

## CHAPTER 1

**T**HE proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;

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

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

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

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

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

7 ¶ The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

9 For they *shall be* an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

10 ¶ My son, if sinners entice

thee, consent thou not.

11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

12 Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

13 We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:

14 Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:

15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

18 And they lay wait for their *own* blood; they lurk privily for their *own* lives.

19 So *are* the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; *which* taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

20 ¶ Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:

21 She crieth in the chief place

of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, *saying*,

22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

24 ¶ Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

31 Therefore shall they eat of

the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

## CHAPTER 2

**M**Y son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding;

3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding;

4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures;

5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.

7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: *he is* a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; *yea*, every good path.

10 ¶ When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:

12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil *man*, from the man that speaketh froward things;

13 Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;

14 Who rejoyce to do evil, *and* delight in the frowardness of the wicked;

15 Whose ways *are* crooked, and *they* froward in their paths:

16 To deliver thee from the strange woman, *even* from the stranger *which* flattereth with her words;

17 Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.

18 For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.

19 None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.

20 That thou mayest walk in the

way of good *men*, and keep the paths of the righteous.

21 For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.

22 But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

### CHAPTER 3

**M**Y son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

5 ¶ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

7 ¶ Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

11 ¶ My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son *in whom* he delighteth.

13 ¶ Happy *is* the man *that* findeth wisdom, and the man *that*getteth understanding.

14 For the merchandise of it *is* better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

15 She *is* more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

16 Length of days *is* in her right hand; *and* in her left hand riches and honour.

17 Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness, and all her paths *are* peace.

18 She *is* a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy *is every one* that retaineth her.

19 The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

20 By his knowledge the depths

are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

21 ¶ My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:

22 So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.

23 Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

24 When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

25 Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

26 For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

27 ¶ Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do *it*.

28 Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.

29 Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.

30 ¶ Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.

31 ¶ Envy thou not the oppres-

sor, and choose none of his ways.

32 For the froward *is* abomination to the LORD: but his secret *is* with the righteous.

33 ¶ The curse of the LORD *is* in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just.

34 Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.

35 The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

## DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Our English word “proverb” is actually made up of two Latin words, “pro” (instead of) and “verba” (words). Therefore, a proverb is a short statement that summarizes a wise principle. Mr. Scofield writes, “Proverbs is divine wisdom applied to the earthly conditions of the people of God.” The Hebrew word translated “proverb” means “a comparison.” As we shall see, many of the Proverbs of Solomon are comparisons and contrasts. Like most Oriental people, the Jews did much teaching through proverbs. The short sentences were easy for them to remember.

Chapters 1:1, 10:1 and 25:1 indicate that Solomon wrote most of the Book of Proverbs. In 1 Kings 4:32 we read that he spoke 3,000 proverbs. Solomon was known for his wisdom, even though, later in his life, he turned to adultery and folly.

The key word in this book is “wisdom.” We commonly think of wisdom as the ability to use knowledge in the right way, and this is a practical definition. However, in the Bible, wisdom means much more than that. It is a matter of the heart and not the mind alone. It is a spiritual matter. There is the wisdom of this world, and there is divine wisdom from above (1 Corinthians 2:1-8; James 3:13-19).

In the Book of Proverbs wisdom is actually pictured as a lovely woman who calls to men to follow her into a life of blessing and success. Folly is pictured as a wicked woman who tempts the foolish and leads them to hell. Of course, to the believer, Jesus Christ is the wisdom of God, and when you read Solomon’s description of wisdom in Proverbs, you cannot help but see Jesus Christ. Wisdom is pictured as eternal, creator of all things, the beloved of God.

In the first few chapters of the book we will consider wisdom and folly—the two women who are out to woo and win the hearts of men. There are three calls from wisdom and three from folly. Wisdom calls to salvation, wealth, and life. Folly calls to condemnation, poverty, and death. Wisdom’s first call is to salvation (chapter 1:20-31). This is an open call, out in

the streets where people can see and hear. God’s call to hearts is not a secret matter. The Holy Spirit openly invites men to come to Christ. We might note that wisdom invites all three classes—the simple, the scorners, and the fool (chapter 1:22). Wisdom can see that judgment is coming and she wants sinners to escape it. What a wonderful offer she makes to those who will hear.

## PROVERB FOR TODAY

“Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father” (Proverbs 28:7).

## TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

**ASSIGNMENT 24:** For today’s memory verses, follow instructions on page 8.

## ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1767

**JOHN QUINCY ADAMS WAS BORN.**

1804

**THE ALEXANDER HAMILTON-AARON BURR DUEL.**

It is such a shame that people have to have hard and bitter feelings toward each other. This duel was simply an outward expression of the inward hatred and bitterness that can creep into a life. Hamilton was injured unto death and died the next day. What a waste of talent! Only eternity will reveal what has been caused by hard feelings, malice and bitterness in the heart. Maybe there is someone today against whom you hold malice or bitterness. May each of us examine his own heart today and ask God to help us to be right with Him and also right with our fellowman.

Read Ephesians 4:31,32: “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,

even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

**1922**

**DR. W.E. BIEDERWOLF BECAME DIRECTOR OF WINONA LAKE CHRISTIAN RETREAT.**

Dr. Biederwolf was a famous evangelist and author. The Winona Christian Retreat is perhaps the best known of its kind in the world today. Pray for Winona Lake and its work. Thank God for Dr. Biederwolf and all faithful evangelists of our day as well as him.

**ON THIS DATE IN  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

**1905**

**BLACK INTELLECTUALS AND ACTIVISTS ORGANIZED NIAGARA MOVEMENT** at meeting near Niagara Falls. Delegates from fourteen states, led by W.E.B. Du Bois and William Monroe Trotter, demanded abolition of all distinctions based on race.

**1954**

**FIRST WHITE CITIZENS COUNCIL ORGANIZED** in Indianola, Mississippi.

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# A Christian Life . . .

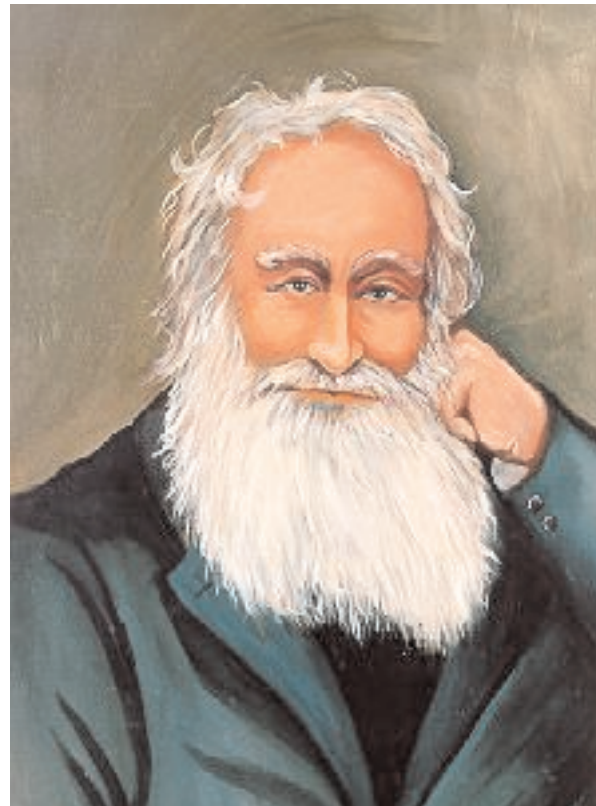
## ROBERT MOFFAT (1795-1883)

**Missionary to South Africa.** Robert Moffat was born in Ormiston, Scotland, of pious but poor parents. The educational advantages afforded him were limited, so, at a young age, he became an apprentice to learn gardening. Upon the completion of this apprenticeship, he moved to England where he was won to Christ through the efforts of the Wesleyan Methodists. With an intense desire to serve the Lord burning within him, he attended a missionary conference being held in Manchester, and there he felt the divine call to carry the Gospel to the heathen.

He was later accepted by the London Missionary Society, and at the age of 21, he sailed for Cape Town, South Africa. The hardships and primitive conditions did not deter him as he pushed northward into the interior, where he won to Christ the most dangerous outlaw chief in that region.

Returning to Cape Town in 1819, he met his fiancée, arriving from England, and they were married. Together, they spent the next 51 years on the mission field, experiencing the many hardships and sorrows of that primitive area. Three of their children died in infancy and youth. However, five of the remaining ones remained in Africa as missionaries. Mary, the oldest daughter, became the wife of David Livingstone.

The work of Moffat was, as it were, the stepping stones which others used in spreading the Gospel throughout the Dark Continent. He opened many mission stations and served as the pioneer missionary in an area of hundreds of square miles. He translated the Bible into the language of the Bechwanas, first having



reduced the language to written characters.

In 1870, after 54 years in Africa, he and his wife returned to England, where one year later she died. Moffat continued to promote foreign missions the rest of his life. He raised funds for a seminary that was built at the Kuruman Station, where native students were prepared for missionary work among their own people. At his death in 1883 the London newspaper said, "Perhaps no more genuine soul ever breathed. He addressed the cultured audiences within the majestic halls of Westminster Abbey with the same simple manner in which he led the worship in the huts of the savages."

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# Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

**MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:**

**DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "I CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE"**

(Assignment 24)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for the next seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning," page xiii near the front of this book.)

**A closed book to every one before conversion.**

( ) Romans 3:11

There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

**It is spiritually discerned.**

( ) 1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

**It may be foolish to the unsaved.**

( ) 1 Corinthians 1:18

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

**Carnal mind at enmity with God.**

( ) Romans 8:7

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

**God's writings are strange to the lost.**

( ) Hosea 8:12

I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing.