

# sermon notes

---

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity  
October 15, 2023 | "Introduction to Proverbs"

---

1. **Who wrote Proverbs and to whom was it written?**

- Authors: King Solomon and others \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit
- Recipients: Both OT and NT \_\_\_\_\_

2. **What is a "proverb"?**

- A short pithy \_\_\_\_\_ expressing a general truth or piece of advice
- It communicates a \_\_\_\_\_ not a promise

3. **When was the book of Proverbs written?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ primarily during Solomon's kingship (971–931 BC)
- \_\_\_\_\_ and compiled during Hezekiah's kingship (715–686 BC)

4. **Where was the book of Proverbs written?**

- In ancient \_\_\_\_\_
- There are some parallels with other ANE \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Why study Proverbs?**

- To acquire \_\_\_\_\_ (1:1-6; 9:1-12)
- To escape the clutches of \_\_\_\_\_ (9:13-18)

6. **How do we apply the book of Proverbs?**

- **Vertically** – The Fear of the Lord is the interpretational \_\_\_\_\_ for reading Proverbs (1:7)
- **Horizontally** – Radical dissimilarity is \_\_\_\_\_ to the watching world (Gal 6:10; Matt 5:16)
- **Christologically** – \_\_\_\_\_ is the ultimate personification of wisdom (1 Cor 1:30; Col 2:3)

## Questions for Further Application of God's Word:

### **GO DEEPER**

Review the details concerning the book of Proverbs. Who wrote the book? When was it written? Why was it written? What are its major themes? Access a study Bible or commentary for help answering these questions and/or watch the Bible Project video on this book:  
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/proverbs/>

If the Word of God is inspired by God (literally "God-breathed" from 2 Tim 3:16), why do so many people ignore it? What are some ways that you are making God's Word (both the OT and the NT) authoritative in your life? What are some ways you can make God's Word more authoritative in your life?

What is the difference between a truism and a promise? How does that distinction change the way we read and apply the book of Proverbs? Read the following passages: Proverbs 22:6 and 15:1. How does the distinction between truism and promise help us apply these verses? Read Proverbs 26:4-5. Should we "answer a fool according to his folly" or not? How does this passage help us to apply other passages in Proverbs?

### **GET PERSONAL**

What exactly does the "Fear of the Lord" mean? Does it mean reverence for God? Does it mean terror? Why is the Fear of the Lord the interpretational key for reading Proverbs? Would you say that you truly fear the Lord? If not, why not? If so, is that fear incompatible with love?

### **PUT IT INTO PRACTICE**

Find a quiet spot sometime this week and read through the entire book of Proverbs in one sitting. Or you could listen to it from start to finish in about two hours (Use this link for a NIVUK reading by David Suchet: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSvR2H6iuYM>). Write out some themes that emerge from the book. Pray through some topics that you desire wisdom and clarity on in the coming year as we work through the book of Proverbs together.

### **ADVANCED QUESTION**

Did King Solomon always live a life characterized by wisdom and the fear of the Lord? In what ways does that encourage you or discourage you? Did Jesus Christ live a life characterized by wisdom and the fear of the Lord? Why did Paul say that Christ became to us "wisdom from God" (1 Cor 1:30)? What is significant about that statement?