

2018 Daily Household Bible Readings for January Proverbs

January 8-14 Yes oops, my typing error for January 2nd for those who caught it. The Key verse is verse seven not verse six for that day. JCW

January 8th Read James 2:14-26 Identifying Characteristics of Wise People: The Wise are Generous in attitude and deed

First you will notice we are reading daily from Proverbs in January but then I include a text which is not from Proverbs on occasion. **Why?** Because the idea of believers being wise, not fools, is a *repeated theme* in many places of the Bible. So we want to also see the bigger picture of wisdom and wise living throughout the Bible. Further, on occasion even the *proverbial form* may be repeated in different places not just in the book of Proverbs. So theme and form are why on occasion I will choose to jump around. If you want to know this, it is known as the analogy of faith. It is a good way to study the Bible as it sees the bigger picture.

James 2:14-26 on Generosity. James is the New Testament thematic proverbial book of wisdom. Good to read James while you also read Proverbs.

Q. What themes of wise living for maturing Christians can you see are also in this particular New Testament book of wisdom? **A.** Hint: speech, anger, justice, equity or fairness, generosity, peace vs contention.

Now, James 2:14-16 helps us understand more ways wise and maturing believers hold their money and possessions. *They understand about love of neighbour and stewardship.* This is a topic for the table. This is not about a rule to be given *but about eyes to discern and see. Wise people have open eyes and ears. Fools are blind to what is around them.* Yes there are leeches in this world—Read **Proverbs 30:15** and you will meet such leeches but ALL are not leeches.

Q. What is a leech?

Second, James 2:17 etc *shows us that words heard must be done or it is insincere faith.* Sounds much again like Jesus and the wise man and the foolish man. Both heard but one really didn't or he would have acted upon what he heard! (Matthew 7)

Prayer: *Forgive us for wanting someone to tell us when we should also be discerning enough to see a need. Lord help my excuses such as worried about being taken advantage of when maybe I am using a rational excuse to avoid duty. Do give me discernment about the leeches.....Lord change my heart, Lord change my mind, Lord change me totally to be generous in spirit and deed.*

**January 9th Read Proverbs 3:1-18 The Identifying Characteristics of
Wise People: *Wise People Learn from Adversity***

Proverbs is a favourite book of health and wealth Gospel preachers. They love preaching on 3:10 as a promise when it is a principle. But the next two verses (Verses 11-12) seem so often to get missed. These two verses tell us the wise learn from their afflictions—they know the hand of the Lord is in all things, even afflictions.

Keller wrote: *The world is 'riddled with evils, mysteries, and troubles beyond human grasping and fixing'... Given that suffering is inevitable, and it's going to make you either wiser or more foolish, what should you do? You should accept your troubles as means for spiritual growth and part of the plan of our loving heavenly Father.*

Waltke wrote: *Prosperity and adversity are the wise and necessary mixture of the saint's condition.* **Q** What do you think of that quotation in light of verse 10 and verse 11? **A.**

Q. Identify some forms of suffering and affliction a believer may experience? **A.**

Q. Identify some forms of 'affliction' that a child may face from a loving parent to bring them to reality? **A.**

Q. Was the apostle Paul afflicted? Was he loved by the Lord? How did he view his afflictions?

If time read, **Job23:10** which is also about wisdom! Here Job affirms that afflictions are turning to gold—his suffering is purification in disguise?

Prayer: Pray for bodily infirmities and for persecuted Christians today by name.

**January 10th Read Proverbs 3: 27-35 The Identifying Characteristics of Wise
People: *They Understand true Justice and Live Justly***

The words that I have used here sometimes get a bad name amongst Bible believing Christians as they get uncomfortable with them as it sounds like one is going to start to compromise. There are many ways to compromise the faith—one way is not to be just to others when you could be. You owe money but do not pay it even when you have it. You could help but do not, but postpone it. This is also compromising the faith as you are not just in your dealings.

Justice and living justly are virtues of wise living. They are general laws rooted in the love of neighbour and must be lived out with wisdom and discernment. Def'n: to render with impartiality and in due proportion to all their due in accord with God's standards. (adapt CB)

Verses 27-28 are NOT asking believers to give what they do not have. No, rather it is saying the opposite. See also **2 Corinthians 8:12.**

Read **Micah 6:8** and see how this is a grand theme in scripture. Read the verses before verse 8. Correct liturgy and even excessive vow-making cannot hide behind a failure to act justly towards people.

Q. *What does fairness and justice mean for a wise believer?*

Pray: *Paraphrase Micah 6:8 as you start to pray.*

January 11th, Read Proverbs 4:1-21 Characteristics of the Wise: *The Wise Listen to Instruction*

Today we concentrate upon those who **receive the instruction, the hearers**. Chapter four is telling us to be wise and seek out wise instruction and wisdom.

1. **The Pursuit of Wisdom** verses, 1-5, 20-21 GET IT!
2. **The Advantages** which often follow by heeding wisdom, verses, 6, 8,9,10, Yes, it is very poetic but it is good to work at this poetry. **Q.** Identify the blessings which often accompany those who listen to wisdom. **Q.** Identify the contrast with those who reject wisdom.
3. **Q. How do you become a better listener?**

Prayer: *“Blessed Lord, who has caused the Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise **hear them, read them, study them and mark them out, learn them, and inwardly mediate over them.....**” (adaptedBCP)
Lord, we commit to the study of the scriptures and seeking out good teachers of the Word both in person and in all forms available in our generation of incredible communicative forms.....*

January 12th Read Proverbs 4: 1-9; 11:14; 24:5-6 Characteristics of The Wise: *They Seek Good Instructors and Advisors*

1. Seeking out the advisors 11;14; 24:5-6 Wisdom can be found in others who expound truth. Wisdom is not limited to you alone! It must be communal—we exist within covenantal communities.
2. **Q.** Why is it in the plural and not in the singular here? Do you think because “*many*” implies balanced opinion rather than just our groupies?
3. Chapter 4 also underscores the fact that some people listen to the wrong advisors who are off the mark and fall into sin as a result. **Application:** choose wisely your advisors!

Prayer: *Thank you for those we have been blessed by as wonderful Biblical teachers and advisors. We remember them by name today with thanksgiving..... We also pray for all pastors who preach, our bible study leaders, and Raise up now more workers to teach and preach and advise who are faithful.....*

January 13th Read Proverbs 12: 1-22

Characteristics of the Wise:

They Guard their Communications

Yes, you knew it was coming as Proverbs is simply full of wisdom about speech. It cannot be avoided. **Two things here before we begin: one** do not limit it to speech, think more broadly in terms of all our forms of communication, and **two**, see this as part of the bigger picture that the Lord desires holiness and the sanctification of His children. One mark of growing in holiness is to progress in sanctified ways in our communications. So start with a **Q**, What forms are we involved with in communication? **A**_____ Next, let's start with the 7 proverbs on the subject all from chapter 12.

#1. 12:6 Maybe gossip is the underlying issue here.

#2. 12:13 "Words can wound but also heal." TK

#3. 12: 14 Best to use words to confess to God rather than venting off at others rashly.

#4. 12:17 Honest words, like Commandment # 9.

#5. 12:18 recall—sticks and stone may break my bones but words never hurt. Is that really totally true? Words can really hurt and be remembered for years. The sword cuts the skin and it may heal but the scar remains!!

#6. 12: 19 Truth will prevail in the end!

#7. 12: 22 Always note the contrast—two ways!

Prayer: Lord, sanctify my communications verbally and electronically, that I will truly progress in righteousness and reflect your holiness..... Forgive me for.....

January 14th Read Proverbs 9:7-10

Characteristics of the Wise: They live

Before the Holy Lord

Today is Sunday, the Lord's Day. We gather to worship the Lord. Key in on **verse 10** today. Note the following:

1. This is a repeat of the KEY verse of Proverbs which we noted back on January 1st- Proverbs 1:7.
2. This is foundational to the Christian worldview. We begin with faith and reverence for the Lord.
3. From that flows all real understanding of humanity, evil, the afterlife, how to live, etc
4. Who is the Lord we worship? **Q**. What is the attribute of God here which is focused upon in verse 10b? **A**. God is holy. Yes, our God is set apart, different, unique and absolutely pure. We behold this in the incarnate Jesus Christ, God's Son.
5. Application: Worship the Lord today in the beauty of His holiness.

Prayer: We praise and worship you O Lord for your.....

We pray for all Your people who gather for worship today in the name of Your Son Jesus, bless them.....

