

A TOPICAL STUDY OF THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Lesson 14

SECTION : TREASURES IN PROVERBS  
TOPIC: Wisdom and Folly

INTRODUCTION

A beautiful description of wisdom is found in the book of James, also called the *Proverbs of the New Testament*. "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy". This wisdom is in the spiritual realm and involves discernment between good and evil and the commitment to good. Whenever you see the word "wisdom" in Proverbs, think "righteousness" and you will be on the right track. In the same way, the word foolish can be interpreted as "evil".

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

The person who is wise is often contrasted with the foolish person in the book of Proverbs. Look up some or all of the following verses. How do they compare and contrast the wise person with the fool?

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WISE AND FOOLISH

- Proverbs 1:7 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 10:8 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 10:21 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 10:23 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 10:31 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 12:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 12:16 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 12:18 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 14:33 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 15:14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 16:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 17:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 28:26 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 29:11 \_\_\_\_\_

REPUTATIONS OF THE WISE AND FOOLISH

Proverbs 10:13 \_\_\_\_\_  
Proverbs 14:18 \_\_\_\_\_  
Proverbs 29:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
Proverbs 14:24 \_\_\_\_\_  
Proverbs 15:21 \_\_\_\_\_  
Proverbs 22:5 \_\_\_\_\_

**SCRIPTURE RESEARCH**

This part of your homework gives additional Biblical references for this topic. Look up and comment on *at least* one verse in each topic:

ESSENTIALS OF WISDOM

job 28:28 \_\_\_\_\_  
I Corinthians 1:30 \_\_\_\_\_  
Colossians 2:2-3 \_\_\_\_\_

ACQUIRING WISDOM

Matthew 7:24 \_\_\_\_\_  
Colossians 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
James 1:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

MAN'S FOOLISHNESS....GOD'S WISDOM

I Corinthians 1:18-25 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James 3:13-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CONTRASTING WISDOM AND FOLLY

Ecclesiastes 2:12-19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SCRIPTURE REACTION**

As you searched and researched the scriptures on this topic, which ones spoke most strongly to you?

- What are the rewards of following wisdom (righteousness)?
  
- What spiritual lessons did you learn about foolishness (evil)?

**SCRIPTURAL ACTION**

Use the following chart to help you understand how your behavior can reflect the wisdom of God. In the first column, briefly write out what the verse says. In the second column, write what your need is in this area. Then, write down a possible application you feel God wants you to take to grow in His wisdom.

Verse	Characteristics	My Need	Application
Pr 1:7,8			
Pr. 29:11			
Pr 12:16			
Pr. 12:18			
Pr 9:7-8			
Pr 10:8			
Pr 12:15			
Pr 15:31			

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### SCRIPTURE CHALLENGE

This section of the homework is provided for those who want a deeper understanding of this topic:

Read Proverbs chapter 9. Wisdom and foolishness are portrayed as rival young women, each preparing a feast and inviting people to it. Wisdom is a responsible woman of character, while foolishness is a prostitute serving stolen food. Write a comparison of wisdom and folly found in these verses.

Read the account of the wise and foolish man in Matthew 7:24-27. How does this story minister to you about wisdom and foolishness?

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,  
but fools despise wisdom and instruction"*

Proverbs 1:7

