

Proverbs 1:2-3; 3:3-6; 11:25-26; 13:16; 21:16; 26:11 | Psalm 53:1 | Job 10
Galatians 5:13-18

What do you do with independence/freedom?

The goal of the wise is to successfully handle freedom.

The wise seek freedom to:

Follow

- The wise follow God.
- The foolish follow fools.

Love

- The wise love God and others.
- The foolish love self.

Bless

- The wise bless others.
- The foolish fills only themselves.

The wise seek freedom from:

Bondage

Bitterness

Cynicism

The wise live in growing freedom.

This week we launched our new series called "Proverbs the Way of Wisdom". Most of us have experienced the powerful and even calming effect of the insight of a person with godly wisdom. The big question is how does one gain this kind of wisdom? Scripture makes it clear that it does not happen by accident, but rather when we seek it like searching for a hidden treasure. (Proverbs 2:1-22)

Since Proverbs has 31 chapters, a practical way to do this is to daily read the chapter that corresponds to the day of the month and consider these questions:

- What applies to me today?
- Where have I seen this in others?
- Where have I experienced this?

As you do this from day to day, know that you will be storing up for yourself insight on how to handle life as God would want you to, as well as helping others to live out the wisdom and love of God in your life.

OPTIONS TO MAXIMIZE YOUR READING OF PROVERBS:

- Pick a Time - If we want to make something happen, we usually need to set a time when it will actually happen. Consider your options.
- Mark it Up - Have a pen in hand to jot down notes and underline those verses that catch your attention. It will be encouraging to look back at what you wrote after you've done this over time.
- Write Down Your Thoughts - Get a notebook and write down anytime you have a response to one of the three questions above.
- Use an App- YouVersion bible app has many proverbs reading plans with audio options to listen to the word as well.
- Ease Up - If you miss a day reading, don't stress and say, "Forget about it". Just pick it up the next day and keep going!