

I) A Modern American Fairy Tale

A) **These are values and or lessons taught almost every day**

1. More possessions means more happiness.
2. A person who does more or produces more is more important.
3. Everyone must belong and identify with some larger group
4. Perfect health means no problems
5. A person is abnormal unless constantly happy.

B) **Wisdom is a much needed quality today**

1. We are a society without a lot of common sense and very little true "wisdom".
 - a. Example: Lady sensed to 20 years of prison for firing a warning shot.
 - b. Insurance claim explaining what happen. An American teenager was in the hospital recovering from serious head wounds received from an oncoming train. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.
 - c. Another story: The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in, Michigan at 5 A.M., flashed a gun, and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order.

When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man, frustrated, walked away. (*A 5-STAR STUPIDITY AWARD WINNER.)

- d. Every year there are the Darwin Awards given to those who made stupid decisions which often resulted in death. Selfies where the person dies after taking that breath taking photo only to die seconds late.
 - e. One award winner decided to do a bungee jump off a 70-foot-high building. The measured his bungee cords to make sure they were less than 70 feet. He jumped and was killed when he hit the ground. He had not considered the length of the cords when stretched.
- 2. See people lacking common sense, situation ethics, humanism.
 - 3. It is important to ask the right questions but also important to turn to the right place for answers.
 - a. Can we turn to Neitzhe "God is dead." But where is Neitzhe now?.
 - b. Who can we turn to for wisdom in child rearing? Dr. Spock messed up a generation.
 - c. Who can we turn to in defining life and ethics? Humanism says there is no good or bad.
 - d. Can we turn to our neighbors? Can we turn to our politicians? Can we turn to our religious leaders? Who?

C) We can turn to God for true wisdom

1. ***Ephesians 5.15-17*** God made us and knows us. He knows what we really need. He knows our emotional and physical needs. In the Garden of Eden he provided both for man.
 - a. He knows how we think what we are thinking, and why we are thinking it.
 - b. He knows what will make us happy and sad.
2. There are books in the Bible called wisdom literature: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon and in the New Testament the Book of James. See ***James 1.5***.

II) **Facts About Proverbs**

A) **We have some modern English proverbs**

1. A stitch in time saves nine. A penny saved is a penny earned. Acts in haste, repent in leisure.
2. Each contains true wisdom. It is, to take care of a problem when it is small you won't have to take care of it when it is big. Saving money is the same as earning it. When you make a decision quickly you will have plenty of time to regret it later on.

B) **The title comes from *Proverbs 1.1***

1. Proverbs comes from a root idea meaning "parallel" or "similar".
 - a. A proverb is a way of describing by comparison or contrasting, ***Proverbs 13.1***.
 - b. The word "pilgrim" means one who lives beside another. ***Prov 4.18-19***
2. Proverb is a short statement expressing a well-known truth.

- a. This book is God's manual for giving man wisdom in conducting the affairs of daily living. Therefore, we know this is true wisdom.
- b. Sister Irwin Lee was asked one time how she was able to rear her children to be so faithful. She said they read the proverbs together on a daily basis.

C) This book is made up of many proverbs.

1. Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs, **1 Kings 4.32.**
 - a. His wisdom was a direct gift from God, **1 Kings 3.5-12; 4.19-31.**
2. Proverbs spoken by Agur, **Proverbs 30.**
3. Proverbs spoken by King Lemuel, **Proverbs 31.**

D) The purpose of this book is simple, *Proverbs 1.1-7*

1. To impart wisdom. How? through His word. To learn to grow and act wisely, righteously, to treat others fairly, to avoid the mistakes of others. Quote Mark Twain.
2. As one reads Proverbs, they see wisdom is not hard to find it one looks in the right place.

E) Some common mistakes of each and every generation

1. Temptation of thinking they know everything or more than anyone else.
2. Temptation of fornication. Lust of the flesh, being seduced
3. Temptation of drunkenness
4. Temptation of laziness
5. Temptation of associating with the wrong friends

6. Temptation of uncontrolled spirit and tongue
7. Thinking we can get by with being dishonest.

Conclusion:

These and other topics are found in Proverbs. One common thread is true wisdom starts with God, *Psalm 53.1*. **Jericho, Hear, believe, repent, confess, bapt.**