

# Proverbs 13:1

Sunday 10/11/2015

A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.

## I. Introduction to Proverbs 13:1 and Simplicity of God's Word

If you have your Bibles this morning, as they say in Star Trek, we are going to boldly go where no man has gone, we are going to enter Chapter 13 of the Book of Proverbs. I am telling you right now, no matter what chapter you are at in Proverbs, it is great stuff. It is always about the continuing theme of a wise man and a foolish man. Over and over again, I think the thing that Proverbs really nails home is that we see the Christian life is such a simple concept. It is simply two things: you are either a man who follows God's principles and becomes wise, or a fool who forsakes God's principles and stays a fool. One gets filled, as we have talked about in the last couple of weeks, with substance. He has a depth to him, or one is filled with mischief and causes all kinds of problems in his life. Proverbs has been a real in-depth study of man's obsession to complicate the basic, simple things of God. It is just that simple. No matter what God does, He does it in the most simple format.

I know that probably some of you, especially you new Christians, would have a hard time understanding what I am about to say. I get it, but I am going to tell you something. I know the Bible looks complicated. You look at it and you think, "66 books," and you look at all those words and all those chapters. I know that it can be intimidating to a young Christian; it can be intimidating to an older Christian. I want to tell you something: there is no easier book on the planet that was ever written than the Bible. The problem is, you have to do it God's way. When you make it complicated, it is because you are doing it man's way. Salvation is the simplest thing on the planet: simply believe in your heart, believe that God died for you, and ask Him to come into your heart and save you. What does man do with it? He makes it joining a church. He makes it going through a creed or following this or something you have to do. Man has an insatiable desire to take the things that are so basic and simple with God and to make them complicated.

Most churches want to keep you in the dark when it comes to really having a relationship with God in the Bible. They really do. They want you to get the idea that God is unapproachable; that He is somebody that all your life you can try and try and try, but you will never really get there. Of course, they have gotten there, but you will never get there. Pastors have an affinity for keeping people at a distance where they will never allow them to get to where they really understand their relationship with God. So they keep it complicated. Of course, there is nothing complicated about it. Proverbs has been a case study on that obsession of man, how he complicates and makes things so hard for the common person to grasp them. I have listened to guys that taught the Bible, and they could take the simplest thing in the Bible, and when they are done explaining it, I am confused because they try to complicate it. They just have to get away from the simple things. Really learning the Bible is just following a few basic rules. You follow the rules. You stay with the rules. You do not deviate from the rules. The Bible will unfold itself

for you. The Christian life is the same way. It is not complicated; it is not hard. You follow what God gives you to do, as we are going to see today, and it becomes very simple.

Our verse today, and we are only going to get through one verse today, but it is an incredible verse. It says:

*Proverbs 13:1*

*A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.*

Father, help us today to learn from this verse and to take from it the things that You have for us. We love You here, and Lord, we try to make everything as simple and plain for a common man to understand as we can. We know that there is no merit in trying to show off or be smart or try to impress somebody and keep things from them that You intended to be basic and simple. Someone told me years ago that the ministry and soul winning is nothing more than one beggar telling another beggar where to get bread. It is just that simple. Help us today as we come to this great verse to learn some things, to grow in some things, and to better understand where we are at with You. We will thank You and praise You. In Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

## II. The Power of Breaking Down Scripture

This first verse in Proverbs 13 is a verse that has much for us to look at and a lot of great applications through great examples in the Bible and their end result, both good and bad. This is what we call a cause and effect. What we do will cause one result or another. The verse says, `A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.` I want to walk you through today, looking at this simple little verse. I want to walk you through five applications of it. I want to show you five applications of this simple little verse that will help you, and you will see how this all comes together. It is remarkable to me when you can take one little verse like this, which seemingly is so common and self-explanatory, and then just keep getting things out of it as you break it down. But that is the beauty of the Bible.

I am reminded of a story in the New Testament when Jesus wanted to feed the multitude, and they did not have any food. They did not have any money for food. There was one little guy there that had loaves and fishes, and the Lord said, "Bring him forward, and I will take what he has and I will feed this great multitude." Obviously, everybody thought that was an impossible task. The disciples did not think it was going to happen. But He took the loaves and the fishes, and when He began to break them into pieces, that is where it began to multiply. He just kept breaking it down into pieces, and it kept multiplying. I have looked at that story many, many times, and I have thought to myself, "That is exactly how you learn the Bible." When you begin to break the Bible down in its simplest forms, it does the same thing that those loaves and fishes did: it begins to multiply itself. The breaking of those breads and that fish into pieces, and breaking it down, multiplied enough to feed everybody. If you want to learn the Bible, you start by breaking it down into those pieces, and when you break the Bible down into those pieces, the Holy Spirit of God then begins to multiply, and everybody gets fed. It is just that simple.

### III. Examples of Wise Sons Following Instruction

In your Bible, where it says `a wise son heareth his father's instruction`, the first thing I want to look at is that in the Bible, you will have examples of sons who really listen to the instructions of their father. They are great examples for us.

- Solomon
- Isaac
- The Sons of Jonadab

### IV. Examples of Foolish Sons Rejecting Instruction

The second aspect is, you have some bad sons. You have some good sons, and then you have some bad sons. These bad sons are the other part of Proverbs 13:1, that they will not take instructions; they will not take rebuke either.

- The Sons of Eli
- Esau
- Lot's Kids

These examples in the Bible illustrate the very verse we are looking at today and show you the end result of taking instructions from your father or not taking instructions from your father.

### V. Parental Instruction of Children

The third application will be to us as parents and our own children. The job of a parent is to instruct their children in the things of the Lord, bringing godly influences into their life, developing your parenting skills around the clear principles of the Bible. I have showed you many, many times, it is simple; there are just five simple stages of raising or training children that you put into their lives, that you instruct them through.

*Proverbs 22:6*

*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

This next verse is not in the Bible, but if I had ever wrote the Bible, I would have put it in next: "Train up a child in a way you go, don't train up a child and away he will go." Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

*Proverbs 4:1*

*Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.*

Then as a parent works through the instructions through their child, the Bible says in Proverbs 22:12:

*Proverbs 22:12*

*Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.*

Training up children is simply three basic things:

1. You teach them.
2. You instruct them.
3. You apply them.

It is just that simple.

## VI. Spiritual Fathers and Sons: Paul's Example

The fourth application will be to the people that God will bring into your life: the people that come to your church, the people that you are spiritually responsible for, spiritually speaking, the sons and daughters in the Lord that you all have or should have. The greatest example in the Bible is the Apostle Paul. Paul is probably the greatest single influence, or I should say he should be the greatest single influence, of everything in the Bible in our lives because in the New Testament, we are in a church. Paul was the apostle to the church, and his writings, you have heard me say it many, many times, his writings are absolutely key and invaluable to understanding what is going on.

I have always marveled at the way that the books in the Bible lay themselves out. I believe that the hand of God is in even that, because when you come into the New Testament, you obviously have Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and Acts. There are your historical books out of the way. Then Paul begins to write, and he writes the book of Romans to churches. In the book of Romans, where the church has just come into fruition in Acts, he establishes the church doctrine. The church is supposed to minister; that is the job of the church. So in 1 Corinthians, the next book, he teaches us how not to minister. In 2 Corinthians, the third book, he teaches us how to minister. The church should be grounded in their salvation, so the next book is Galatians. The theme of Galatians is justification by faith. The church should understand its own identity, who it is, so the next book, Ephesians, he lays out the church body mystery. The church should have a depth to it; the church should have a relationship with God. So the next book, Philippians, is the number one most spiritual book in the whole Bible. If you did not have any other book in the Bible, and you only had the 10 verses found in Philippians, you could get through your Christian life. Philippians is the only church that he writes to that does not have any issues. It is the closest church that Paul has in a relationship with, and it shows in his writings. Tremendous book for us. But then you have to watch out for what is going on in the day and age that we live in, so he writes the next book, Colossians. In Colossians, you will find the word Laodicea many times with all the warnings. In 1 Thessalonians, he talks about the five models for the Christian life, chapter by chapter. It is incredible. Then, of course, his last book that he writes to the churches will be 2 Thessalonians, and he comes back full circle, and here he talks about the Day of the Lord, the second coming of Christ. Each one of them will be a part of our overall understanding of the New Testament church and its function. If you want to figure out the church concept, get those books the way I gave them to you.

But then he does not stop there, does he? He then gives us the example of what we as individuals should be to the men and women that we win to Christ. The next three books that he writes are three books to three men that he calls his sons, sons in the Lord, young men that he won to Christ himself. Now we see the instruction that a spiritual father gives to his spiritual sons in three areas. It is incredible. We see in Proverbs 13:1 the instructions of the father. Here it is: Paul giving instruction to the young men that he won to Christ.

- Timothy
- Titus
- Philemon

## VII. Our Relationship as Sons of God to Our Heavenly Father

The fifth application will be you and me as a son, a son of God, to our Heavenly Father. This will be your personal relationship with the Lord and taking instructions from your Heavenly Father. Have you ever noticed in the Bible, if you really want a complete picture of you as a Christian, and you really want to understand yourself—and that is really a problem today with most of God's people, they do not understand who they are, they do not understand themselves; how can they understand somebody else when they do not even have an understanding start about themselves? But have you ever seen the different ways to study and look at our Christian life as it relates to God and our relationship with Him? A complete component, a complete composite of the Christian life. There are seven ways you do that in the Bible, and each one of them carries with it a specific aspect or dimension to your Christian life that when you get this one, understand this one, this one, five, four, five, six, seven, and then you take all and you put them all back together, you have a complete picture.

Do you know what the first one is?

4. The first one is found in 2 Corinthians 11:1-4, where the Bible calls you and I, as the church, a virgin, a chaste virgin. When you lay all that out—and I do not have time to get into all of it at this point—but when you lay all that out, you have a picture of the fact that in that passage, He wants you to stay pure. He does not want you messing with the world. He does not want you messing with the things of the devil. He does not want you getting beguiled and getting tricked. He wants you as a chaste virgin so that when He presents you to Christ, you stand on your own because you had a good relationship with Him.
5. The second aspect of your father's is in Revelation 21:2-9, and that is where you look at yourself as a bride. You say, "Well, I am a man." You are a bride; you are the bride of Christ. When you go through Revelation 21:2-9 and other places in the Bible, you will know that this deals with your relationship with Christ in an intimate way. It does not matter if you are a man or you are a woman, and that confuses some people. "How am I going to be, how can I be, how can I, I am a man, how can I be a bride to Christ when I am a man?" It is a picture of you being the weaker vessel in the relationship. You and I are weaker vessels in our relationship with Christ, and the bride of Christ, the church, is likened to His bride. God has a

whole nation that is His wife, Israel, and Christ has a bride, the church. We are not talking about individuals here; we are talking about in a sense of intimacy of a relationship.

6. The third thing you find is in Romans 8:16-17. Someday you are going to be a king; you are going to be a joint-heir with Jesus Christ, or we hope so: your millennial inheritance.
7. The fourth thing will be found in 1 John 3:2:1 John 3:2

Behold, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. You are a son of God in that aspect. That is your daily walk with Him in receiving instructions as a son from the Father. That is your prayer life; that is your devotion life; that is your walking through life hand in hand as a child with your Heavenly Father.

8. The fifth thing will be found in the book of Mark, and that will be the fact that you need to be a servant. A servant as a bondsman. A servant has no rights. Mark, in that Gospel, portrays Christ in four different ways: in Matthew, He is the King; in Mark, He is the Servant; in Luke, He is the Son of Man; and in John, He is the Son of God. You see in Mark that you and I are to be a servant. That is the judgment seat of Christ, 1 Corinthians 3, 2 Corinthians 5. We looked at it Thursday night.
9. The sixth thing the Bible talks about is that we are to be a steward. 1 Corinthians 4:1 says that as a steward, we are to be faithful. That is all the things that God has given us. Most of God's people do not even, most of God's people fail to be faithful as a steward because they do not even know what God gave them.
10. The seventh thing is Matthew 18:2-3. You are likened to a child, childlike faith. The devil wants you to be educated. I have nothing wrong with education, but education that gets you outside the Word of God, that makes you think you are smarter than God, I have a problem with that, and so does the Lord. You are to be a child all of your life, just like Solomon. Do not know nothing, do not know something, do not understand anything, so stupid. Do not suspect anything. Everything in your life, you wait upon God's instructions. You go to that book for everything, like a little child going to his father.

You get those seven things in your life and deeply understand them and get them working for you. Each one will carry with it a different aspect to our relationship with Christ. When the Bible talks about being complete, the completeness of Christianity, it is in these seven areas of getting them down and understanding them. That is the key.

## VIII. The Perfection of God's Word and Its Application

As a son, we look to our father for our guidance, and through His Word, He will instruct us. In a physical sense, the structure is a family, which is run by the father. In a spiritual sense, the structure is a family church, brothers and sisters in Christ, run by the Father, the Holy Spirit of God, and the Word of God that instructs us through the Word of God. When in a physical family the children will not follow the instructions of the father, there are going to be issues; the family is going to break down. In a spiritual way, in God's family, every issue that comes up that breaks down a church or they have problems with will simply be because they will not follow the instructions of the Father to fix it. It is just that simple, not complicated, never hard.

## 2 Timothy 3:16-17

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

*That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

The Bible says that the instructions in righteousness will only come after you get doctrine, because you have to know what is right. The Bible says instructions in righteousness will only come after you get reproof, because there are some things in your life that you have to change that the doctrine shows you what is wrong, and then you change what is wrong through the reproof. He also says correction. Correction is now you taking what you see, taking what you have done, taking the reproof, and you correct your course in life, and you go this way. When you get those three things down, then the Bible says you get the instructions in righteousness.

This is why not everybody will do it. Some people do not want to be told what is right. Some people do not care what is right. Some people will not take reproof; they will not take it; they will not take rebuke. You start to tell them what they do not want to hear, and they are out the door. They just turn it off; they want to hear nothing about it. Those kind of people never get any correction in their life; they become unteachable. But what is worse, they never get the instructions that God has for them.

Then he says that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works. You need to see and understand this because it is the key. There are two areas that the instructions of a father perfects you in your Christian life. We are not talking about sinless perfection here; you are never going to be perfect sinlessly until Christ comes back and you get your body. What he is talking about here is being perfected for the work of the ministry, what God has called you to do, and you can be perfected in that. You get better at it every day as you take the instructions.

There are two simple words here. The first word is the word `throughly`. In all the new Bibles, the word is changed to `thoroughly`. Your King James Bible uses the word based on the doctrine taught through all the Bible, `throughly`, because the King James translators knew and understood that what changes you starts on the inside and works out. Philippians 1:6 says, `Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:` It starts in your heart. It comes to the point where it changes the things about you.

We see in Christianity today a lot of legalism, and legalism is nothing more than man-made rules. I realize that as Christians, we follow rules, but they are biblical rules. The idea of legalism, which is pretty much gone by the wayside a lot today, it used to be real big back in the 70s and the 80s. Man showed up a set of rules. There were people who came to church that did not have the right haircut; hair was too long, they were asked to leave. There were people who came to church that if they did not dress the right way, they were asked to leave. They actually thought that as a human nature, you could command spirituality by legislating morals through human rules.

The old story joke is that a woman showed up at church one time, and her skirt was up to here. The deacon said, "You have to go home, ma'am, you cannot stay here like that. Your dress is too short." She says, "Okay, no problem." So she goes back. She comes out next week, and it was so thin you could see right through it. They said to her again, "Ma'am, you are going to have to go home again. This dress is long enough, but it is just too thin." She came back the next week, and she had another skirt on, or it was so tight that it was just... and they said, "Ma'am, you are going to have to go home." She looked at him and said, "Okay, let me get this right now. I have to have my skirt long, it has to be thick, and it has to be loose." Human nature will always find a way around any human rule you put down on it.

A kid's daddy went to a kid one time, and he said, "Son, why don't you, you are eating a lot of chocolate, why don't you give up chocolate for Lent?" And the kid said, "Well, Daddy, you never give up anything for Lent." And Daddy said, "Yes, I did. For Lent, I gave up drinking liquor." And the kid said, "Daddy, that is not true, I saw you drink a beer last night." He said, "Well, I gave up drinking hard liquor." The kid said, "Okay, I will give up eating hard candy and just eat soft candy." Always a way around when it comes to human nature. You cannot legislate human rules; it has to be biblical rules; it has to be from the heart. When I preach to somebody, I do not preach out rules; I preach toward their heart. I have learned over the years that if you get a man's heart or a woman's heart, whatever they wear, whatever they do, will be just right because when they are dressing in the morning, they are dressing to please the Lord, not somebody else. It starts in your heart. Rules do not make you spiritual; it starts inside. When the Word of God, the word `throughly`, is right on the money because it starts in your heart, and then the Word of God works through you. The instructions work from the inside out: `throughly`, not `thoroughly`.

The second word is `furnished`. In all the new Bibles, it is either `finished` or it is `equipped`. You see there again, the King James translator knew exactly the doctrine that they wanted to project here that is based on all the way through the Bible because they knew that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which you have of God. They knew that in the Old Testament, the Old Testament tabernacle was a picture of your body. They also realized that there in that Old Testament, there were seven pieces of furniture: there was the brazen altar, there was a laver of water, there was a golden censer, there was the table of the showbread, there was a candlestick, there was the altar of incense, and there was the Holy of Holies. They knew that each one of them pictured something inside your very soul because that is what the picture is.

- The brazen altar, which is laid out in Ezekiel 27, was a picture of God's judgment on His Son. Brass in the Bible is a picture of judgment. That is where the sacrifice was burned.
- The laver of water, which is laid out in Ezekiel 30, was right outside the door, and they knew that that priest went in and came out to do the ministry. That tabernacle had no floor in it; it was just dirt and sand. So every time he went in and came back out and did what he did, before he would go back in, he would have to wash his feet. That is a picture of you ministering in the Word and getting your feet dirty, so you wash with the water of the Word, get clean before you go back in and minister again.

- There was a golden censer in Leviticus 16 where they put the incense that burned and gave off a smell. It is a picture of your own personal prayer life, that you pray without ceasing wherever you go.
- There was the table of the showbread that was over here, and it was a table set up, and it had bread that was fresh baked every morning, and it had six and six, twelve for the nation of Israel, but it is the type of the Word of God, so there are six and six because your Bible in its final form has 66 books in it.
- Then on the other side, across from it, was the golden candlestick that had seven candles on it, a picture of the seven Spirits of God in Isaiah 11. There was no light in that tabernacle; everything was completely covered with animal skin, so it was pitch black. The candlestick is over here, and the showbread is over here, and the job of the priest, everything he did, he had to do by the light of that candlestick. That is a picture of everything you do in your life; you have to do by the light of the Holy Spirit of God in your life. That bread over here, if he got here, he could not see what he was doing because he got in front of the Holy Spirit of God, the candlestick. So he had to come around and work from the back and let the light shine on him. That is what happens with you and me when we start to do the Word of God. When you get in front of the Holy Spirit of God, the light cannot shine on the Word of God; you do not get anything. When you get behind it, let the Holy Spirit of God do its work, then you get something. I will tell you something else: they were out there in that world, shining out there, doing their work and everything, and they walked into that total pitch black darkness, only lighted by seven candles. They could not see anything. Ever walk into a movie theater in pitch black from daylight, and then go in pitch black with the movies before the movie starts? You have to stand still for a few minutes; you are going to break your neck on something. Your eyes have to adjust to it. When that priest left from the bright sunlight of the world into that tabernacle, he had to stop for a minute and let his eyes adjust to the light off the candlestick. When you first get saved, discipleship, people working with you in your life, is them helping you get your eyes adjusted to the new light that you see from looking at it through the world's light, now looking at it through the Holy Spirit's light. It is furnishings.
- You have the altar of incense, another picture of prayer.
- Then you have the Holy of Holies that represents your very soul, sealed unto the day of redemption, all that God has for you.

You begin to see that when you look at these instructions of a father and you see all the different five applications to it, how it all starts on the inside the day you get saved and then works out from there.

This is the admonishment of Proverbs 13:1: `A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.` One of the greatest studies in all the Bible is these five aspects of your relationship with your Heavenly Father, based on your being willing to take the instructions that He has for them and then apply them into your life.

A few minutes ago, I told you as a parent the three areas of your child that you want to focus on, but there are the exact three areas for you and me as a child of God with our Heavenly Father we want to focus on:

11. You want God to teach you.
12. You want God to instruct you.
13. Then you want God to show you how to apply what He has given you.

Those are the keys. All of that from that little verse, Proverbs 13:1. When you break it down, it just keeps multiplying itself. Every head bowed, every eye closed.