

# **Be Wise**



## ***Proverbs***

**Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore  
CICFamily.com • BibleStudyDownloads.org**

A man in a dark suit and white shirt is standing on a high-rise balcony, looking out over a dense city skyline. He has his right arm raised in a celebratory gesture, and his mouth is open as if shouting or cheering. The background shows a vast urban landscape with numerous skyscrapers under a bright sky. The text "What are people *passionate* about?" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

What are people  
*passionate*  
about?

**Do you want to be wise?**



**How** can you be *wise*?



# **Let's Study Through Scripture**

## **The Bible: Book by Book**



A close-up photograph of a person's hand gently holding a small, brown, downy bird chick. The hand is positioned in the center-left of the frame, with the bird's head facing towards the top-left. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage and a hint of a blue sky. In the top-right corner, there is a dark blue rectangular box containing the title text. At the bottom of the image, a large white quote is superimposed over the background.

# Modern Day Proverbs

**"A bird in the hand is  
worth two in the bush!"**

# Modern Day Proverbs

**"Penny-wise but pound foolish!"**



A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small amount of water. The hand is positioned over a dry, cracked, and parched surface of earth, which is visible in the background. The water is being held in the palm, and some of it is dripping down. The image serves as a visual metaphor for the importance of water conservation.

## Modern Day Proverbs

**"Waste not, want not!"**

# Modern Day Proverbs



**"Birds of a  
feather flock  
together."**

© Caters News Agency



**Chavez &  
Ahmadinejad**

JUST DO IT.



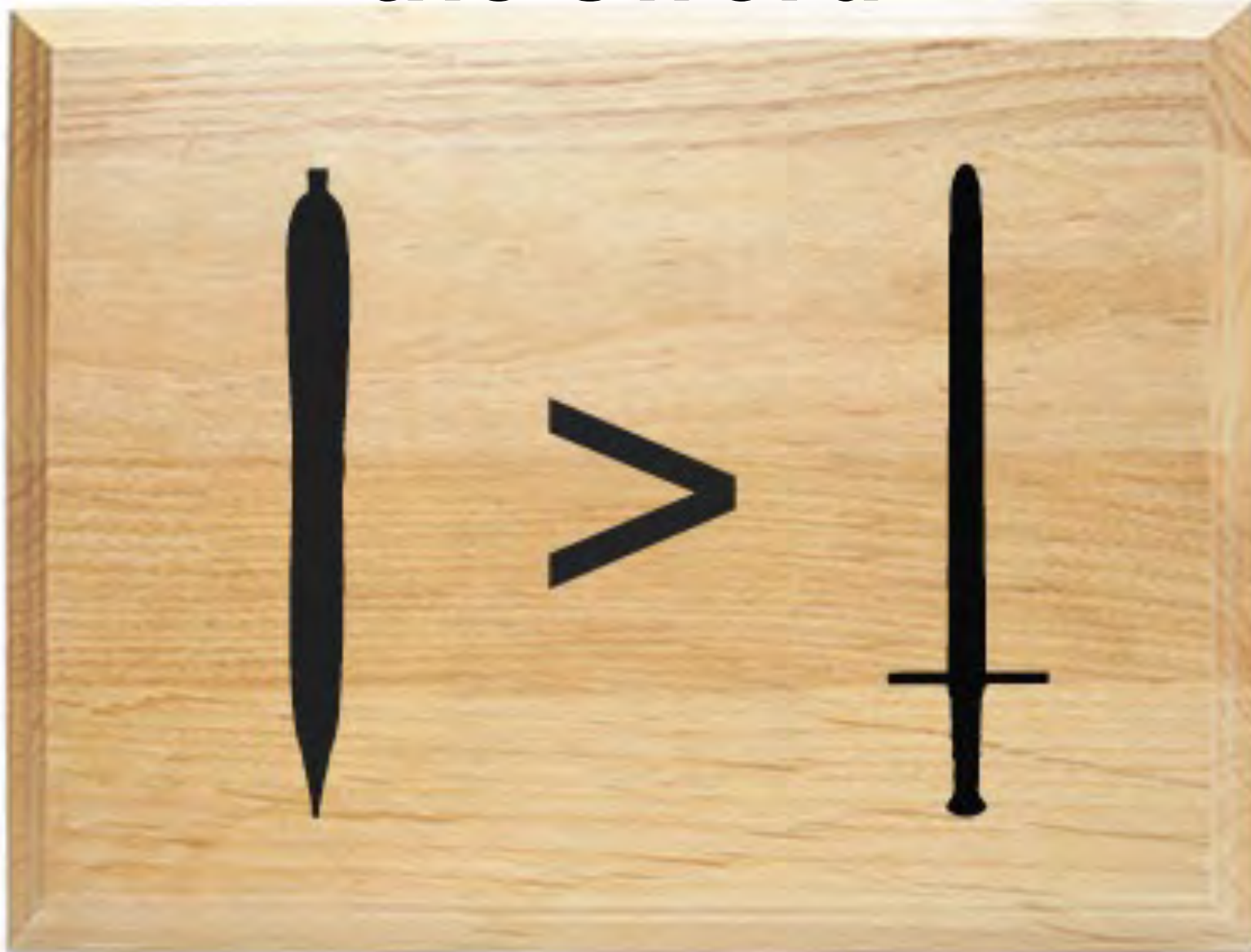


**"Time is  
money."**

# "Different strokes for different folks"



**"The pen is mightier than  
the sword."**



# Rome



**"When in  
Rome,  
do as the  
Romans."**

**"The squeaky wheel  
gets the grease."**

**grease**



**"No man is an island."**





**"People  
who live in  
glass  
houses  
shouldn't  
throw  
stones."**



"A picture is worth a thousand words."





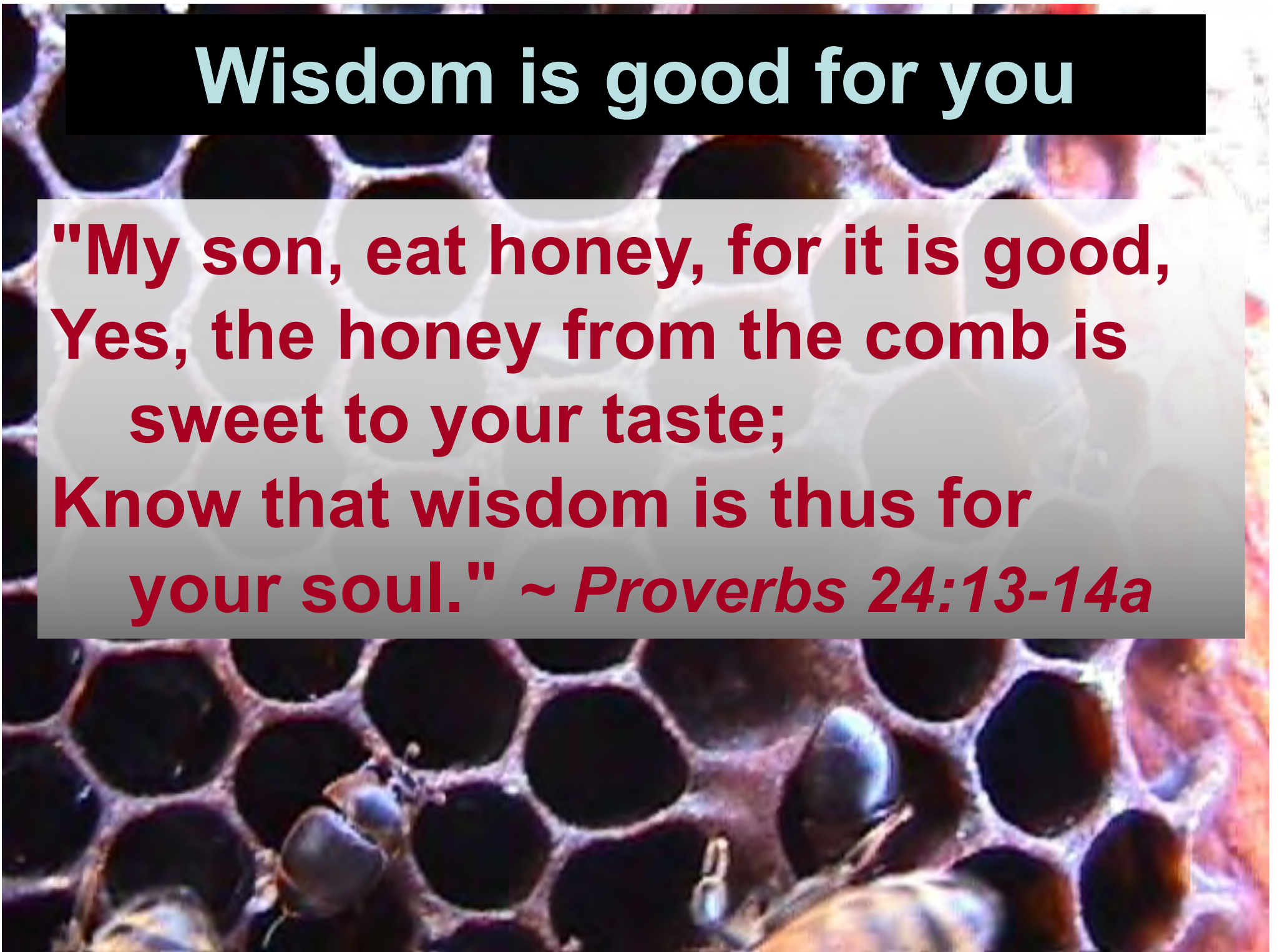
**"There's  
no such  
thing as  
a free  
lunch."**

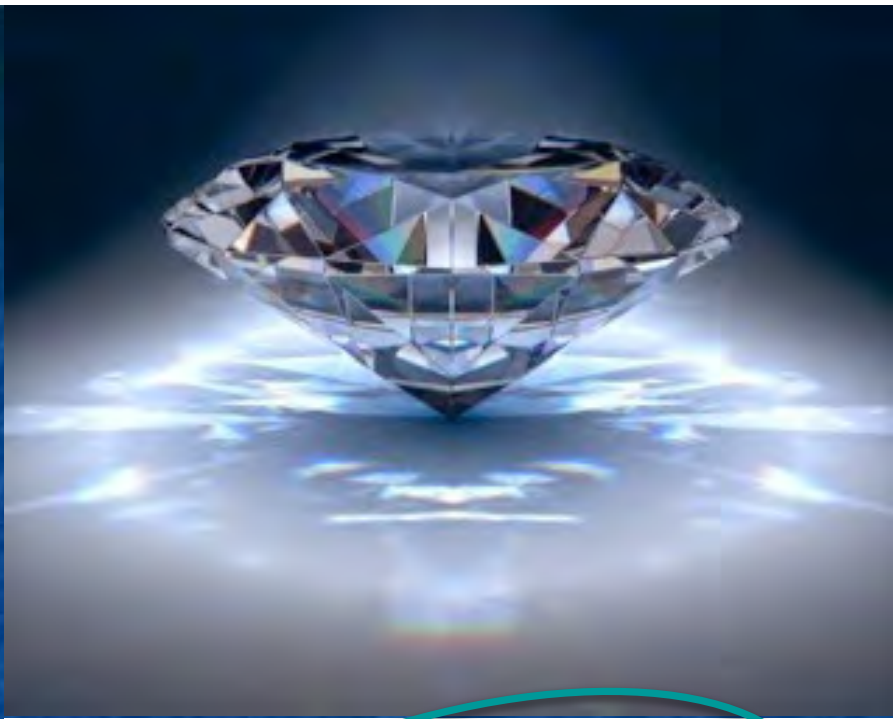
**"There's no place like home."**



# Wisdom is good for you

**"My son, eat honey, for it is good,  
Yes, the honey from the comb is  
sweet to your taste;  
Know that wisdom is thus for  
your soul." ~ *Proverbs 24:13-14a***





Key Word of  
Proverbs:

Wisdom

Know

知

Day

日

Solomon			Wise Men (Anonymous)		Solomon		Wise Men (Agur, Lemuel, Anonymous)		
1:1–22:16			22:17–24:34		Ch. 25–29		Ch. 30–31		
13 sayings 375 two-line			36 sayings		± 100 two- line		3 sayings		
Aims 1:1-7	Value of Wisdom 1:8–9:18	Contrasts & Godliness 10:1–22:16	Social & Miscellaneous		Social & Miscellaneous		Social & Nature Ch. 30	Ruling 31:1-9	Godly Wife 31:10-31
Pro- logue	Principles of Wisdom						Epilogue		

ca. 950-700 BC

# Title of the Book

- **"Proverb" – "to be like" or "compared with"**
- **A proverb is a statement which makes a comparison or describes a common experience.**
- **Latin title: a proverb is a "word that stands for" many words (i.e., combined into one short saying).**



*Themes*  
*in*  
*Proverbs*

The way I

**"He who goes about as a talebearer  
reveals secrets, but he who is  
trustworthy conceals a matter"  
(Proverbs 11:13)**

that...

**Words and Speech**

A close-up photograph of a large pile of US currency. The pile consists of numerous one-dollar bills, some two-dollar bills, and a variety of coins including pennies, nickels, and dimes. The bills are scattered and overlapping, with some showing the portrait of George Washington. The coins are also scattered throughout the pile, with some showing the Union Shield. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

# Money

# Godliness over Gold



**"Better is little with  
the fear of the LORD  
than great treasure  
and trouble with it."**

**Proverbs 15:16**

**True Success**

**SUCCESS**

**IN GOD'S**

**EYES?**

THE  
3-4-1  
PLAN  
FOR  
SUCCESS

JAMES R. SHERMAN, PhD

LILLIAN TOO'S  
PRACTICAL  
FENG  
SHUI  
Formulas  
for Success





## Proverbs 21:19

**"It is better to live alone in the desert than with a crabby, complaining wife."**



Proverbs 26:11

**"Like a dog that returns to his vomit,  
so does a fool repeat his folly."**

**How** can you be wise?



**Proverbs gives 3 ways.**

*How to be wise...*

**I. Learn discipline and fear of  
the LORD (1:1-7).**



# Proverbs 1

# Proverbs give wisdom, discipline & insights (1:1-2)

<sup>1</sup> These are the proverbs of Solomon,  
David's son, king of Israel.

<sup>2</sup> Their purpose is to teach people **wisdom** and  
**discipline**,  
to help them understand the **insights** of the  
wise.

## Why Study Proverbs?

**Proverbs guide us to do what is right (1:3)**

**<sup>3</sup> Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined  
and successful lives,  
to help them do what is **right**, just, and fair.**

**Why Study Proverbs?**

## Proverbs give insight throughout life (1:4-6)

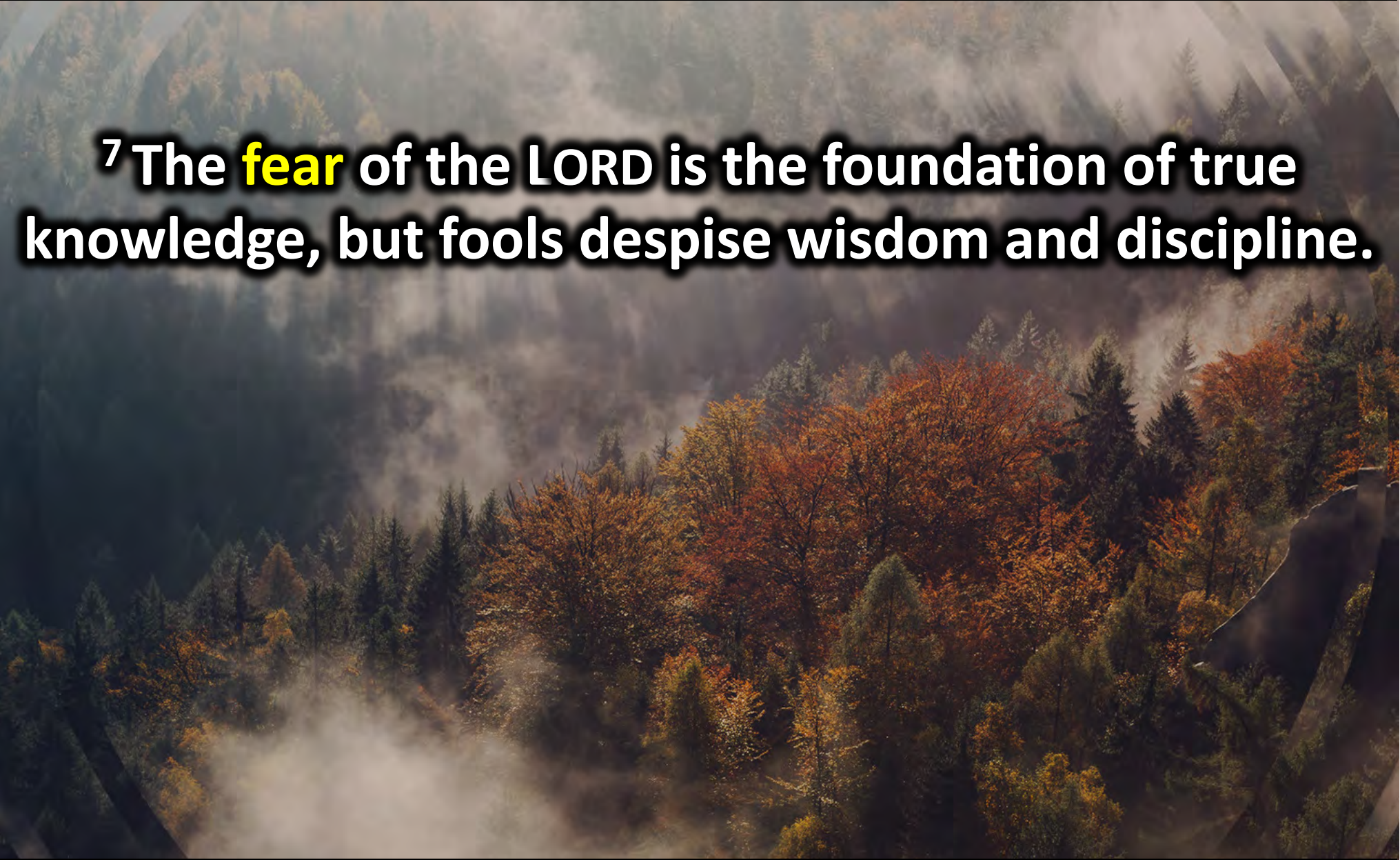
<sup>4</sup> These proverbs will give insight to **the simple**,  
knowledge and discernment to the young.

<sup>5</sup> Let **the wise** listen to these proverbs and become  
even wiser.

Let those with understanding receive guidance  
<sup>6</sup> by exploring the meaning in these proverbs and  
parables,  
the words of the wise and their riddles.

## Why Study Proverbs?

## Proverbs teach us to fear God (1:7)

A photograph of a dense forest with trees displaying vibrant autumn colors in shades of orange, yellow, and red. The forest is partially obscured by a thick layer of white mist or fog that hangs in the valleys and around the trees. The background shows more forested hills under a soft, overcast sky.

**<sup>7</sup>The **fear** of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.**

## Why Study Proverbs?

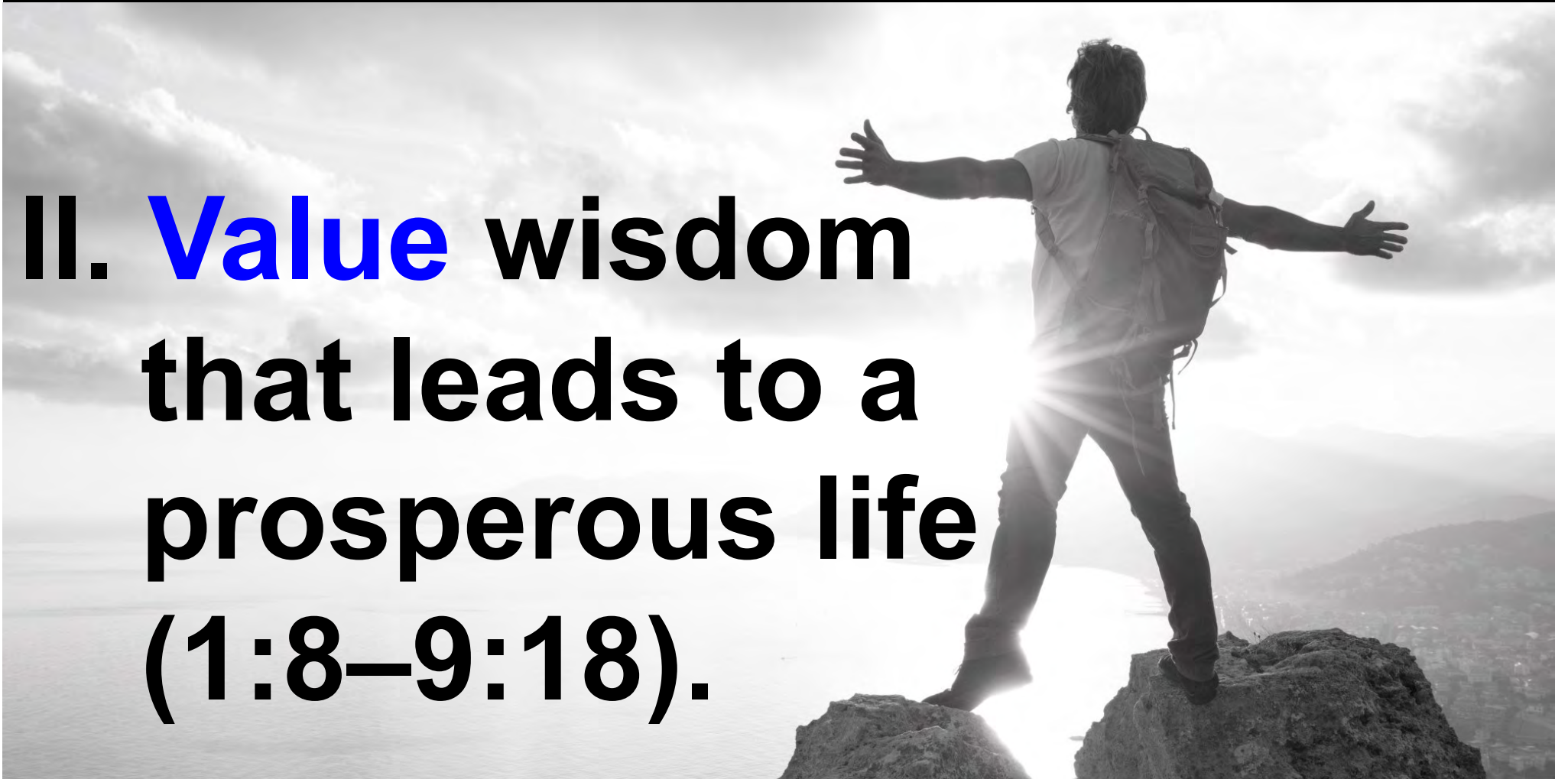
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**I. Learn discipline and fear of  
the LORD (1:1-7).**



# *How to be wise...*

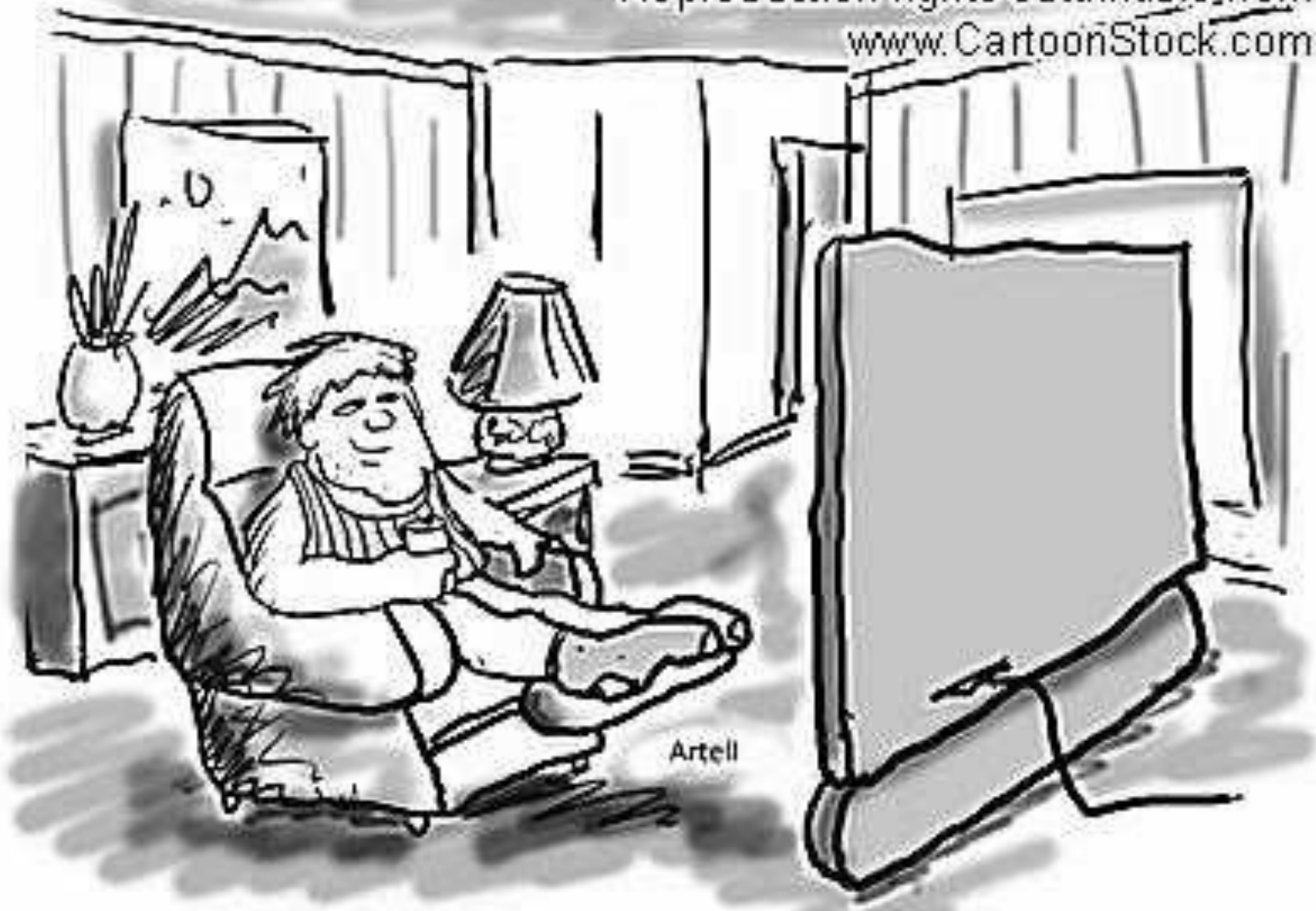
**II. Value wisdom  
that leads to a  
prosperous life  
(1:8–9:18).**



# Wisdom

**produces honor** by being  
disciplined and fearing  
God (1:8-9).

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**American, idle**

# Wisdom

**preserves youth from  
disaster (1:10-33).**

# Proverbs 2

# Wisdom

**promotes moral behavior**

(Prov 2).

# **Courses I Taught Since 1991**

**(English • Indonesian • Chinese • Arabic)**

**Survey • The Bible...Basically**

**OT**

**NT**

**Bible Study**

**Backgrounds • Research & Writing**

**OT**

**NT**

**Geography**

**Theology • Creation • Jesus**

**Church • Spirit • Salvation • Future**

**Preaching**

**Homiletics 1**

**Homiletics 2**

Solomon			Wise Men (Anonymous)			Solomon			Wise Men (Agur, Lemuel, Anonymous)		
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Pro- logue	Principles of Wisdom						Epilogue				

ca. 950-700 BC

# Proverbs 3


# Wisdom

**preserves relationships**  
with God and man (Prov 3).

## Key Verse

***"Trust in the LORD with  
all your heart and lean  
not on your own  
understanding;***

Proverbs 3:5-6

A photograph of a straight path through a forest of tall, thin trees. The path is made of dirt and gravel, and the trees are mostly bare, suggesting autumn or winter. The path leads straight into the distance, flanked by trees on both sides.

***in all your  
ways  
acknowledge  
him and he  
will make  
your paths  
straight."***

# Proverbs 4

# Wisdom

**provides a gracious life**  
**(4:1-9).**

# Wisdom

**preserves youth from  
trouble (4:10-19).**

# Wisdom

**produces healthy young  
people (4:20-27).**



**CROSSROADS**  
international church

9

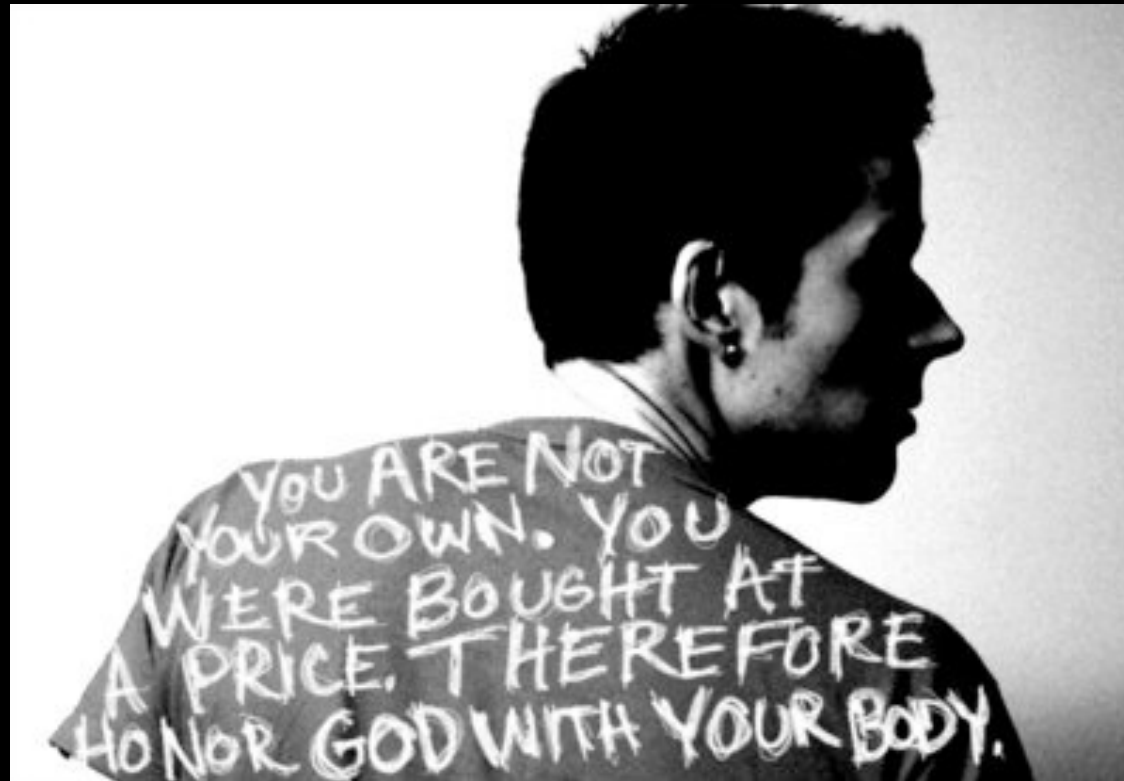


**SBC students serve at church**

# Proverbs 5

**Wisdom**  
**prevents sexual sin**  
**(Prov 5).**

**"My son, pay attention to my wisdom;  
listen carefully to my wise counsel.  
²Then you will show discernment,  
and your lips will express what you've  
learned" (5:1-2 NLT).**



**"For the  
lips of an  
immoral  
woman are  
as sweet as  
honey,  
and her  
mouth is  
smoother  
than oil"  
(5:3 NLT).**



A black and white silhouette of a person's head and shoulders in profile, looking down at a smartphone held in their hand. The background is dark, and the person's face is highlighted by a soft light source from the left.

**SIGN UP FOR  
COVENANT  
EYES  
SOFTWARE**

# CovenantEyes

**Guarding**Hearts | **Protecting**Integrity



# Proverbs 6

# Wisdom

**preserves from poverty**

**(6:1-11).**

# Wisdom

**preserves from dissension**

**(6:12-19).**

# Wisdom

**preserves youth from  
sexual immorality**

**(6:20–7:27).**

# Proverbs 8

# Wisdom

**possesses virtues, rewards  
and was used in creation  
(Prov 8).**

# Proverbs 9

# Wisdom

**is valuable compared to  
the claims of foolishness  
(Prov 9).**

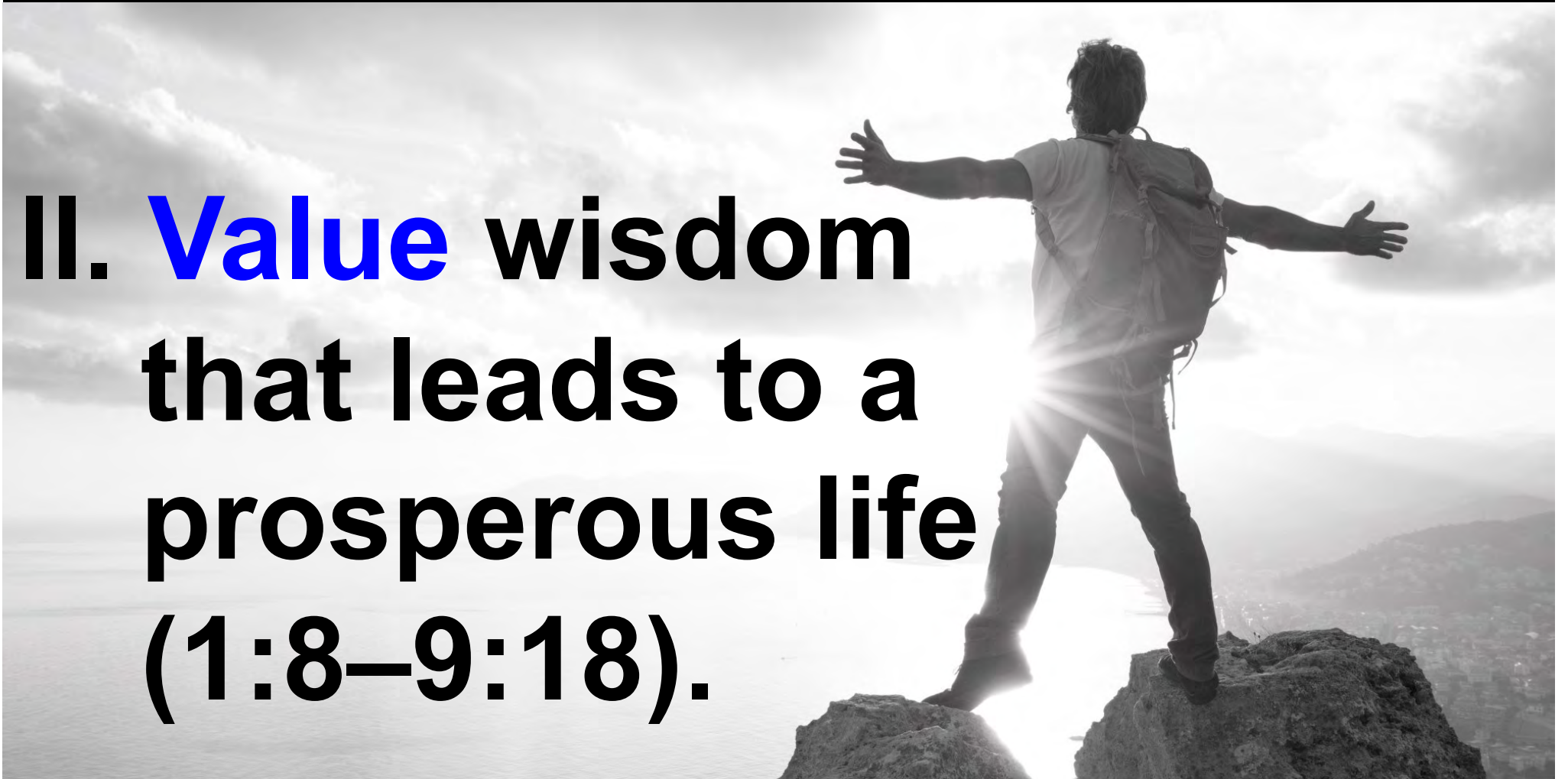
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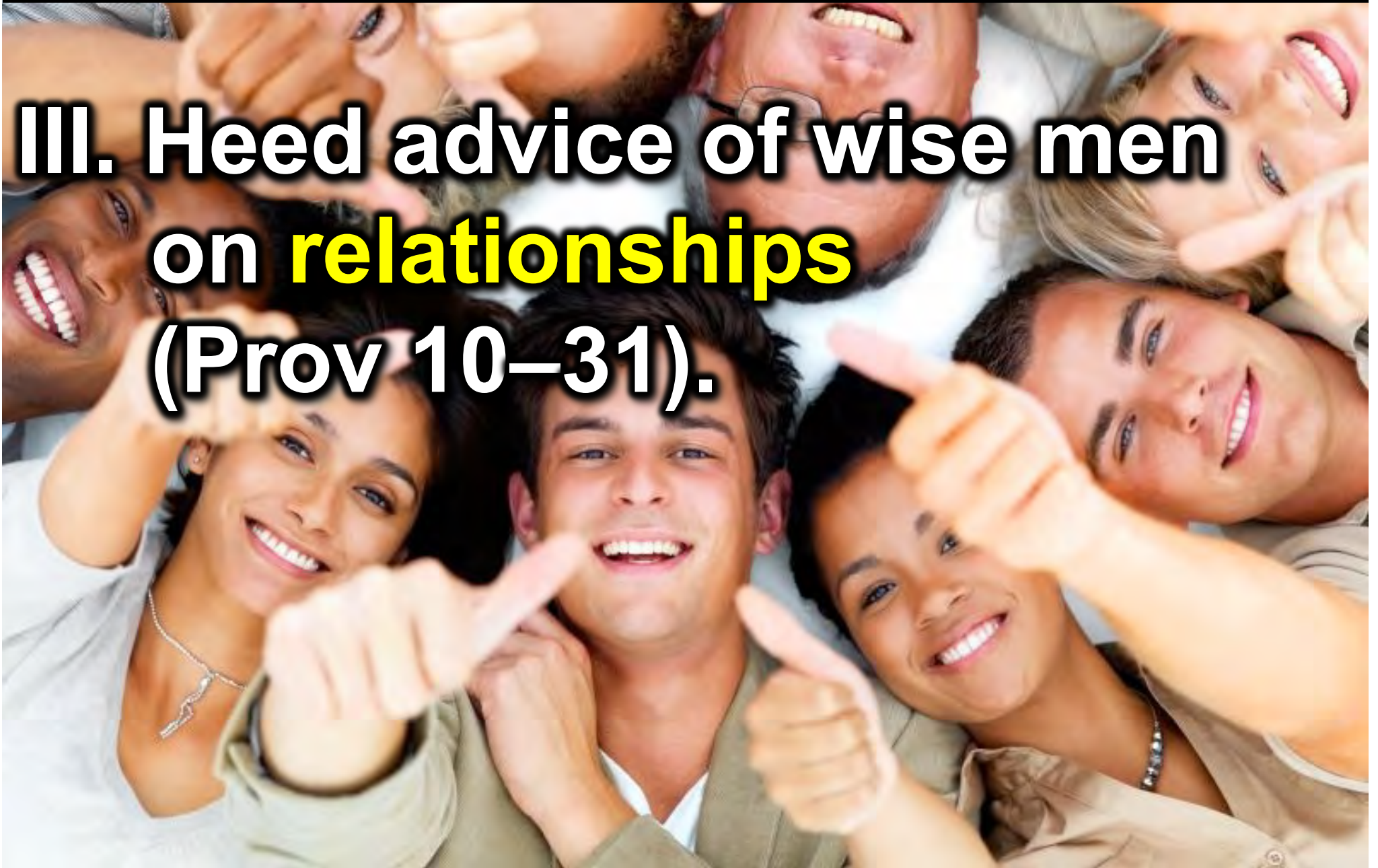
# *How to be wise...*

**II. Value wisdom  
that leads to a  
prosperous life  
(1:8–9:18).**



*How to be wise...*

**III. Heed advice of wise men  
on **relationships**  
(Prov 10–31).**



# Proverbs 10

**About 375 two-line proverbs of  
Solomon teach the practical  
benefits of wisdom over  
wickedness in everyday life  
(10:1–22:16).**



# Proverbs 11

**"As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, so is a  
beautiful woman who lacks discretion"  
(Proverbs 11:22)**





# Diligence and Laziness

***"The soul of the  
 sluggard craves and  
 gets nothing,  
 but the soul of the  
 diligent is made fat"  
 (Prov. 13:4)***

# Proverbs 22

# Wisdom



**Longer sayings of  
wise men admonish  
practical wisdom in  
many areas  
(22:17–24:34).**

# Proverbs 25

# Wisdom

**The final collection of Solomon's proverbs by Hezekiah's scribes 250 years later guide social relationships and various activities (Prov 25–29).**

# Relationships

Just Ed By Ward Vaughn

**Who's ready to exercise?!**



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**Proverbs 25:17 "Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house—too much of you, and he will hate you."**

# Proverbs 30

# Wisdom

**Sayings of  
Agur to Ithiel  
and Ucal show  
insights from  
nature and  
social  
relationships  
(Prov 30).**



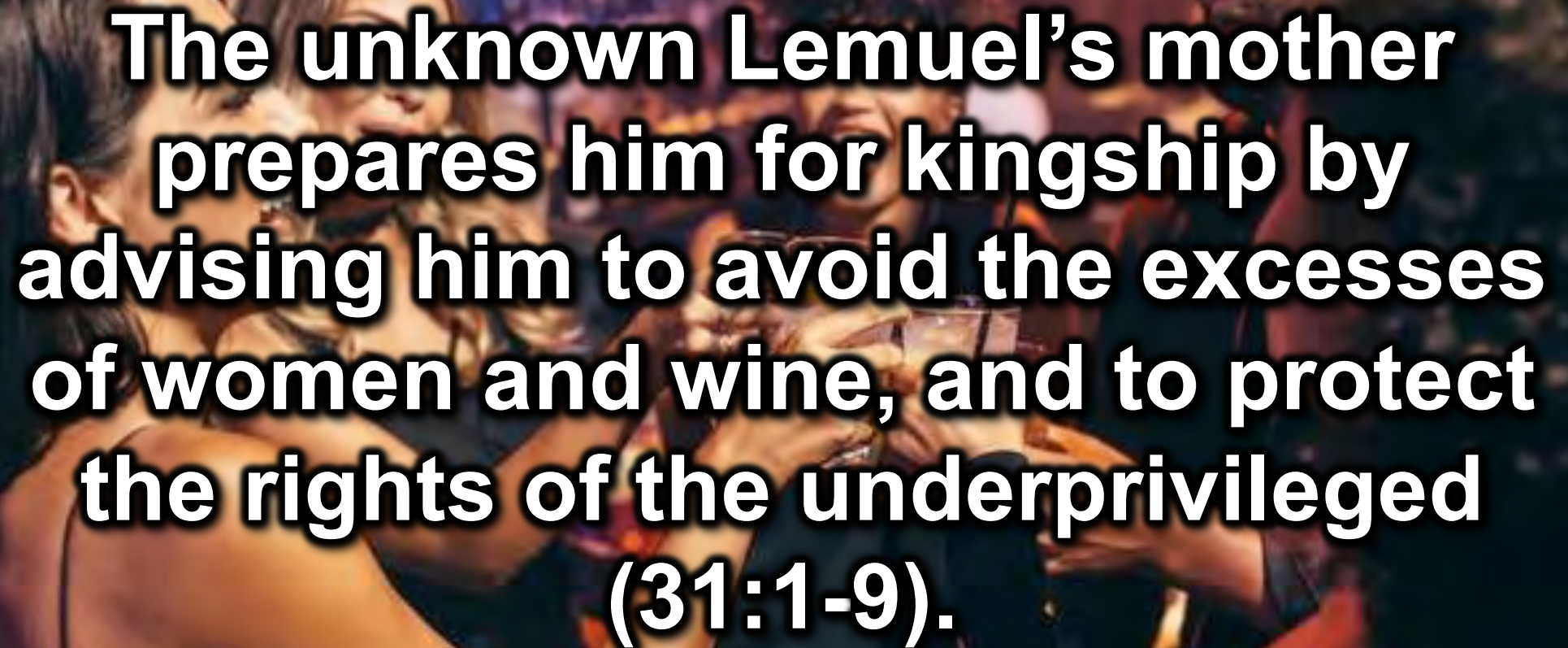
# ***Proverbs 30:18-20 (NIV)***

**"There are three things that are too amazing for me, four that I do not understand:"**



# Proverbs 31

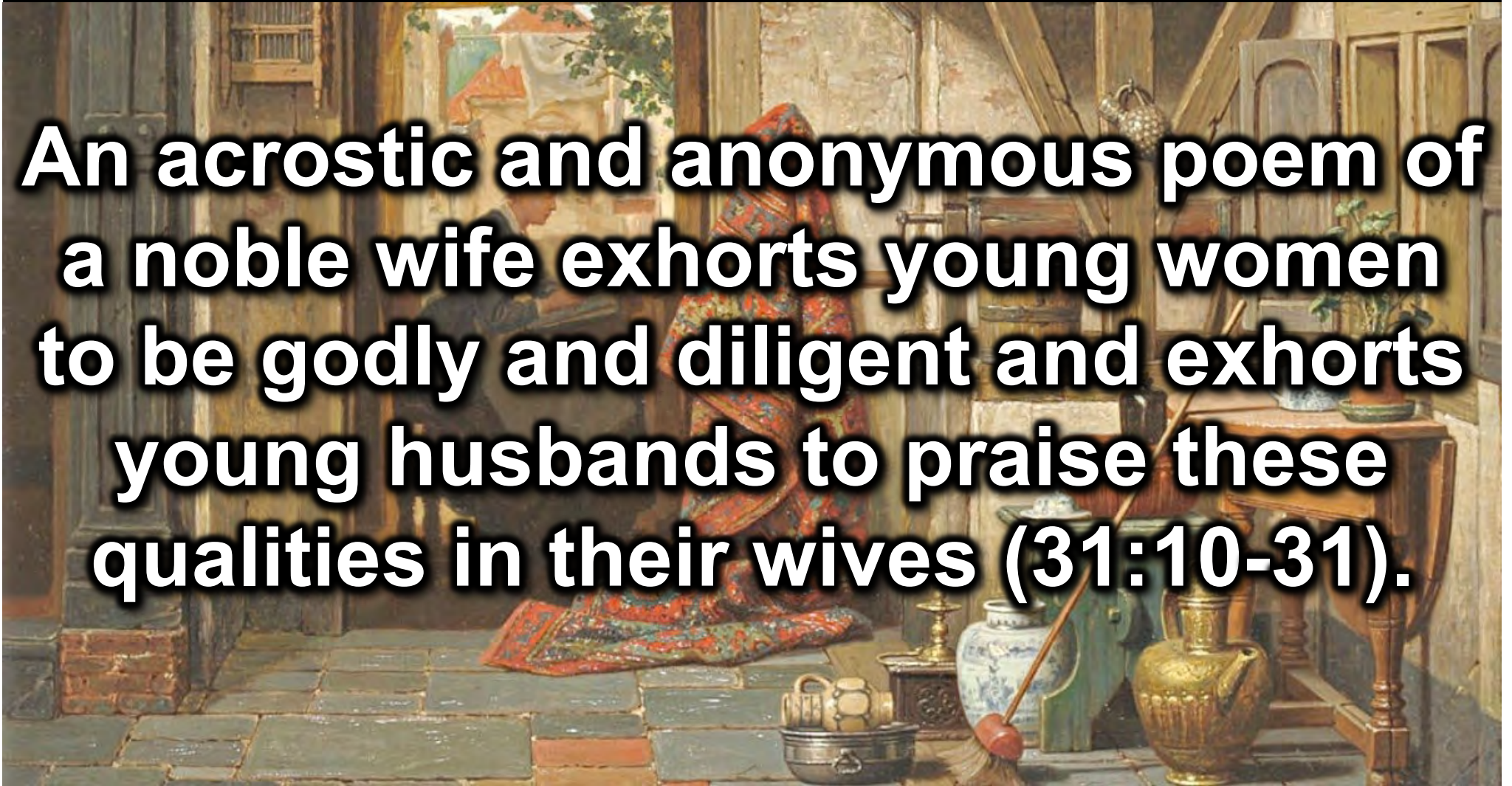
# Wisdom

A photograph of a group of people at a social gathering, possibly a party or dance. In the foreground, a woman with long dark hair is seen from the back, wearing a dark, patterned dress. To her right, another woman with blonde hair is looking towards the camera. In the background, a man with a beard and curly hair is visible, and other people are blurred. The lighting is warm and dim, typical of an indoor party.

**The unknown Lemuel's mother  
prepares him for kingship by  
advising him to avoid the excesses  
of women and wine, and to protect  
the rights of the underprivileged  
(31:1-9).**

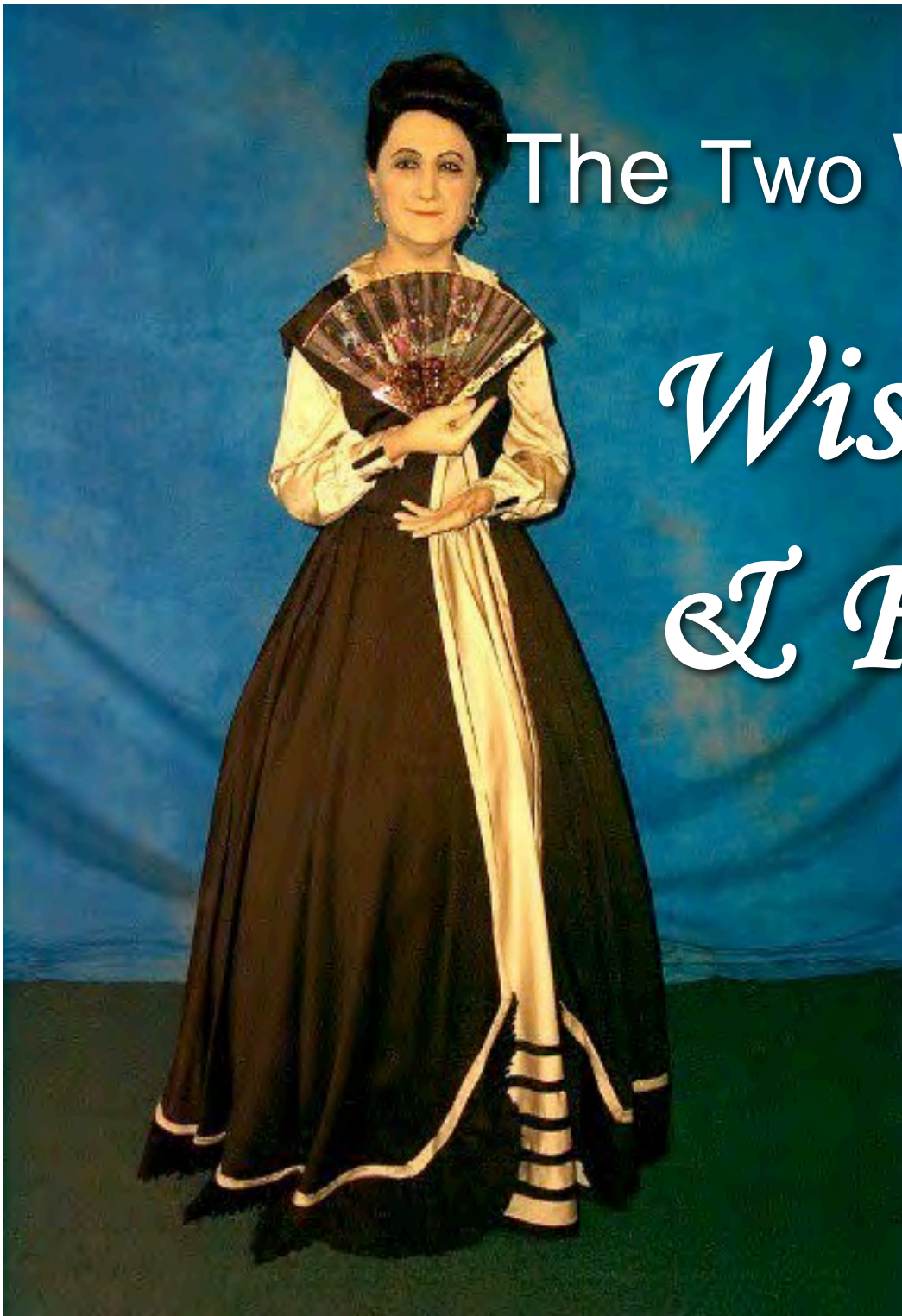
# Wisdom

**An acrostic and anonymous poem of a noble wife exhorts young women to be godly and diligent and exhorts young husbands to praise these qualities in their wives (31:10-31).**



The Two Women:

*Wisdom  
& Folly*



A woman with short, wavy blonde hair is shown in profile, smiling and looking upwards. She is wearing a dark blue V-neck shirt, a small pearl earring, and a gold necklace with a circular pendant. The background features a doorway decorated with Christmas lights and ornaments, and a red ribbon hanging on the wall to the right.

# *The Wise Woman*

## *Each society has its ideal woman*

**"The model of women in tribal patriarchalism is a brood mare; in hedonistic naturalism, she is the bunny or plaything; in feminist ideology, she is the self-sufficient career woman; in romanticism, she is the fairy princess or maiden in distress waiting to be rescued; in biblical faith, she is the partner in ministry."**



*Theologian Donald  
Bloesch (1928-2010)*

***"Who can find a virtuous and capable wife?  
She is more precious than rubies"  
(Prov. 31:10 NLT).***



**She rises early to care for her family**



**"She rises while it is still night and gives food to her household and portions to her maidens" (Prov 31:15)**

# **She Smiles at Her Future**



**"Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future" (Prov. 31:25)**

I'D  
RATHER  
BE A  
PROVERBS  
31 WOMAN  
THAN A  
VICTORIA'S  
SECRET  
MODEL



*Practical Ways*  
**YOU CAN  
BECOME  
A PROVERBS 31  
WOMAN!**



# BEING A PROVERBS 31 WOMAN

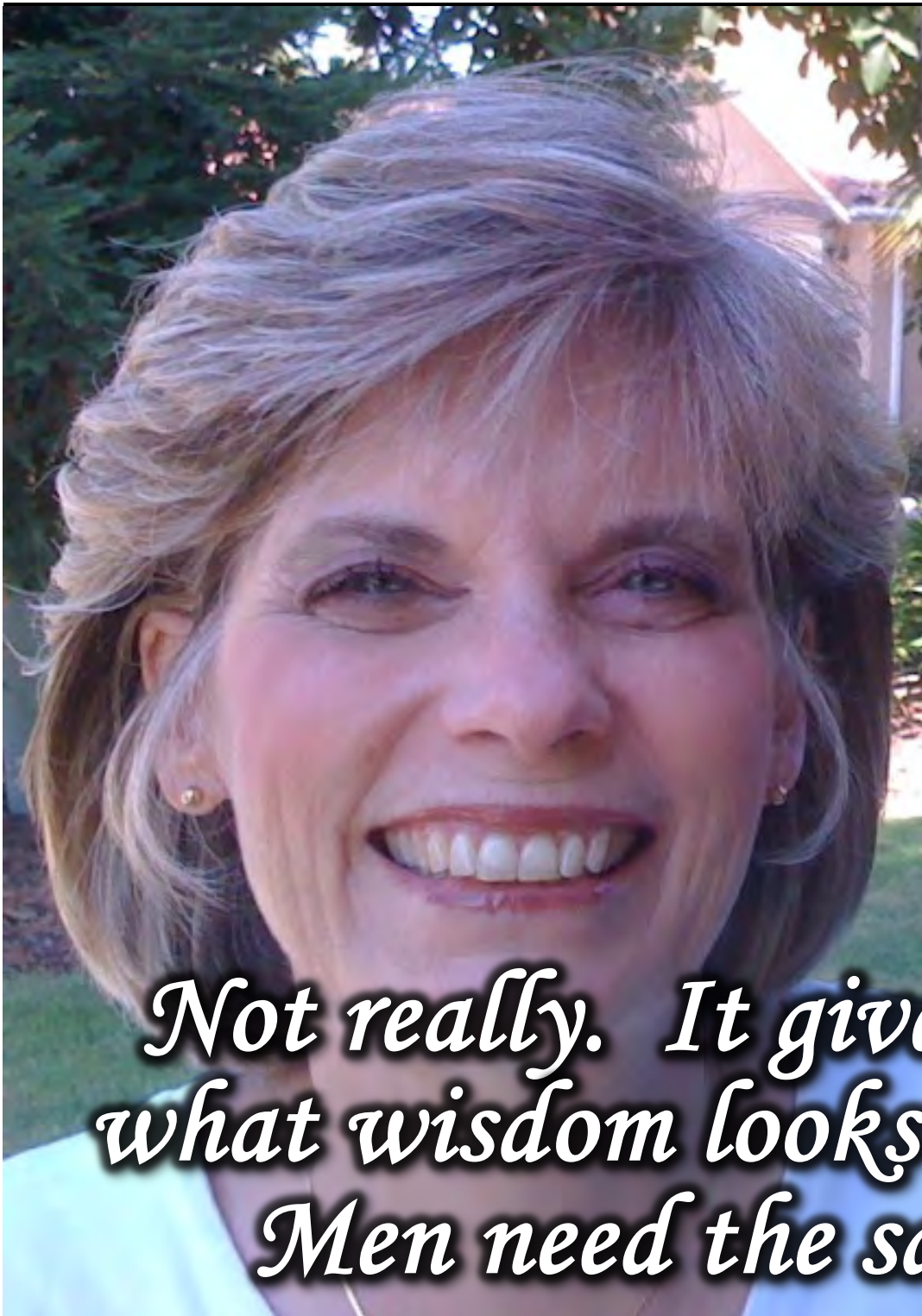
**She is deemed the best model**

*<http://924jeremiah.wordpress.com/2014/03/21/stop-comparing-yourself-to-the-proverbs-31-woman/> advises...*

# **Stop comparing yourself to the Proverbs 31 woman.**



*Learn who invented the Proverbs 31 woman and why this list of "ideal" qualities doesn't align with God's priorities for you.*



# Proverbs 31

*Is this for  
women  
only?*

*Not really. It gives an example of  
what wisdom looks like in a woman.  
Men need the same qualities!*

**How** can you be wise?



**Proverbs gives 3 ways.**

# Main Idea of Proverbs

**Fear God by heeding his  
proverbs on the **value** and  
**path** of wisdom.**

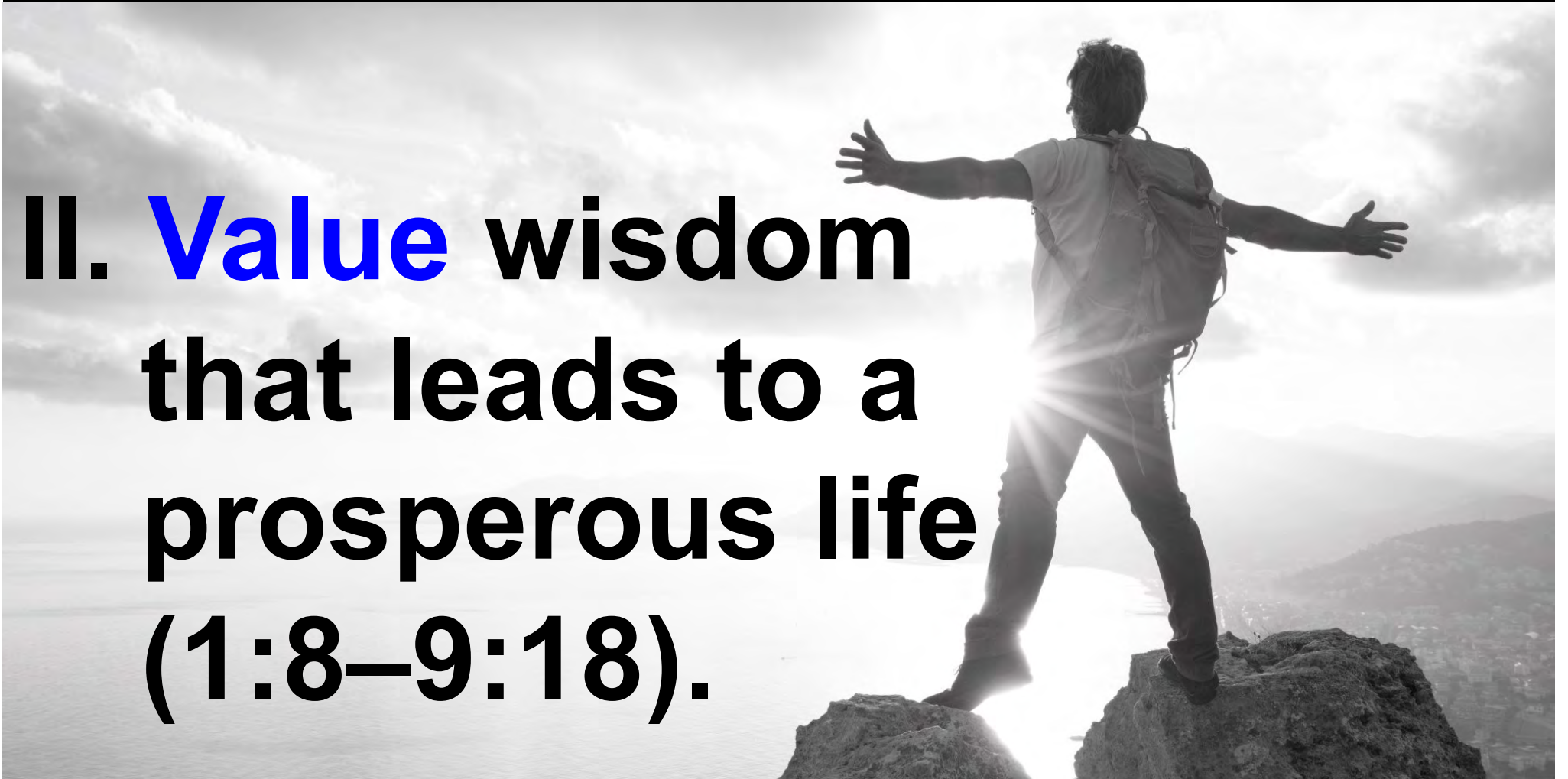
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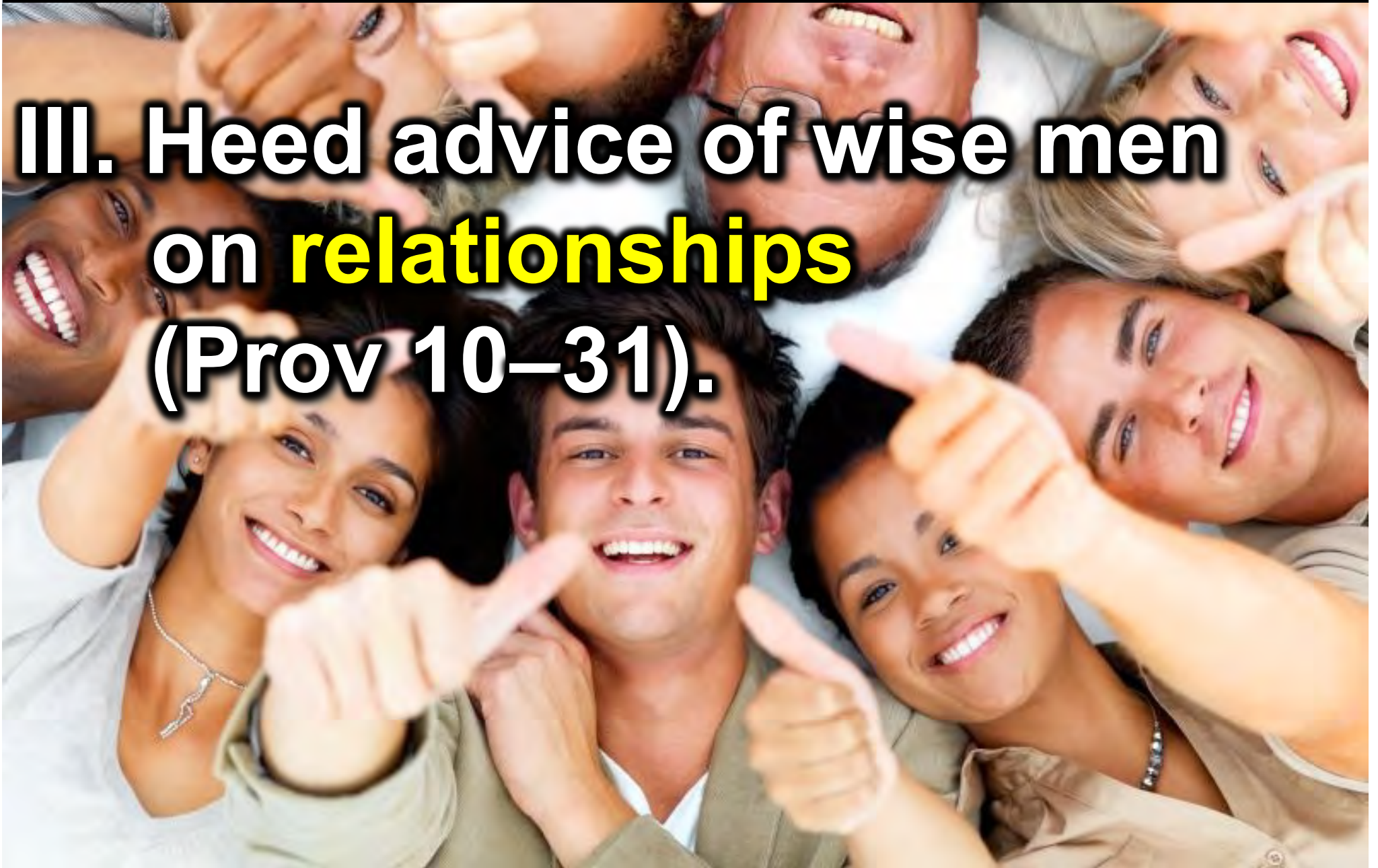
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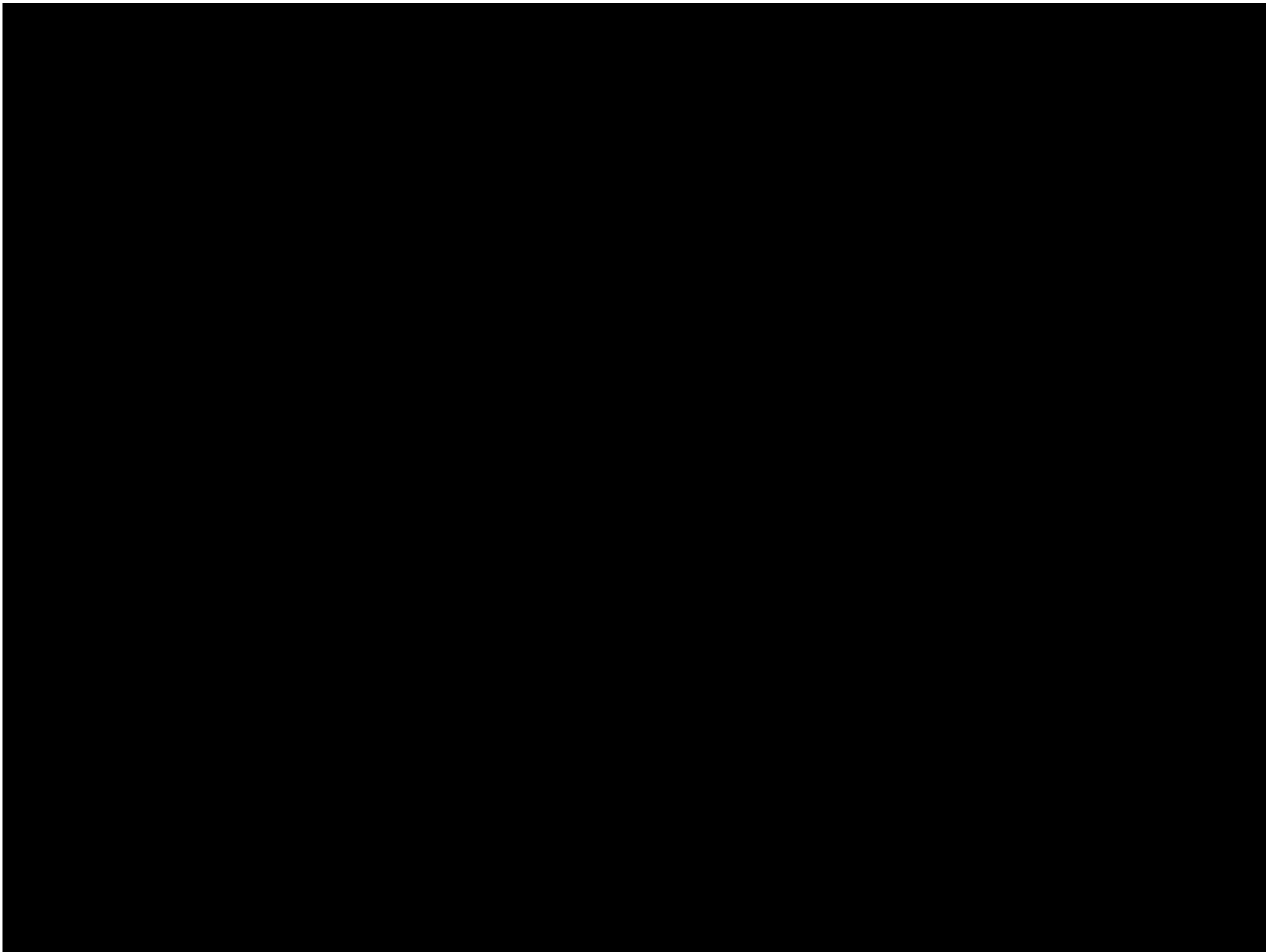
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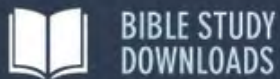


# Applications

- **Teach** youth (& children) proverbs
- **Memorize** proverbs to promote wise living
- **Read ONE** chapter from Proverbs every day of the month (31 days for 31 chapters)



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A large background image for the main banner showing a pair of hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. A semi-transparent dark grey box with white text is overlaid on the lower left of the image.

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