

# February

**Feb. 1** Prov. 1 – The Beginning of Wisdom – What do you know of Solomon? How “wise and disciplined” was he? What is “the fear of the Lord”? Why the frequent address “my son”? Why talk of wisdom as female? Why is wisdom personified?

**Feb 2** Prov. 2-3 – Benefits of Wisdom – Who is speaking “if you accept my words” (v.1)? What are crooked and straight paths? How do we “bind love and faithfulness around our neck” (3:3)? How is the Lord’s discipline a benefit to us?

**Feb 3** Prov. 4 – Wisdom is Supreme – How do we “get wisdom and understanding” (v.5, 7)? How is wisdom “supreme”? How do we let the words of wisdom out of our sight (v.21)? How do we “guard our heart” (v.23)?

**Feb 4** Prov. 5 – Warnings against Adultery – How are these verses “wisdom” to a single person? How are they “wisdom” to a married person? How did Solomon apply these words to his own life?

**Feb 5** Prov. 6 – Warnings against Folly – What is the “wisdom” for those who have done wrong? What does the ant teach us? What are the 7 things detestable to God? What does it mean to be “reduced to a loaf of bread”(v.26)?

**Feb 6** Prov. 7 – Warnings against the Adulteress - Why so much warning against adultery? Why is it so hard to resist temptations? Which temptations are hardest for you?

**Feb 7** Prov. 8 – Wisdom’s Call – How does this chapter compare with ch. 7? How was wisdom “the first of God’s works... from eternity” (v.22-23)? Why is it so much easier to seek the temptation of the adulterous rather than wisdom? What is the remedy for this?

**Feb 8** Prov. 9 – Invitations of Wisdom and Folly – What does it mean “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (v.10)? How does wisdom continue? Compare the message of “Folly” with the message of wisdom in this chapter. What is the warning?

**Feb 9** Prov. 10 – Man of Integrity - This is the beginning of a collection of 375 proverbs (10:1-22:16)! How can we meditate on them, when there are so many?

**Feb 10** Prov. 11 The righteous man - How is the righteous man (woman) described? Note the helpfulness of the contrasts. Note the references to the 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> commandments – as well as the description of a beautiful woman (v.22!)

**Feb 11** Prov. 12 Warning against evil – how can we “love discipline”? Note the importance of truth / Godly advice in these proverbs.

**Feb 12** Prov. 13 Wise son and companions – Some of these speak of craving vs. being satisfied / others speak of “spiritual anorexia” (a serious physical condition – even more serious in the spiritual realm!)

**Feb 13** Prov. 14 A way that seems right - Jane Fryer writes: “Many people are wrong about astronomy – they think the universe revolves around them!” – How do these proverbs speak to this common sin?

**Feb 14** Prov. 15 Eyes, Tongue, Heart – Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19-20) – How do these proverbs encourage us to use the parts of our body? Also note the references to building houses... or destroying them!

**Feb 15** Prov. 16 Commit all to the Lord - Note the change in proverbs with ch. 16-19 – rather than contrasts – these are “synthetic” – adding more information / expanding the first statement. Note how the focus is moved away from the person to focusing on “the fear of the Lord” – truly Godly living!

**Feb 16** Prov. 17 The Lord tests the heart – Once words are out of our mouths we lose control over them – note how many proverbs Solomon writes about the effect of our words: juicy words, angry words, deceitful words, hateful words, etc.

**Feb 17** Prov. 18 Words of mouth and lips – What do these proverbs say about speaking and listening? About work and laziness? Compare v.22 with 8:35 – interesting, isn’t it?

**Feb 18** Prov. 19 The Lord’s purpose prevails – What warnings do these proverbs give to the “fool”? What wise counsel to those who deal with anger and rage?

**Feb 19** Prov. 20 Wait for the Lord - How can a person avoid strife? Note v. 10 and v.23 – why the repetition? How did Godly discipline a blessing?

**Feb 20** Prov. 21 Justice brings joy - See v. 9 and 19 – (also husband?) Note how many proverbs assure us that the LORD is in control.

**Feb 21** Prov. 22 Sayings of the Wise - What is true wealth? What promise does v.6 give? What does it mean? Why the change in style v.17-21?

**Feb 22** Prov. 23-24 By wisdom a house is built - Why not “wear yourself out to get rich”? (v.4) Compare 23:13-14 with 22:6. Note also the wisdom to parents and children. How is your “house” being built?

**Feb 23** Prov. 25-29 Hezekiah’s collection - With 25:6-7 see Lk. 14:7-14. With 25:21-22 see Rom. 12:20. Compare 26:15 with 19:24 How to prevent a quarrel – 26:17-28. Note the proverbs about a quarrelsome wife, 27:15 (again!) Note the proverbs on prayer and confession 28:9, 13.

**Feb 24** Prov. 30 – Sayings of Agur (Sounds like the book of Job!) What is the answer to v.4? (Jn. 3:13) With v.6 see Deut. 4:2. With v.8 see Matt. 6:11. Note: 2 things (v.7-9) and 4 things (“enough” v.15-16); see v.17 with the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment; 4 amazing things, v.18-19; 4 terrors, v.21-23; 4 small, powerful things, v.24-28; 4 stately things, v.29-31; and finally, “stirring up anger...”!

**Feb 25** Prov. 31 – Sayings of King Lemuel “his mother taught him” – warnings v.3-7; a pro-life Scripture v.8-9 (also 8<sup>th</sup> commandment); and v.10-31 is an acrostic poem (each line begins with the next letter of the alphabet) – note how she is the opposite of a “sluggard” and “adulteress” (warned against frequently in Proverbs) / the personification of “wisdom”!

**Feb 26** Eccl. 1-3 Meaning of things and Time - How can the king, son of David say that “everything is meaningless”? Why is this in the Bible? What is being compared? Since “the eye never has enough seeing nor the ear its fill of hearing” (1:8) how can there be “nothing new under the sun”? (1:9) What is the alternative to “under the sun”? (“over the sun”?) How might 2:24-26 really be “meaningless” to some people? In ch. 3 – what is “the burden God has laid on man”? Does this chapter teach “eat, drink and be merry”?

**Feb 27** Eccl. 4-8 Evils under the sun and wisdom – Why such negative statements? Why are 4:9-12 sometimes used at a ding? What warnings does ch. 5 give to the use of our mouths? Note 5:18 is a theme of this book. What is “a gift of God”? (5:19-20) Note all the “better’s” in ch. 7. See 8:15 – “eat, drink and be merry”? again?

**Feb 28** Eccl. 9-12 Remember your Creator - What is “the same destiny” in ch. 9? What is your “lot in life”? (9:7-10) Is ch. 10:19 true? How can it be said? What is meant by “cast you bread upon the waters” (11:1) and “sow your

seed in the morning" (11:6)? How does ch. 12 describe old age? Why "one Shepherd" in 12:11? Note the conclusion when "all has been heard" – 12:13-14