

## **What are these chapters about?**

The first nine chapters of Proverbs are about wisdom. According to Solomon, wisdom is grounded in the fear of the Lord. This fear is not the same kind of emotion we associate with being scared of the boogey man or some urban legend. This fear is grounded in a humble dependence on the Lord God. It acknowledges God's role as the Supreme Ruler and Savior of the entire world. It comes before Him with hands open ready to receive His wisdom and grace.

## **Solomon seems to jump from subject to subject. Is there some kind of outline to this section of Scripture? Yes, here it is.**

1:1-7: The Purpose of the Book

1:8-19: Avoid Evil Associations

1:20-33: Don't Resist Woman Wisdom

2:1-22: The Benefits of the Way of Wisdom

3:1-12: Trust in the Lord

3:13-20: Praising Wisdom

3:21-35: The Integrity of Wisdom

4:1-9: Embrace Wisdom!

4:10-19: Stay on the Right Path

4:20-27: Guard Your Heart

5:1-23: Avoid Promiscuous Women; Love Your Wife

6:1-19: Wisdom Admonitions: Loans, Laziness, and Lying

6:20-35: The Danger of Adultery

7:1-27: Avoid Promiscuous Women: Part II

8:1-36: Wisdom's Autobiography

9:1-6, 13-18: The Ultimate Encounter: Wisdom or Folly

9:7-12: Miscellaneous Wisdom Sayings<sup>1</sup>

## **Why is wisdom so important?**

Life is rarely made up of black and white decisions. Oftentimes we have to prayerfully make decisions that are not spelled out for us in the Bible. For example, which job one takes after high school or college, is a decision not directly addressed in God's Word. Yet it is a decision that needs to be made with much wisdom.

Wisdom is simply the right application of God's Word. In the case of a job, while the Bible doesn't directly answer this decision for us, it does provide us with truths and principles, that when rightly applied, will help us make a godly decision.

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<sup>1</sup> Tremper Longman III, How to Read Proverbs, (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002), 23.