

# COUNSELING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

## Part 18 – Proverbs 31

Series 10 – A Live Interactive Study  
In Proverbs  
with Dr. Christopher Cone

# Background of **Proverbs**

- Titled in the Hebrew, *sepher mish'le'i*, the meaning is literally *book of proverbs*.
- Several of the authors are named within the book: Solomon, Hezekiah's men, Agur, and King Lemuel.
- The book was probably compiled either by Hezekiah's men around 700 BC, or by a later redactor such as Ezra or the like.

# A Collection of Wisdom

- Proverbs is a collection of inspired, wise sayings
- Note the authority cited by 4 NT writers (who accounted for at least 16 of the 27 NT books)
  - Proverbs 3:11 in Hebrews 12:5-6
  - Proverbs 3:34 in James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5
  - Proverbs 10:12 in James 5:20, 1 Peter 4:8
  - Proverbs 11:31 in 1 Peter 4:18
  - Proverbs 22:8 in 2 Corinthians 9:7
  - Proverbs 25:21 in Romans 12:20
- Because it is a collection, we will handle it here exegetically *and* topically (verse by verse in topical context).

# PROVERBS

# Outline of Proverbs

Proverbs: The Wisdom of Righteousness

Proverbs of Solomon: To His Son	1-4	Heed Wisdom
	5	Avoid Adultery
	6	Of Diligence, Worth, & Purity
	7	Avoid Immorality
	8-9	Wisdom vs. Foolishness
1-9		
Proverbs of Solomon	10-18	The Righteous vs. The Wicked
	19-24	General Instruction
Proverbs of Solomon: Transcribed by Hezekiah's Men 25-29	25-26	Moral Comparatives
	27-29	General Instruction
30	Words of Agur to Ithiel & Ucal	
The Oracle of King Lemuel's Mother	31:1-9	The Excellent King
	31	31:10-31 The Excellent Wife

# Outline of Proverbs

## Proverbs: The Wisdom of Righteousness

1-9	7	Avoid Immorality
	8-9	Wisdom vs. Foolishness
Proverbs of Solomon 10-24	10-18	The Righteous vs. The Wicked
	19-24	General Instruction
Proverbs of Solomon: Transcribed by Hezekiah's Men 25-29	25-26	Moral Comparatives
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The Oracle of King Lemuel's Mother  31	31:1-9	The Excellent King
	31:10-31	The Excellent Wife



# Purpose Statement for **Proverbs**

To know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, to receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice, and equity; to give prudence to the naïve, to the youth knowledge and discretion, a wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel, to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles (1:2-6)



# Theme of Proverbs

“the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction” (1:7)...For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth comes wisdom and understanding” (2:6).



# Worldview Implications of **Proverbs**

Socio-Political

Sociopraxy

Ethics

For Believers  
For Unbelievers

Metaphysics

Eschatology  
Teleology  
Axiology  
Ontology

Epistemology

Interpreting Authority  
Source of Authority



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# One Way to Apply **Proverbs**



“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens **to counsel.**”  
– Proverbs 12:15

# Methodology of this Study

**Step 1** – As Proverbs provides wisdom, instruction, sayings of understanding, and instruction in wise behavior (1:1-3a), we will **exegete each individual proverb** in its own context.

**Step 2** – We will identify each individual proverb's **thematic emphasis as counsel**.

**Step 3** – We will **categorize each proverb** into an area of counseling to develop an approach for practically applying the Proverbs

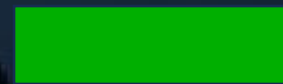
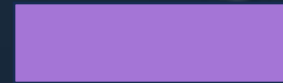
**Step 4** – We will seek to be wise people who listen to counsel, as in Proverbs 12:15



# Some Thematic Emphases / Counseling Topics

- Identity, Purpose, Priorities Counseling
- Depression and Anxiety Counseling
- Pre-Marital and Marital Counseling
- Parental/Children Counseling
- Financial/Stewardship Counseling
- Addiction Counseling
- Abuse and Trauma Counseling
- Conflict Counseling

Your Assignment: Highlight and Categorize Every Verse In Proverbs Using Eight Colors:





# Counseling Content (Some Secondary Applications)

## Proverbs 31



Identity, Purpose, Priorities Counseling (31:8-9,30)




Depression and Anxiety Counseling (31:25)



Pre-Marital and Marital Counseling (31:3,10,11-31)



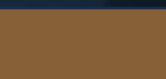
Parental/Children Counseling (31:2,28)



Financial/Stewardship Counseling (31:10,13-22,24,27)



Addiction Counseling (31:4-7)



Abuse and Trauma Counseling



Conflict Counseling



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