

## Words of Wisdom (Part 1)

### Introduction

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In this and the following studies we turn our attention to the book of Proverbs, undoubtedly the most famous of the Wisdom books in the Bible. Needless to say we cannot do a detailed study of the book given the time and space constraints of this present series of Bible studies. What we do want to do is to provide a broad overview of Proverbs in the hope that this will encourage and assist each of us to read the book for ourselves, perhaps with the aid of a good Bible commentary such as the Tyndale Old Testament Commentary on Proverbs written by Derek Kidner.

### Study Questions

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These questions help you to see clearly what the text is saying.

**Read:** Proverbs 1vs1-9vs18

- Note:**
- The purpose statements in the *introduction* (1vs1-7)
  - The 'family setting' of the *instructional sayings*. (1vs8-7vs27)
  - The personification of *wisdom*.
  - The use of the two ways imagery in the material.

**Answer** the following questions:

1. What does the *Introduction* in 1vs1-7 encourage us to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. To whom and from whom are the "instructional sayings" in 1vs8-7vs27 directed? What are they designed to do?

3. In what ways are *wisdom* and *folly* personified in these verses?

4. What benefits does wisdom bring to those who listen to her?

5. What are the consequences for those who ignore wisdom?

6. What “two ways” are set before the reader of Proverbs 1-9?

## Think it Through

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What *wisdom for life* have you gained from this part of God’s word? (hint: make a list of wisdom do’s and don’ts)