

PROVERBS: LESSON 1

(Jerry Fite)

INTRODUCTION:

1. In this lesson we see the wise advise coming from a parent to a son or sons.
2. We will examine the first three hortatory lessons that are especially geared for the inexperienced in life.

I. DON'T BE ENTICED TO FOLLOW GANGS TO SHED BLOOD OR WRONG A NEIGHBOR (1:8-19).

- A. The commands of father or mother are to be heard and obeyed (v.8)
 1. An attractive characteristic for youth (v.9).
- B. Invitation to murder and rob the innocent (v.10-12).
- C. Enticing reward: precious substance for all to share (v.13-14).
- D. The voice of wisdom: Refrain from walking with them in the path of evil (v.15-16).
- E. Wisdom's insight: The evil doers are actually laying wait for their own destruction (v.17-18).

II. WISDOM WARNS HER DESPISERS (1:20-33).

- A. Wisdom is available and accessible (v.20-21).
- B. Wisdom cries out to be heard and obeyed (v.22-23).
- C. Wisdom's plea is disregarded (v.24-25).
- D. Calamity comes - despisers cry out - no answer (v.25-30).
- E. The despisers are reaping destruction for their disregard for God's ways (v.31-32).
- F. Wisdom's insight - Hearken unto wisdom and you will dwell securely, not fearing evil (v.33).

III. BENEFITS FROM EARNEST STRIVING AFTER WISDOM (2:1-22).

- A. The earnest seeking after Jehovah's wisdom (v.1-6).
- B. Wisdom that preserves and protects in the right way (v.7-11).

C. Wisdom delivers the inexperienced from men that speak and love to do evil (v.12-15).

D. Wisdom delivers the inexperienced from the enticements of the strange woman that leads one away from God unto eternal ruin (v.16-19).

E. Wisdom's insight: - the upright shall dwell in the land, the wicked will be rooted out (v.20-22).

QUESTIONS:

1. Is the parents' demand, "obey me" harmful to a child's well-being in society?
2. Is "laying down the law" to our children only the father's responsibility?
3. Explain: "For in vain is the net spread in the sight of any bird."
4. Is God's wisdom something we can never know in a practical way?
5. Is the fear of Jehovah more properly described as an emotion to be felt, or a choice to be made?
6. What New Testament passage fits the principle found in 1:31?
7. The fear of Jehovah will produce good for us when we do what unto it?
8. How does discretion watch over you and understanding keep you?
9. Who has the strange woman turned away from?
10. Where does the path to the strange woman's house lead?

