



# WISE UP

*Wisdom In Proverbs*

## WISE UP: WISDOM IN PROVERBS

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Second Edition

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# WHAT IS WISDOM?

This year we are going to center our study on the key word of the book of Proverbs—“wisdom.” Your years in middle school are a very important time in your life. No longer are you a child, but neither are you an adult. You are entering a time of life when you must learn what it means to be a mature, responsible young man or woman. You will have many important choices to make, and your parents will have to trust that you can make wise choices as you journey through the next few years. In some situations, learning to be wise will mean the difference between success and failure. Learn to be wise, and you will have success.

According to Proverbs 3:13-15, what four things cannot compare to the value or importance of wisdom?

1. silver
2. gold
3. rubies
4. anything else you may desire

Many people would value these things above anything else. But why is wisdom more valuable than any of these things?

Wisdom is more important and will last longer than any material possessions.  
By wisdom we understand how to obey God and receive His blessing.

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## WHAT WISDOM IS NOT

God’s Word is very specific about what wisdom is and what it is not. In the next few lessons we will study exactly what wisdom *is*. But first, let’s make sure we understand what it is *not*.

According to 1 Corinthians 2:4-8, there are two types of wisdom. What are the two types?

1. God's wisdom
2. Man's wisdom

How is the wisdom that comes from God described in these verses?

It was ordained by God before earth was created. It is powerful and of the Holy Spirit.

Read Proverbs 21:30. Explain in your own words exactly where wisdom *is* found and where it is *not* found.

Wisdom can be found only in the Lord. It will never be found apart from the Lord.

## MAN'S WAYS VS. THE WAYS OF GOD

Anything that denies or belittles God is not wisdom. Without God, there can be no true wisdom. What does Isaiah 55:8 teach us about God's thoughts and actions?

They are different from the ways of the world.

Therefore, atheism or godlessness in any form is not wisdom. One system of thought that teaches ideas opposed to God in today's society is humanism. Humanists say:

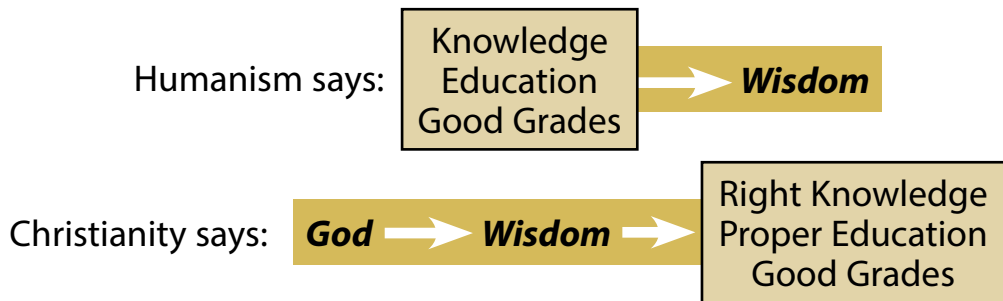
God is not the center of all things. In fact, there is no God, and there is no Creator. Instead, the world came into existence by itself. There is no God to tell us right from wrong. Man is the center of all things and in control of everything that happens. "Right" is anything that pleases man and adds to his pleasure. "Wrong" is anything that man dislikes. It is good and right for us to "do our own thing" or whatever will bring us pleasure and contentment.

Humanists say that *education* is the source of wisdom. Many people in the world have learned much of the knowledge of the world, but that does not mean they are wise.

Humanists say that good grades are the measure of wisdom. However, you may be the most intelligent person in your school and make all the honor rolls, but this does not necessarily mean that you are wise.

Make sure you understand the difference. Education and good grades do not make us wise. God alone makes us wise. A truly wise person will study hard and get the best grades possible because a wise person knows that God has given us the opportunity to understand the world He has created.

Knowledge is the accumulation of facts and ideas. Wisdom is knowing how to apply facts and ideas so that important choices can be made rightly.



Read 1 Corinthians 1:19-21 and 3:19-20 and answer the following questions.

- What will God destroy? (1:19)  
the wisdom of the wise
- What is the world unable to use in order to know God? (1:21)  
its own worldly wisdom
- What did it please God to use in saving those who believe? (1:21)  
the foolishness of preaching
- What is the world's wisdom in God's sight? (3:19)  
foolishness
- In God's sight, what are the thoughts of those who are "wise" in the worldly sense? (3:20)  
vain or futile

# THE FUTURE OF ALL HUMANISTIC THOUGHT

Go back to God's wisdom book, Proverbs, and see what God promises will happen to all those who do not listen to Him and follow Him. Read Proverbs 1:20-33 and describe what will happen to those who reject God and His wisdom.

God will mock them when what they fear has come upon them. Destruction and calamity will come to them. They will experience distress and anguish. God will not answer them.

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## WISDOM IS A PERSON

Read Proverbs 8:22-31. Compare what is said there with what is said in the New Testament in John 1:1-3, 10-12.

- Both passages are describing Whom?  
Jesus (wisdom personified)
- Read Colossians 2:3. According to this verse, what is in Christ?  
all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge

The Christ of Creation is the very wisdom and knowledge of God. If you know Jesus, you know God. And if you know and fear the Lord God, you will have wisdom.

## HOW WISDOM ACTS

We now understand that true wisdom comes only from God and only through knowing His Son, Jesus Christ. What then does wisdom have to do with salvation?

The first step toward wisdom is trusting Christ as your Savior.

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When we know Jesus Christ, we have the capability to act wisely. He can instruct us in wisdom and enable us to be wise. If you are trusting and obeying Christ as the Savior and Lord of your life, then He will change you to help you be more and more like Him (including in His wisdom) in all aspects of life! As we continue through our study of Proverbs this year, we will learn how wisdom applies to every aspect of our lives. Match the following verses to see just a few of the ways that having wisdom will affect your life:



D/A	1. Wisdom prepares for the future.	A. Prov. 22:3
G	2. Wisdom seeks salvation from hell.	B. Prov. 11:30
E	3. Wisdom is obedient.	C. James 3:17
B	4. Wisdom wins souls.	D. Prov. 30:24-26
D/A	5. Wisdom plans for the future.	E. Prov. 28:7
F	6. Wisdom fears the Lord.	F. Prov. 15:33
C	7. Wisdom is peaceable.	G. Prov. 15:24

## HOW THE UNWISE ACT

Using the seven examples above that show how wisdom acts, describe how the *unwise* act. In your explanation, do not just write the exact opposite of what the verse says. Use different wording to explain your ideas. For example, for the first one, do not simply say that the unwise do not prepare for the future. Instead, you might say that the unwise are concerned only about what is happening right now. The unwise...

1. are concerned only about now (today)
2. do not worry about heaven and hell
3. are stubborn and rebellious
4. do not care about others
5. do not plan for the future
6. do not respect God
7. have problems getting along with others

This year, as we study how wisdom works in our lives, we will be studying about our homes, our relationships with others, how we make decisions, what the future will be like, and many, many other ideas. To begin, look at the lists under “How Wisdom Acts” and “How the Unwise Act” and think through how wise you are in these seven areas. List

each idea in one of the boxes below. For example, take item #1. Do you prepare well for the future? If so, write this statement in the first row under the first column: "I prepare for the future." If this is not true of you, write this statement in the first row under the second column: "I am concerned only about now." From this, you will begin to see those areas in which you need to grow in wisdom, and you will be able to plan how to respond wisely in particular situations.

	Wise	Unwise
1.	Answers will vary.	
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		

# TEACHER'S LESSON

Humanism is man's attempt to solve his problems  
independently of God.

