

The only thing that matters is that you are reading God's word regularly. While that is still true with this schedule, the goal with this one is to get a better understanding of the entire story of the bible. There is no substitute for reading God's word. Keep reading! My website is at <http://graceofourlord.wordpress.com>. I encourage you to get the actual reading plan I am currently following. You can get it from the same place I do - at [this link](#). They have some great guidance for the reading plan there as well, and they have it all in both PDF and in Kindle format!

January 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Proverbs 1	2 Proverbs 2	3 Proverbs 3	4 Proverbs 4	5
6	7 Proverbs 5	8 Proverbs 6	9 Proverbs 7	10 Proverbs 8	11 Proverbs 9	12
13	14 Psalm 119:1-8; Psalm 1	15 Proverbs 10	16 Psalms 3-4	17 Job 1	18 Psalm 9	19
20	21 Psalm 119:9-16; Psalm 2	22 Proverbs 11	23 Psalms 5-6	24 Job 2	25 Psalm 8	26
27	28 Psalm 119:17-24; Psalm 11	29 Proverbs 12	30 Psalm 7	31 Job 3	Feb 1 Psalm 10	

## January 2013 Week 1 (Week 1) Summary

**Proverbs 1, 2, 3, and 4 - Click the chapter below to go to the ESV Bible passage for that chapter and read or listen.**

[Proverbs 1](#) - The first 9 verses set the tone, and are widely regarded as the introduction of the entire purpose of the Book of Proverbs. Coffman wrote "Wisdom is the ability to use knowledge aright," and that the Christian has an advantage in that respect as [1 Corinthians 1:30](#) tells us that "because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption." Verse 7 is the key: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." Coffman's comment on this is dead on:

*"This is not a reference to abject craven fear, or terror, but to the awesome respect, honor, and deference to God and his will which automatically come to every mind that contemplates the omnipotence, glory, and holiness of Almighty God. This expression is found fourteen times in Proverbs." This latter fact is not inconsequential. Every one of these fourteen passages*

containing those words conveys the richness of life and wisdom that comes to those that have this proper reverence and awe, and know the Almighty and the importance He places on things such as good, evil, and discipline (for reference, the others are [Proverbs 1:29](#), [2:5](#), [8:13](#), [9:10](#), [10:27](#), [14:26](#), [14:27](#), [15:16](#), [15:33](#), [16:6](#), [19:23](#), [22:4](#), and [23:17](#)). The word "instruction" in verse 7 appears 26 times in the book, and the Hebrew incorporates "discipline" into its meaning. This is central to understanding the "instruction" in verse seven and referenced elsewhere.

Verses 18 and 31 drive home the point, making clear that one's actions contrary to good and righteousness mete out their own punishment to them. The application of this instruction and wisdom to the young, as emphasized in verses 4 and 8-9, are underscored in [Ephesians 6:1-4](#) as well.

[Proverbs 2](#) – It is generally thought by many that Solomon in these verses that contain the words "my son" is addressing his direct offspring in particular. While that may certainly be the case, it is good to remember that these are the Spirit-inspired words of God; and they are meant for sons (and daughters) descended from this Davidic line (and that of Abraham) which includes all Christians, as confirmed in [Galatians 3:29](#).

The seeking of wisdom that is being referred to in the verses here is done by getting to know God by studying His word. If we diligently and earnestly seek that knowledge like the treasure that it is (verse 4), we will gain the understanding that we need. But it takes more than that - we must apply it to our lives - holding fast and cherishing our integrity like a treasure as well (verse 7), for it is that sort of life, coupled with the thirst for knowledge of Him, that will bring wisdom into our hearts and make that knowledge pleasant to our souls (verse 10). If we live in an upright manner, with integrity (verse 21), we will have a home - in heaven - forever.

[Proverbs 3](#) – As the reader is admonished to "*keep my commandments...*," verse 3 begins with "*Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you.*" As this chapter heavily emphasizes trusting in the Lord, this would seem to refer to the steadfast love and faithfulness of the Lord Himself, as declared to Moses in [Exodus 34:6](#), as He affirmed His covenantal relationship at Sinai. Verses 5-7 contain the best timeless advice perhaps of the whole chapter - trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding, and be not wise in your own eyes. The folly of man in ignoring these three things (while believing that our own knowledge and our own understanding of the world is not flawed) has no doubt cost many their very souls - and will likely continue to do so. The word of God, however, is unchanging and perfect.

But then, come verses 11-12. These should not be taken to mean that God causes afflictions and trials to come upon us (as we will see in Job), but simply mean that He does allow those things to happen; and that in no way detracts from the fact that He loves us, as a father loves his children. Building character and discipline through these trials gives us strength, integrity, and produces **steadfastness** in us as well ([James 1:2-4](#)).

Part of the rest of this chapter's message of wisdom is in how we treat others, and how righteous living has an effect on them and, ultimately, on our own well-being. And these points are all tied back to verse 4, which says that by living in such a manner, we "*will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.*"

[Proverbs 4](#) – The assumption by some that these words from Solomon were ever intended solely for his own sons is completely shattered in verse one. In the same sentence that he calls upon the reader ("*O sons*") to hear, just exactly what they are to hear is said to be "*a father's instruction*" - not **your** father's instruction. He then goes on to say how he received his own instruction from his father. The Book of Proverbs is replete with the conveyance of the importance of the instruction given to children by a father and a mother. But the message here is more than that. It is the timeless wisdom passed on through generations both by earthly father to father, and by our heavenly Father. God has made Himself known to all, both by His word and through the knowledge that He reveals to us daily in the world He created ([Romans 1:18-20](#), [Psalm 19:1-2](#)).

Verse 7 may seem difficult to understand at first, but it simply means that in order to acquire wisdom, we have to work at it. We have knowledge freely available to us, but wisdom only comes from searching through that knowledge for understanding - insight - and applying it to our lives. This is true of worldly wisdom, and of the wisdom that comes to us by reverence for our Creator ("fear of the Lord"). The wisdom and understanding both comes from, and leads to, the pursuit of a righteous and godly way of living, increasing its effectiveness in our lives as we gain it (verses 10-13).