

**PROVERBS SERIES ONE**  
**ABOVE ALL GET WISDOM**  
**Dr. Roger Barrier**  
**Prov. 1:1-7;13:20; 22:7; 3:9-11**

This morning Glenn and I begin a new series entitled, *Street Smarts*—a study of the Book of Proverbs. Proverbs is all about the pursuit of wisdom. During the next several Sundays we will deal with some of the dominant themes of the Book. Since the Book is not arranged topically, we will range throughout the Book each week as we outline God’s teachings on how to get along successfully in life.

Let’s begin with a few examples of how important *Street Smart* is to live successfully in today’s world.

Proverb 15:1  
Proverb 26:17  
Proverb 19:11  
Proverb 12:16  
Proverb 17:10  
Proverb 18:17  
Proverb 20:29

Proverbs is more than clever sayings and little hints about how to our lives. Wisdom in the Proverbs becomes a Person. Wisdom is personified. *Logos* is wisdom and Jesus is the *Logos*.

Proverbs 1:1-7; 1:20-23; 3:13-18; 4:5-7; and 8:1-6, 10-11.

**THE PAYOFF IS HUGE WHEN WE ARRANGE OUR LIVES AROUND ACQUIRING WISDOM.**

Do you know any wise parents? Let’s put a value on wise parents. How much are they worth?

Proverb 2:1-2, 5, 9, 12, and 20 show the value of wise fathers.

Proverb 31:28-30 says the same thing about wise mothers.

What is the value of parental wisdom? Ask children who have grown up with wise parents and they will tell you it is better than gold.

Turn this around and talk with parents who raise up children who walk in paths of wisdom. What is that worth, parents? It is better than gold.

Proverb 15:20

Do you know any one who works wisely? Generally, people who work skillfully and wisely over a long time will be esteemed highly and rewarded richly.

Proverb 22:29

**THE CONSEQUENCES ARE HUGE WHEN WE ARRANGE OUR LIVES AROUND FOOLISHNESS.**

Proverbs mentions several classes of people who desperately need wisdom: the fool, the simple, the scorners, the lazy, and the wicked.

Proverbs says there are consequences to foolishness. There are payoffs if you acquire wisdom. There are consequences if you don't.

Proverb 4:18-19

We are all born with a case of the follies. This has far reaching implications: we are not just born with a blank slate so that we can unbiasedly decide on either the foolish path or the wise path. We are all born with a bent toward foolishness. This foolishness has to be driven out step-by-step, day-by-day, month-by-month, and the foolishness must be replaced by wisdom, or we are going to be dangerous people.

Proverb 22:15

Proverb 19:3: "A man's own folly ruins his life,  
yet his heart rages against the LORD."

Some of you are saying, "It is no accident that I showed up today. I have hurt myself and others enough! I have damaged enough relationships, squandered enough time and energy, shed enough tears, and drifted far enough from God's path to say, 'Enough folly! Enough.' I have had my fill. I don't want to pay those consequences any more. I am tired of my life not working!"

NOW IS THE TIME TO ENROLL IN THE SCHOOL OF WISDOM.

1. Start With The Fact That There Is A Personal God Who Is Head Over Heels In Love With You, And Has Extended To You The Hand Of Forgiveness Through Jesus Christ And Says, "Take My Hand And I Will Make Your Life Work."

Some say, "I will get on a self-improvement plan and make better choices." Friends, you will make about the same choices you made in the past unless you put your hand in the hand of God and get a new power to go a new way.

2. Apply Wisdom To Your Life.

Read Proverbs every day and the energy of your life will go to wisdom and not to folly.

Proverb 22:7

Proverb 3: 9-10

3. Hang Out With Wise People

Proverb 13:20