It is not just to have wisdom, but it is to recognize wisdom when you see it. It is not enough just to have wisdom. When you really have wisdom, then you have the ability to discern when somebody you are hanging out with is wise or is a fool. Remember the things I gave you last week about a fool? A fool refuses instruction, a fool slanders, a fool backbites, a fool talks behind somebody's back. When you have the wisdom of God, you can find yourself in that situation, and you can see that versus a man or a woman who edifies, who brings the best out and talks about the things that will help a situation or help somebody and never hurt somebody. That is what he is saying here. It is the ability to make a comparison. In 1 Corinthians 1:17-30, he compares godly wisdom versus worldly wisdom, and as a Christian, it should be very clear to you which is which. Worldly wisdom is the accumulation of man's tricks. It is the putting together of man's devices. The Book of Ecclesiastes talks about there are many devices in a man's heart. Worldly wisdom is the accumulation of man's ability to set himself up and set himself independently of God. He will do things against the Bible and yet claim God is part of it. He will set himself up independently of God, never follow a Scripture, but want everybody to believe that I am following God. The wise man sees through that. The wise man has the ability to see and understand and recognize wisdom, and that is a key crucial in your life that you get by understanding the Book of Proverbs. Godly wisdom is the ability to see any situation not as it appears. Boy, it is famous for that. There are a lot of situations we see that appear one way, but in reality, there is something else. Having to know wisdom is the ability to see those situations and understand what it really is through biblical principles.
5. > **\*\*To Know Instruction\*\***The second thing he says here is "to know instruction." This is the ability to see real wisdom in people and then recognizing it and learning from them. God will put people in your life that will teach you, that will instruct you. God will never put people in your life that will hurt you. He will never put people in your life that will slander

other people. God will never put people in your life that are always talking negative about this or that. That is the world being put in your life. In fact, it is so true. The devil will put people in your life to hurt you. Saved people. God will put people in your life to edify you. If what comes out of somebody's mouth is not edifying, then you know what you are dealing with. But life is choices, you see. You either continue to allow that in your life, or you will draw a line in the sand, and you will do what the wise man would do. You learn who to take instruction from. One of the greatest examples in my life in learning, this was in learning how to build a church. God put two men in my life. God put two men in my life as a contrast. One was a wise man, probably the wisest man I ever met in my life. The other one was a fool. And I learned from both. One taught me how to do it. The other one taught me what not to do. But you see, they both were in my life as they are going to be in your life. You are not just going to go through life and just have wise people all around you. The devil is not going to let that happen. That would be great if he did. But he is going to try to make life as confusing for you as he can. He is going to mix in foolish people with the wise people. He is going to put people in your life who are going to tear down everything that you try to do. He is going to put people in your life who are going to build up everything you try to do. He is going to put people in your life who edify you. He is going to put people in your life who are going to try to hurt you. You have to be smarter than the problem. That is the situation I found myself in. One guy taught me everything biblical that was the way to build a church. And yet the whole world did not accept what he was teaching me. The other man had his own philosophy of how to build a church, and it was the accepted way of everything doing it, but it was not biblical. You see, the Word of God, the wisdom of God, gave me the ability to learn from both, to take from both, to look at both. But it gave me the ability to know that one was right and the other one was wrong. One was the right instruction for me. The other one was the wrong instruction for me. The Bible says that wise wisdom is to know wisdom and to know instruction. You have to have the ability not only to know what wisdom is, but recognize it when you see it. Because there are people who are going to, on the outside, they are going to pretend they are wise. They are going to pretend they have all the answers. But when you look inside, when you look where their kids are at on Sunday morning, when you look at all of the things in their inner life that just fall apart, when you look at all the excuses they make for all the failures that they had, instead of just stepping up to the plate, those are the ones you want to stay away from. Those are the ones that you are going to find that are going to hurt you. You have to not only know wisdom, you have to know to recognize wisdom. When you recognize wisdom in somebody, then you know where you take instruction and where you do not.

6. > **\*\*To Perceive the Words of Understanding\*\***The third one, the Book of Proverbs is for me to be able to "perceive the words of understanding." This is Proverbs 1:2 still. He says in Proverbs 1:2, "to perceive the words of understanding." That is perception. Perception, this is the ability, when you have perception, or you can perceive something, this is the ability to grasp the words of Scripture. He says to perceive the words of understanding. In the Bible, the key to the Bible are the words of the Bible. You have heard me say it many, many times. The key to the Bible are the words of the Bible in which the Holy Spirit of God teaches us by. When it comes to the Bible today, perception is a lost cause. It really is. The key to the

Bible is about, I do not know, 15 or 20 key words and phrases. The Holy Spirit of God uses these words to open up the Bible. This line of thought and teaching, I will tell you right now, is 100% totally rejected by 99% of the churches and pastors and Bible colleges across the country and the world. Hence, they wind up with no Bible. It is the words that lead to understanding the Bible. I have taught them to you before. We are certainly not going to have a lesson on it today. You have heard me talk about "the day," "that day," and "the day of the Lord," how every time you find it, it sets the context of the Second Coming of Christ. You have heard me talk about the term "those days," and every time you find it, the context teaches you something about the Tribulation. The word "net," N-E-T, like Internet, like catching fish in a net. Every time you find it, the context is going to be the Tribulation. It will be invaluable when you get back into Psalms or back in Ezekiel or back in Isaiah and you find a story and then somebody is catching something in a net. It is invaluable setting up the context with things like that. The word "reign." I have showed you how that "former rain" and the "latter rain" all connected with the Second Coming of Christ. When you find it in the Bible, the word "reign," you know that it sets the context of God's judgment. You find the word "deep." You find the word "kingdom of God," the "kingdom of heaven," or the phrase. We know all about that. The word "clouds" in the Bible, the word "rainbow" in the Bible, "whirlwind" in the Bible, "fire" in the Bible. Two of the greatest little words that teach you the Word of God is "as in like." The word "brightness," the word "the end." I do not care where you find it. I do not care where you find it. When you find "the end," it is going to represent the Second Coming of Christ and the end of the Tribulation period. We talk about "the day of Christ," "the day of Jesus Christ." It is always the Rapture when you find it. I have told you before the type, the perfect name, the complete name for Jesus is "the Lord Jesus Christ." Every one of those means something. "The Lord" means something, "Jesus" means something, and "Christ" means something. So you take those three, and then you wonder why they are broken up in the Bible. Sometimes it says "Christ Jesus." Other times it says "Jesus Christ." You do not think it makes a difference. It is telling you the context by how He uses those words. That is why you do not change words in the Bible. That is why words have to stay the way they are. That is why we use the King James Bible. I am telling you, the words are everything that you have to have. When a young man takes that kind of instruction, and the world takes those things and tells you that those words are not important, and then they bring in a whole system of terms that have nothing to do with the Bible, and when a young man follows that kind of instruction, he loses his Bible. He loses his Bible. And he is a fool.

7. > **\*\*To Receive the Instruction of Wisdom\*\*** Now the fourth one, the Book of Proverbs is given to me for "the instruction of wisdom." These next four are dealing with things we get instructions on, and they are very important. Proverbs 1:3 says, "receiving the instruction of wisdom." That implies your attitude of heart toward learning from other men and women God puts in your life, a wise man and wise women. In learning about God and the Bible, there are some instructions that you have to receive and you have to follow. God will put good people in your life, and you have the ability now, because you have wisdom, to look at them and to decide if they are wise or they are foolish, that the instructions they are giving you are of God or of the world. You have the ability to use that, see? But there are some

instructions. When somebody claims to be a Christian, somebody claims to be a pastor, claims to be whatever, and they do not follow the instructions, then you have problems. I already gave you one, Proverbs 13:20. We have carped on that for a couple of weeks about a wise man should walk with wise men, and a companion of fools will be destroyed. That is an instruction to you as a child of God. He instructs us in 2 Timothy 2:22 to flee youthful lusts. He instructs us in that great verse, but to follow rather faith, charity, peace, and they that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Now there are the people you are supposed to follow: people out of a pure heart, people that bring peace, not strife, people who bring peace, not slander, people who bring peace, not gossip. All of those things, those are instructions to you and me that a wise man will stay away from. He says in 1 Thessalonians 5:21 that we are instructed to prove all things. He says in Romans 16:17 that we are to mark those that cause division among us. That is instructions, you see. He says in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, "pray without ceasing." That is instructions. He says in Ephesians 6:10 that we are to put on the whole armor of God. Those are instructions to us. He says in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 that in everything give thanks, we are instructed to do that. He says in 1 Thessalonians 5:22 to abstain from all appearance of evil. We are instructed to do these are instructions. Proverbs 5 and Proverbs 7 talk about staying away from the strange woman and the evil man. We will talk about that when we get into those chapters. It will revolutionize your life about the women that you listen to and the men that you hang out with. But that will be another day. These are just some of the instructions of wisdom found in the Bible. When you learn and you follow them, you will be wise. When you forsake them, you are going to become a fool. It is pretty simple. The wise man will receive their instruction and put them to work in his own life or her own life. The life of a wise man is built upon the instruction he gets from God through the Word of God and other wise men and other wise women that God puts in their life. This is why when you come into church and you begin to get your feet on the ground, if you so desire, we put people with you, a woman if you are a woman or a man if you are a man, to help you through discipleship, to help you through your marital issues, to help you through your personal issues, whatever it is. We are all on the same page. There have been times and times and times when somebody has asked somebody, "Well, what should I do with this?" And that person says, "Well, this is what you need to do." And that person says, "Well, I am going to go ask Bob." And they say, "Well, go ahead, but he is going to tell you the same thing that I did because what I just told you, I learned from him." Everybody has to be on the same page.

8. > **\*\*To Receive the Instruction of Justice\*\*** Now look at the fifth one. Proverbs for me is "to receive the instruction of justice." Proverbs 1:3 says, "to receive the instruction of justice." That implies an ability to discern what is right and what is wrong. It implies that a man with God's wisdom or a woman with God's wisdom can draw the proper conclusion or judgment or come to the right end of an issue by seeing the principles involved and then dealing with them biblically. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 2:15 that "he that is spiritual judgeth all things." As a child of God, we do not judge people, but as a child of God, if you are spiritual, you judge the things people do, not for them, but for your own life. I do not care what you do. Shami, you can go out and drink, smoke, get high on whatever you want to get high on, and do whatever you want to do. I would not recommend that, and I do not think that is a

good choice in life, but you know what? Seeing you do that, I am not going to sit back here and judge you as a terrible person, but I am going to judge what you are doing as something that I do not want to be a part of, and every Christian has that right. There have been situations where mean-spirited Christians have slandered other Christians, and you have been around it, you have listened to it, and you have a choice at that point. You either go along with it, and silence is consent, or you stand up and you simply say, "You know what? I am not judging you, but I know enough about the Bible that I do not want to be part of that." And gone. See, but that takes courage, but that takes wisdom too. Paul said in Romans 14:13, he tells the Christian to judge doubtful practices and situations. I do not, you know, we do not judge people, but when it comes to your life and what you do, the number one thing you have to have is your personal relationship with Christ. When you allow somebody in that is going to take from that, then you have to judge that action. You have to judge that action. Now, I told you a couple of weeks ago to make two lists, a personal list, and I hope that you did. One list you put on all the wise men you knew in life, and the other one you put on all the foolish people you knew in life. Then I told you that based on Proverbs 13:20, that you are to stay away from the fools and hang out with the wise men. Now, that is really easy to say, it really is, but for you to be able to do that, and most of you will not, I mean, let us just be honest, but for you to really be able to do that, you need to have real wisdom for this, to judge all things as they pertain to you, receiving the instruction of wisdom as they have the ability to see the end result of a fool. That is all it is. When you understand, when you understand the instruction of justice, you know that there is going to be a day when some, we are all going to have to pay for what we do, and right now you either get it right with God and judgment is stayed, or you continue to go in your godless circle of lifestyle, and someday God is going to drop the hammer. It is a matter of fact. Galatians 6:7, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Now, the favorite thing of God's people today is to sow your wild oats and then get on your knees and pray for crop failure. But at the end of the day, wisdom of justice, you understand that I am not going to get part of that. I am not going to be part of that because I know it is a dead end street, and I know where it is going to end. That is called smarter than the problem. That is called the ability that somebody that you want to associate with you, or you maybe want to associate with them. You see the foolish things in their life. You hear the ungodly things that they say. In the pretense of Christianity or out in the world, and you realize that where they are going is a dead end street. Where they are going is going to wind up with God's judgment, and you simply choose not to be part of that. That is smarter than the problem. That is he that is spiritual judging all things. Keeping the wrong things. Keeping the wrong people. Keeping the wrong places out of your life. The negative impact that they will have on your life. Now, it is a simple thing. I do not know how much you know about electricity. I do not know anything about electricity, but I do know this. I know electricity, like life. You want to light your house. You are going to turn the lights on. You want to cook dinner. You want to do all the things you do. It takes electricity. In life, everything that we want to do runs from a power source. Now, I am telling you right now, if you look at an electric cord or you look at electricity, you have got what you have got in life. You have got one negative and you have got one positive. Now, you go home this afternoon. Do not try this at home, but you ought to

go home this afternoon. Unplug a wire. Cut the plug off. Scrape it back and pull the wires way apart. One of them will be negative. One of them will be positive, just like life. Then plug it back in. Hold the wires apart. And then at some point, after you put on rubber gloves, rubber overshoes, and a lot of other things. Do not ever do this in the bathtub. Once you do that, take the negative and the positive and put the two wires together. Now, do you know what it will do? It will blow your fuse. It may not kill you as you are insulated, but it will pop, it will flash, it will bang, and your lights will go out. Now, my point is simple. Electricity with a negative and a positive. When you put the two wires together and a negative and a positive come together, there is never a time that the positive wins. Did you hear what I just said? There is never a time that the positive wins. It is not like, "Well, four times out of ten my lights stay on." It is not like, "Well, I put the negative and a positive together, and the positive overrode the negative, and my lights stayed on." Uh-uh. No. No way. Every time you take the positive and you match it with a negative, the negative wins. Do you understand what I am saying? As a Christian, do you understand the analogy? You put your life with negative people? I do not care how positive you try to be. You put yourself with negative people. You hang around with negative people. You take instruction from negative people. You learn from negative people. You listen to what they say. I do not care how positive you start out on Monday, by Friday you are going to blow your fuse. Amen. Now, how simple could it be? It is absolutely one of the most simple things: keeping the wrong things and the wrong people and the wrong places out of your life because of the negative impact on your life. I am telling you, when you cross negative and positive, positive always loses, and negative always wins. The only thing you can do to make sure your lights stay on, the only thing you can do to make sure you reach supper this afternoon or your air conditioner works, is to keep the negative and the positive away from each other.

9. > **To Receive the Instruction of Judgment** Number six, though I would really like to preach on number five for a little longer. Number six, Proverbs gives to me the ability "to receive the instruction of judgment." This is also Proverbs 1:3, "to receive the instruction on judgment." Proverbs 28:5 says, "Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things." That is a great verse. You see that in the world. That is why they want to do away with capital punishment. That is why when 9/11 happened, when somebody gets up and says, "Well, 9/11 happened because America has turned her back on God," you will get burned at the stake for that today. That is because evil men do not understand judgment. Evil men do not understand that God always judged His nations with other nations. Always did. But they do not get that. But it is also true in a Christian world because you can find some pretty wicked Christians. And wicked Christians, they do things. They say things. They get involved in things, never considering the fact that there is coming a judgment someday. They are going to have to give an account for it, or God is going to deal with them on it. That is just the way that it is. A little concept that I gave you in the Bible years ago about the three judgments that pertain to you and me. We know that from the Bible systematic theology, there are seven judgments in the Bible. Three of them pertain directly to you and me. You have heard me talk about it before: sinner, son, and servant. You are judged at the cross as a sinner. At some point, you get saved, and when you get saved, God no longer looks at you as a sinner. Now you are His son. So in this life, after you are saved, He judges

you and me as a Father and a Son relationship. But then there is coming servant, and at the judgment seat of Christ, God is not going to judge you for your sins. They were taken care of at Calvary. God is not going to judge you for your sonship. He came down and whacked you here, or you made it right. There He is going to judge you for your servanthip. What you did with what He gave you. Sinner, son, and servant. But there are seven judgments in the Bible, but who knows about them today? Who even has a clue what they are? You have the judgment of the nations in Matthew 25. You have the judgment of angels in 1 Corinthians 6. You have the judgment of Israel throughout the whole Tribulation period, and you have the judgment of unsaved dead in Revelation 20. But who could even explain them today? You know why? Because wicked men do not understand judgment. They do not understand that there is a judgment coming of a lost, unsaved dead. They do not understand that the whole world that we are living today is forming up for the judgment of Israel in the Tribulation period. They have no clue. Now, I have got to say this, we talked about this last week, sometimes as a son right now, the judgment of God, the chastisement of God, falls on you and me. Can you take it? We talked about the great verse in Hebrews 12:5-11, how you are not to despise when God chastens you, that He chastens every son. Most people, most God's people, they are ignorant of this because they are fools. They do not understand that receiving God's judgment as a son is just as important. I am going to go one step farther and say just as good as receiving God's blessing because we need both in our life to be what God wants us to be. But we want the blessing, but we do not want the judgment. We do not want the chastisement. That is a fool. Proverbs 27:7. I know, you know, I know that when you preach, anybody preaches, it is one of those things where not everybody loves what you say, and I do not know of any crowd, any place, anywhere, at any time, where any man would ever get up to preach that some people maybe do not say anything to him or say anything to anybody else, but they get mad at what the guy says. I mean, that is just human nature. You just know that going in, and you know this church is no different than any other. I do not think, and I know most of you love God, and most of you love the Word of God, and most of you want to do what is right, but come on, you could not get a group of people anywhere on this planet where everybody did. It is just one of those things where it is just what it is. But the Bible says in Proverbs 27:7 that a man that has wisdom, that a man or a woman who has understanding in these things and understands judgment, the Bible says, "The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet." You see, when you love God and you love the book, you know to receive that kind of judgment. You know that we need to be held accountable. You know that there are times that God has to come down and take us to the woodshed. You know that is for our good. You know it is for our best. Even though you may not like it, I may not like it, there is not a time that God never came down and whacked me that deep down in my heart I did not know I deserved it. And I loved Him that He cared enough that He would do something. You know what is really scary? What is really scary is a child of God who lives their own life and does their own thing, God never comes down and deals with them. That is scary. We will not get into that today, but that is scary. That is scary.

10. > **\*\*To Receive the Instruction of Equity\*\*** Well, let us look at number seven here. Defining wisdom. Proverbs is given to me to have the ability "to receive the instruction of equity."

This is our fourth one. Fourth one in the instructions. Proverbs 1:3. Now, the word "equity" is the word for balance in the Bible. The word implies that a wise man has the ability to see when two things are in balance or when they are not. Proverbs 11:1 says, "A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight." Now, the greatest example of this that we can all identify with is found in this book. I say it again, a wise man hanging out with a foolish man, the reason why that is a problem is because that is out of balance. You see it again in 2 Corinthians 6:14 where it talks about not being unequally yoked with unbelievers because it is out of balance. Now, I told you last week or maybe a week before last that the first thing I learned in all my 63 years that I am making a list of, have been for a while, all the things that I have learned in 63 years that apply to life, me, and I just create solid principles, and I am just putting my own list together. The first thing I ever, I told you this a couple weeks ago, this is what I am going to preach on down at Turnaround. The first thing I ever learned that really solidly got into my brain is that life is choices. But the second thing that I learned in my 63 years is that everything in life has to have a balance. Everything in life has to have a balance. Everything in my life, everything in your life, requires a balance in life. An unbalanced checkbook, you know what you do? You write checks you cannot cover. An unbalanced life, you know what you do? You make bad choices. You make decisions that you cannot possibly cover, and in both cases, it ends in a disaster. It is just that simple. Now, balance requires wisdom, and wisdom, if you are going to get it, requires self-discipline, saying no when your flesh says yes. Fundamentally, the world system works 24/7, and unfortunately, many Christians try to make all things equal so that it requires no balance. That is why you have gay marriages today. No balance. That is why you have it in our educational system. No balance. That is why you have it within government. There is no balance. That is why you find that in churches and religion, there is no balance. Everything is okay. You are okay. I am okay. It does not matter what Bible you use. It does not matter what you do here. It does not matter what you do there. Live your life however you want. But the Bible format is black and white. The Bible format is light versus darkness, contrast and comparison, that on all things in life and all things in the Bible, that all things with God and all things in your marriage and your family and every relationship, it has to have and requires a balance. How comfortable would it be if you went out and bought, I do not even know what they cost, a \$190,000 Mercedes Benz or a Rolls Royce. You bought a \$190,000 car, went out and bought \$600 apiece tires and put them on that car, but all four tires were out of balance. How is your \$190,000 car going to ride? Let me tell you something, out of balance in your life will be a bumpy ride through life. I am telling you, I hope you are writing these down. They will be in a book someday. It is incredible.

11. > **\*\*To Give Subtlety to the Simple\*\***Number eight. The Book of Proverbs will "give subtilty to the simple." Proverbs 1:4 says, "to give subtilty to the simple." That is what we call prudence or discretion, which usually comes only with experience of old age. We talk about an old man. The Bible says in Proverbs, it talks about it, that a young man has heat, but an old man has no heat, but he has got light. An example there is that a young guy has the heat. He can play ball all day. He can work all day. He can run all day, but he does not have any light. He is stupid. Well, the old man cannot play ball and do all the things, but he has got light. He has got some wisdom. Wisdom comes from years. Wisdom comes from years from

dealing with human nature, but here in Proverbs, it says that a young man, I mean, wisdom and subtility and discretion and prudence usually comes only, as I said, with the experience of old age and the vast understanding you get from years and dealing with human nature, but here in our text, it is available to the young man, much like the majority of our church, what, 85-90% probably from 20 to 35 years old. It is available to you. Now, you hear me tell you this all the time when it talks about subtility to the simple, and I tell you this all the time, just in a different format, and you hear me say it all the time, and I talk to you, and I have already used it several times today, but we use it all the time individually. Subtility to the simple is simply being smarter than the problem. That is all it is. It is having the wisdom and instruction of balance in your life and subtility in your life to be smarter than the problem. Matthew 10:16 says, "Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." That is subtility. To be subtle is to have the ability to slip through any situation without being trapped by wicked men or wicked women. The ability to read between the lines and see what is coming before it ever gets to you. The ability to translate when somebody says something, to read between the lines and know that is not what they are really saying. See what is coming before it gets to you and then being able to sidestep it. It is the ability to be smarter than the people you deal with. That is wiser than serpents, but not in the sense to hurt them. That is harmless as doves, but in the sense to protect yourself and your own relationship with God. I will tell you something right now. There are people who will set you up. There are people who will hurt you. There are people who have an agenda that has nothing to do with God that want you to be part of their agenda, and they will set you up, and if you are not smarter than the problem, you will go right down the road with them. That is subtility to the simple. Subtility to the simple. You are going to see it all in life, and I can tell when I say some of these things from just the little response, you have already been there. Many of you with some of these things.

12. > **To Give the Young Man Knowledge** Well, number nine, the Book of Proverbs will "give the young man knowledge." Proverbs 1:4. Now, the word "knowledge" implies that a wise man has a solid fund of information or facts. A warehouse or storehouse of truth that goes down like a deep well in his life. This process is laid out in Titus and Timothy, and I have given it to you before, where between the two, when Paul writes to them, he talks about a young man having sound doctrine in Titus 1:9, and sound doctrine leads to you developing a sound mind, 2 Timothy 1:7. When your mind is based on sound doctrine, it will produce 2 Timothy 1:13 sound words, and then when you take those sound words and you form them into sentences, Titus 2:8, and you communicate to people, it will be sound speech. When you put sound doctrine, and it gives you a sound mind, which produces sound words, which produces sound speech, it will always produce a sound faith, Titus 1:13. You see this in preaching and listening to preachers. If you have any depth at all to you, I can listen to a guy for five minutes and find out if the guy is just preaching a little sermonette or he has got any depth to him. You cannot hide those things. I mean, you can, some of these guys, you can just, I mean, when they are done, you can just scrape off the crust off the top, and all it is is a bunch of crumbs. But some guys get up there, and boy, when they preach, it is like drinking from a fire hose. I mean, it is, there is depth to it. The wise man will know where he is at in the Bible, what, 85% of the time probably. When you have that kind of recall in the Bible,

and you know your facts, and you know your history, and you know what you have got, you know what you are dealing with, you can take the wisdom that you have then and apply it to every issue in life in making the right choices or making the right decisions. You see, the Book of Proverbs will give you as a young man that knowledge. It will give it to you. It will give you the depth that you are looking for. It will be able to give you the ability to look at NBC or CBS or Fox News or listen to anybody out there or read a newspaper and listen to what somebody is saying about the world events or what is happening in this city or what is happening here or an isolated situation here, and you have the ability to read between the lines and know what is really going on. God will give you that. A young man needs to store it up. A young man needs to warehouse it. A young man needs to fatten his spiritual bank account.

13. > **\*\*To Give Discretion to the Young Man\*\***Well, the last one here. The last thing he says in Proverbs 1:4 is the Book of Proverbs will "give discretion to the young man." Now, the last thing he gives us, the number 10 one, is that a wise man will get discretion. The word "discretion" can be used a lot of different ways in making good or bad choices. I understand that, but fundamentally, in the Book of Proverbs, the word "discretion" for a wise man simply means he has the ability to use correctly all the wisdom that God has given him. That is what it really means. It is final base floor. It means that you have the ability to use the information, the knowledge, the wisdom that you have. This is why Paul talks about in 1 Timothy 3:6, when he talks about ordaining somebody, he basically says, "not a novice," not somebody that does not have any experience. You see it all the time with young Christians, and they will come to Thursday night Bible study, we will talk about something that is one of those wow issues, you know, and the first thing they do is go to work to Martin the next day and try to explain it to everybody, and they find out very quickly how everybody looks down like you are an idiot. You cannot explain something to somebody else until you thoroughly can defend it yourself. But that comes with that comes with wisdom, that comes with discretion. You know, knowledge sometimes can be a very bad thing. Where knowledge in some cases can destroy you. Discretion with knowledge will always preserve you. You want to remember that. Knowledge without discretion is like horsepower without a throttle. It is like jet propulsion without any stabilization. It is like heat propulsion without light. It is like religion without salvation. It is like power without the ability to use it. When you get the wisdom of God, then through all the areas that God takes you, you make it to make your wise, you will get the discretion to use that wisdom. That is part of your spiritual growth. It comes in a place where when you learn to do that, not just by coming to church and sitting on Sunday morning and Thursday night, taking all your notes and going down, but as we said earlier, taking what you take internally and then putting it out and giving it to others.

## IV. The Process of Spiritual Growth

Now, I want you to look at Proverbs 1:5-6, and closing out here today, and it says:

*A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:*

*To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.*

Now, I am going to give you in closing here the Bible definition of spiritual growth for all believers. You hear me talk a lot about that, and you are going to find that the answer to why some Christians go on for five, ten, fifteen, twenty, thirty years, and then suddenly start falling apart in their life and all the things that goes on, is simply because at some point in their life, they quit growing spiritually. They may not admit it. They may not want you to know it, but at the end of the day, when you deviate from the instructions of the Word of God and start doing your own thing, it is because you quit growing spiritually, and now you are in charge of everything. When you get the wisdom of God in your life and you understand these ten things that make you ten times better than the world, you are 99% above God's people right there, and that is my job. My job is to make you ten times smarter. My job is to help you get to the place where you learn these things, show you how to put them in your life, show you how to use them in your life, show you how to walk through life being wiser than your enemies because you are ever going to, you are all going to be with you, both Christian and unsaved. You are going to have more understanding than all your teachers, and you are going to know more than the ancients. You know why? Because like Daniel and his boys standing there before that king, when their diet, and their diet was the Word of God, they were ten times smarter than anything the world has to offer.

Now, when you follow the admonition given by God to us as sons in Proverbs 1-7, then you enter into a process of continued spiritual growth, and here in Proverbs 1:5-6 is that process of your spiritual growth the rest of your life.

14. The first thing he says in Proverbs 1:5 is "a wise man will hear." The first thing you need to realize in your spiritual growth is that there will never be a point where you do not have to keep on growing. There will never be a point where you can get to your life and you can say, "I have got it all. I do not need anymore." A lot of people get to that point in their life. A lot of people get to the point where they think they know everything there is to know about the Bible and more now, and they do not need to learn anymore, and that is not true. That is a fool. If I have learned anything in life, I have learned that God's school is never out of the way, and when it comes to the Bible, there are no experts, though a lot of people like to claim to be experts. I told you before, there are no experts when it comes to the Word of God, really no experts in life, just students on different levels of learning when it comes to the Bible. If you are really growing and you are really moving along in the thing, the more you learn, the more you will see that you need to learn, and because it is God and His eternal mind, you will go after it with all your life, with all the passion to go after truth. So the first aspect of your spiritual growth is school is never out. A wise man will hear. He will continue to listen. He takes all the things that we have talked about now. He listens to the right instruction. He has a discernment to know what is right and wrong. He stays away from the negative things in life. I think we had, we know we have sold everything else back there. I see one of Kyle's T-shirts back there, "King James 1611." Mike is back there, you know, chalking "Kids for Christ." I think we need to get some T-shirts that say, "No negative people allowed." Wouldn't that be great? The next time you go up to somebody and they start yipping their

mouth off about you or somebody else or something like that, and they look down and see that T-shirt, and you just smile. We need to work on that. We need to work on that.

15. The second thing he says here is "a wise man will attain unto wise counsels" in Proverbs 1:5. No need to hit it again. You simply will build your life around people who will make you better. Buy the T-shirt: "No negative people allowed."
16. The next thing, Proverbs 1:6, also "a wise man will understand the proverbs." Now, that is a good one. So in your continued spiritual growth, you continue to learn. You continue to hang out and learn from wise people, but you also spend the rest of your life in the Book of Proverbs. I have probably been through Proverbs, oh, I have not counted them, I say at least a hundred times in my 40-some years, and I told you, I think I told you many times, I told you when we started this study, if there is one book that I could have God give me total recall on, it would be the Book of Proverbs because a wise man will understand the proverbs. When he sees what Proverbs really is, he will then spend the rest of his life majoring in the Proverbs and applying them to all else in the Bible. The wisdom books of the Bible will become his foundation for which he works through all the Scriptures and works through all of life.
17. Then the next one, Proverbs 1:6 again, is "a wise man will understand the interpretation." Now, the interpretation here that he is talking about, we will find out in the next one, is the words, learning how the Bible is of no private interpretation, but through itself will lay out through the key words the interpretation of itself. You simply get into the book, find out the words, find out what the words mean, and let the Bible interpret itself as 2 Peter 1:20 says. He will really see and understand the Scriptures when he gets this working in his life.
18. The next thing, Proverbs 1:6 again, is "the wise man will understand the words of the wise, and their dark sayings." Now, that is that fourth dimension I talked to you about several weeks ago. That is the depth of God, the dark sayings, getting down where the Bible goes way below the surface, getting down to that depth of God where you see the Word of God for what it really is in all areas of faith and practice, where you have the ability, once you have that, to look at any circumstance in life that may come your way and make the right value choice on it, understanding what a wise man and a foolish person is, understanding, being able to recognize wisdom when you see it, instruction, take it from it, leave it when it is not good, all of those things, learning how to go below the surface of the Bible to that spiritual world of the depth of the Word of God, which is called God's unsearchable riches.

Now, the New Testament takes all of this, and when you as a person begin to understand now what wisdom is, we have defined it, now 10 things, your goal in life ought to be 10 times smarter than the people around you when it is for God's glory. You ought to come to the place in your life where you want to be like Daniel and the boys, where you can go up against the world, and you are 10 times smarter because of the wisdom that God gives you. Wisdom has to be maintenance. Wisdom has to be continued. Wisdom has to have installments made into it, which we have already seen, your spiritual growth. But the New Testament lays it out like this. He says in several places, Mark 4:24 and Luke 8:18, he says this: "to him that hath shall more be given." You do the work with the Bible. You do the work of getting that wisdom. You do the work of putting the things out of your life that need to get out, putting the things into your life that need to go in, and "to him that hath shall more be given." But in both of those verses, the requirement

for growth and this growth process is two things. In both passages, it says the wise man must take heed of what he hears and how he hears. That is on you, who you hang out with and the counsel you take from them.

You know, human beings, man has basically two choices in life. When a man gets saved, when a woman trusts Christ as their own personal Savior, what they have to look forward to is a bottomless book, an eternal book, a book that knows no beginning and no ending, that is the eternal mind of God. When a person refuses God and God's Word and stays unsaved, all they have to look forward to is a bottomless pit. You see, it is a bottomless book for the Christian, and it is a bottomless pit for the unsaved man. But even in the Christian, that God gives you a bottomless book, you have to make a choice. Unfortunately, when you chose to get saved, God chose to give you the Holy Spirit of God, but He did not choose to open up the top of your head and give you all of the bottomless book because He knew human nature. He knew how frail we were and how easy we get pulled off task. So He put it together in such a way that if you are going to get what God wants you to get, if you want to have the most in your life that God wants you to have, you are going to have to do the instructions on what this book tells you to do. You can be saved and never go to the bottomless pit, but never get to the bottomless book.

This is why people all the time, they struggle with things in their life. They get that, they come to the end of their life, and they look back, and there is one bad choice after the other, and there is this and there is that, and they actually scratch their head and say, "I do not know how this all happened. I do not know why my life is so miserable." And yet I am telling you right now, you can look back to it, and in two things, you can look back in your life and see who you hung out with and who you listened to. You either listen to God, the Word of God, and the church that God gives you, or you will listen to people out there in the world or even in Christianity who hate church and hate God and hate everything about it. They will form you. You will be who you hang out with. Whatever you allow in your life, whatever you allow to come into your life, whatever influences you allow yourself or instructions you take or the people you listen to, negative people, remember electricity is positive and negative, and positive when you put them together never wins. They will destroy you and everything that you do. The number one thing that will keep you from ever attaining what God wants you to do is simply the people you associate with. A wise man will make you wise. A fool will make you foolish and destroy you. Positive and negative, you can never put them together and keep the lights on. Every head bow and every eye closed.