



Man, and His Search for Significance

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

February 1, 2026

Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.
– Proverbs 1:7 (NLT)

3 Classifications of People

The _____ ... *"These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young."* (vs.4)

The _____ ... *"Let the wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser. Let those with understanding receive guidance"* (vs.5)

The _____ ... *"but fools despise wisdom and discipline."* (vs.7b)

Ultimately, how we respond to _____ will determine which path of life we experience ... we live in a moral universe.

Goodness and justice are objective realities that we ignore at our own peril. To _____ and _____ is to live along with the grain of God's Design.

Don't Just Make a Living ... Make a Life! – Prov. 1:1-7

1. The Pathway to Making a Life consists of ... vs. 2-4
Cf. Matthew 6:19-21; 33; Luke 12:15; Eccl. 2:24; 1 Tim. 6:6-8
 - Learning the art of _____
 - Gaining _____
 - Developing _____
 - Establishing a _____
2. This Pathway is a _____, not a _____ ... vs. 5
Cf. Philippians 1:6; 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Corinthians 3:18
3. This Pathway requires _____ ... vs. 6
Cf. 1 Timothy 4:15; Hebrews 12:1-2; Ephesians 5:15-16

In Summary ...

1. The Pathway to Making a Life leads to a _____, not a _____.
2. Every Path that leaves _____ omits the Central Principle of Creation.
3. God honors the Man who Builds his life on _____.

Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

PSALM 20: INTERCESSION AND VICTORY

The context of Psalm 20 is that King David was preparing for a big battle. Many are battling their own wars today—waging war against strongholds and addictions, fighting for marriages, and so much more. Think of those in Celebrate Recovery. Think of those who are battling quietly with unspoken struggles. Psalm 20 can be a great pattern for prayer!

KING DAVID WENT TO THE SYNAGOGUE PRIOR TO BATTLE. PEOPLE GATHERED TO PRAY FOR HIM! (v 1-4)

May the one going into "battle" go to a source of help—people gathered to seek the Lord on their behalf. May we pray for others just as the people prayed for King David...

- Lord, (someone) is fighting (this battle). **Answer** them in the day of trouble and when they cry out for help.
- God of Jacob, defend (this person). **Send help! Strengthen (him)** with Your strength!
It is so easy to read "God of Jacob" without realizing the significance of this name of God. Think back to Jacob's character before his name was changed to Israel. He was a conniver and deceitful. "God of Jacob" depicts the power of God to change and renew a life because of a struggle. It signifies God's role in protecting people who are flawed. Oh, God of Jacob...defend and protect!
- Let the sacrifices already given by this person move You, Lord, to fulfill Your promises.
- Grant this person's desires and fulfill all Your purpose! Help him delight in You so his desires will come to align with YOUR desires.

DAVID REFLECTED AND EXPANDED ON THE PEOPLES' PRAYERS. (v5-8)

- The Lord saves those who He has anointed. He will answer with the saving might and strength of His right hand.
- Some trust in chariots and some in horses. *(Today some trust in their finances, traditions, knowledge, or possessions. Some trust in people or experts.) See also, Isaiah 31:1*
- But WE will actively recall the attributes of the LORD our God. WE will actively rely on God and surrender according to His will.)

THEN THEY ALL PRAYED. (v 9)

- Oh, Lord, save (this person)! Bring victory! Defend, deliver, and preserve the lives of those who are in the battle. Answer them when they call.



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3 Classifications of People

The **Simpleton** ... "These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young." (vs.4)

The **Wise** ... "Let the wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser. Let those with understanding receive guidance" (vs.5)

The **Fool** ... "but fools despise wisdom and discipline." (vs.7b)

Ultimately, how we respond to **Wisdom** will determine which path of life we experience ... we live in a moral universe. Goodness and justice are objective realities that we ignore at our own peril. To **Fear the Lord** and **Live Wisely** is to live along with the grain of God's Design.

Don't Just Make a Living ... Make a Life! – Prov. 1:1-7

1. The Pathway to Making a Life consists of ... vs. 2-4
Cf. Matthew 6:19-21; 33; Luke 12:15; Eccl. 2:24; 1 Tim. 6:6-8
 - Learning the art of **Skillful Living**
 - Gaining **Mental Alertness**
 - Developing **Moral Insight**
 - Establishing a **Pattern of Growth**
2. This Pathway is a **Journey**, not a **Destination** ... vs. 5
Cf. Philippians 1:6; 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Corinthians 3:18
3. This Pathway requires **Full Engagement** ... vs. 6
Cf. 1 Timothy 4:15; Hebrews 12:1-2; Ephesians 5:15-16

In Summary ...

1. The Pathway to Making a Life leads to a **Temple**, not a **Palace**.
2. Every Path that leaves **God Out** omits the Central Principle of Creation.
3. God honors the Man who Builds his life on **God's Unchanging Truth**.

Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

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The context of Psalm 20 is that King David was preparing for a big battle. Many are battling their own wars today—waging war against strongholds and addictions, fighting for marriages, and so much more. Think of those in Celebrate Recovery. Think of those who are battling quietly with unspoken struggles. Psalm 20 can be a great pattern for prayer!

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