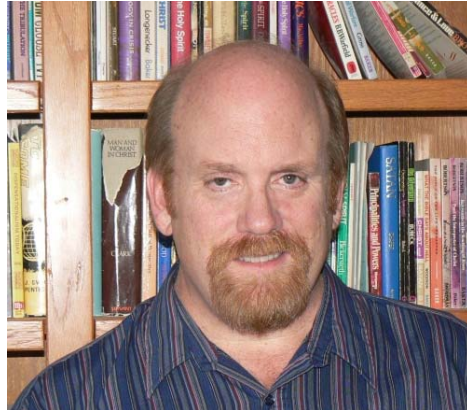


## Mr. Dan Phillips



God drew me to faith in Christ as my Lord and Savior on February 11, 1973. Shortly after conversion, I came to see that I was gifted and motivated by God to be a pastor-teacher. That same year I began a four-year pastoral training school, learning fundamentals of Biblical Greek and Hebrew, and an introduction to Biblical sciences and facts. After that, I took additional Hebrew education under John Sailhamer, then earned a Bachelor's in Biblical Studies through an assigned studies program from Toledo Bible College and Seminary (now Trinity Theological Seminary, in Indiana).

Then I earned a Master of Divinity in Old Testament at Talbot Theological Seminary, and on graduation taught classes in Beginning Hebrew, Advanced Hebrew, Old Testament Theology, and New Testament Survey. My Master's thesis was on the book of Proverbs, which has been a special love of mine for decades. I have conducted Proverbs seminars in churches.

I have also taught at Grace Bible School and the Sacramento campus of Western Seminary. I since pastored three churches, have written newspapers columns, hosted a radio talk show, and co-chaired a Christian homeschooling support organization. I've preached in Baptist, Grace Brethren, Presbyterian, and independent churches. Most recently I have communicated the Word on the internet, including three blogs, of which the best-known is Phil Johnson's team blog Pyromaniacs ([teampyro.blogspot.com](http://teampyro.blogspot.com)).

I am married and have four children ranging in age from 7 to 23.

# Understanding Proverbs

Session 1 — Insights from Proverbs

*Daniel J. Phillips*

10/27/07

*South Arizona Grace Bible Conference*

## Introduction

### I. The Uniqueness of Proverbs

#### A. Unique in the Bible

1. Hebrews 1:1-2
2. Genesis 15:1
3. Jeremiah 1:4-5
4. Exodus 16:11-12
5. Exodus 25:8-9
6. Jeremiah 30:1-2
7. Proverbs 24:30-34
8. Hebrews 12:5a

#### B. Unique in its Contents

### II. The Background of Proverbs

#### A. In the Ancient Near East

#### B. In Biblical History and Literature

1. What the text says about authorship
  - a. Proverbs 1:1
  - b. Proverbs 10:1a
  - c. Proverbs 22:17
  - d. Proverbs 25:1
  - e. Proverbs 30:1
  - f. Proverbs 31:1
  - g. If left to them, what would we conclude?
    - i. That **Solomon** wrote 1—9
    - ii. That **Solomon** wrote 10:1—22:16
    - iii. That **someone (probably Solomon)** wrote 22:17—24:34
    - iv. That **Solomon** wrote 25—29
    - v. That someone named **Agur** wrote 30
    - vi. That someone named **Lemuel** wrote 31
  - h. **Discussion**

- i. My outline:

<b>The Proverbs of Solomon</b>	
<b>I.</b>	<b>Introduction and Motto (Proverbs 1:1-7)</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Proverb Discourses (Proverbs 1:7 — 9:18)</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>Classic Proverbs (Proverbs 10 — 29)</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Guest Appendices (Proverbs 30, 31)</b>

2. Why it matters

### **III. The Interpretation of Proverbs**

#### **A. Be True to the Design of the Book (1:2-7)**

#### **B. Be True to the Context**

#### **C. Be True to the Form**

1. What a proverb *is*
  - a. Generally speaking, *poetry*
  - b. Specific definition:
  - c. Formation of proverbs
  - d. Function
2. What a proverb *isn't*
3. Shapes
  - a. Externally (as we meet them in book)
  - b. Internally
    - i. Synonymous (B=A)
    - ii. Antithetic (A, but B)
    - iii. Synthetic (A/B)
    - iv. Comparison (A is like B, or vice-versa)
    - v. Evaluation (A is better than B)
    - vi. Consequence (B is what happens when you A)

# God in Proverbs

Session 2 — Insights from Proverbs

10/27/07

South Arizona Grace Bible Conference

Daniel J. Phillips

## Introduction

### I. Knowing God

#### A. His Character

1. Infinite/personal
  - a. He **hates** and feels **disgust**
  
  - b. He **loves** and feels **delight**
  
  - c. He relates as person to person
2. Holy and Righteous Judge
  - a. Not only wise/fool, but righteous/wicked, are constantly contrasted
  
  - b. He brings **judgment** on the **wicked**
  
  - c. He **hates unrighteous** behavior
  
  - d. He **loves** the **righteous**
  
  - e. He demands **justice**
3. Loving
4. Wise

#### B. His Works

1. Creator
  
2. Sovereign Lord
  
3. Judge

**II. Walking with God****A. How to Know Him**

1. By *listening* to His Word
  
2. By *storing up* His Word
  
3. By *studying* His Word
  
4. By *trusting* His Word

**B. How to Serve Him**

1. Fear
  
2. Trust and obey
  
3. No shams

**C. What to Expect from Him**

1. Loving discipline
  
2. An open ear
  
3. Blessing

**D. Larger Biblical Context**

# Wisdom and Folly in Proverbs

Session 3 — Insights from Proverbs

Daniel J. Phillips

10/27/07

South Arizona Grace Bible Conference

## Introduction

### I. The Purpose of the Book (Exposition of 1:1-6 [DPUV])

#### A. Author (1:1)

Proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:

#### B. Five Objectives

##### 1. Intellectual wisdom (v. 2)

For becoming acquainted with<sup>1</sup> wisdom and discipline,  
For discerning sayings of discernment.

##### 2. Moral wisdom (v. 3)

For receiving intelligent discipline<sup>2</sup> —  
Righteousness, and justice, and uprightness.<sup>3</sup>

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##### 3. Tools of maturity (v. 4)

1:4 For giving to the naïve ones shrewdness,<sup>4</sup>  
To the young *person* and planning skill.<sup>5</sup>

##### 4. Advancement in maturity (v. 5)

1:5 Let a wise *person* listen and add learning,<sup>6</sup>  
And let a discerning *person* acquire a knowledge of the ropes!<sup>7</sup>

##### 5. Becoming an authority (v. 6)

1:6 For discerning a proverb and a satire,  
The words of wise men and their riddles.

### C. Summary and Observation

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<sup>1</sup>Or “knowing.”

<sup>2</sup>Literally “discipline of intelligence.”

<sup>3</sup>Literally “straight things,” the idea being “straightness,” as opposed to being crooked.

<sup>4</sup>Or “savvy.”

<sup>5</sup>Or “strategy.”

<sup>6</sup>The noun is related to the verb translated “receive” in verse 3, and thus means his store, his accumulation, his acquisition of learning.

<sup>7</sup>Or “guidance,” or “leadership.” The word comes from the noun meaning “cable” or “rope” (particularly such as was used in directing a boat), from which came the word meaning “sailor” (as one who uses the ropes to guide a ship).

## II. The Heart of Wisdom

### A. Steps to Wisdom

1. First and **foundational**: Proverbs 1:7  
1:7 The fear of Yahweh is the starting-point<sup>8</sup> of knowledge;  
Wisdom and discipline, dense people despise.
2. **Repentance** / change of loves
3. Focused, attentive, prayerful **study**
4. **Memorization**
5. Humble openness to **correction**

## III. The Heart of Folly

### A. Wrong loves

### B. Inertia

### C. Pride

### D. Resistance to Correction

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<sup>8</sup>Or “beginning,” “principle;” the idea is that of “axiom” or “premise.”

# Marriage in Proverbs

Session 4 — Insights from Proverbs

Daniel J. Phillips

10/27/07

South Arizona Grace Bible Conference

## Introduction

### I. Survey of OT on the Meaning of Marriage

#### A. In the Beginning....

1. Genesis 1:26-28
2. Genesis 2:18-25
3. Genesis 3

#### B. The Nature and Aim of Marriage

### II. What Proverbs Says to Singles

#### A. Marriage Is a Good Thing (Proverbs 18:22)

#### B. Marriage Is Sacred

1. Marriage is a divine covenant
2. Marriage must be jealously guarded
3. Marriage is the *sole* God-given place of sexual satisfaction

#### C. Marriage is a Pivotal Decision

1. A good wife can “make” you
2. A bad wife can “break” you
3. The usefulness of Proverbs for singles

### III. What Proverbs Says to Married People

#### A. To the Man

1. Guard your heart — specifically:
  - a. Watch your **eyes**
  
  - b. Watch your weakness for **flattery**
  
2. **Love** your wife extravagantly
  
3. Praise your wife

#### B. To the Woman

1. Guard your heart
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Build your house
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Adorn your husband
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Characteristics of an excellent wife from Proverbs 31:10-31:
  - a. First, the poem as a whole
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Eleven traits:
    - i. She is rare (31:10)
    - ii. She is trustworthy (31:11a)
    - iii. She is profitable (31:11b)
    - iv. She is absolutely committed to her husband's good (31:12)
    - v. She works hard, smart, and profitably (31:13-27)
    - vi. She has good business sense (31:16)
    - vii. She motivates/enables her husband to succeed (31:23)
    - viii. She knows and spreads the Word (31:26)
    - ix. She deserves and receives her family's praise (31:28-29)
    - x. She fears Yahweh (31:30)
    - xi. She is famous for her deeds (31:31)

# Children in Proverbs

Session 5 — Insights from Proverbs

Daniel J. Phillips

10/28/07

South Arizona Grace Bible Conference

## Introduction

### I. Survey of OT on the Meaning of Children

#### A. In the Beginning....

1. Genesis 1:26-28
2. Genesis 18:19

#### B. The Nature and Aim of Children

1. Children are a **blessing** (Psalm 127:3-5)
2. Children are to be trained in the ways of God by parents who know God
3. Parents are legally empowered

### II. What Proverbs Teaches Children

#### A. Exposition of Proverbs 6:20-24 (DPUV)

1. The command (vv. 20-21)  
Guard, my son, the commandment of your father,  
And do not forsake the law of your mother.  
Bind them upon your heart continually,  
Tie them around your neck.
2. The benefit (v. 22)  
When you walk about, it will guide you;  
When you lie down, it will keep watch over you;  
And when you awake, it itself will talk with you.
3. The reason (v. 23)  
For the commandment is a lamp,  
And the law a light,  
And the reproofs of discipline are the way of life.
4. The result (v. 24)  
To keep you from the evil woman,  
From the flattery of the tongue of the foreign woman.

#### B. Child's Attitude

1. Towards **God**
2. Towards *your parents*

**C. Child's Actions**

1. **Listen** from the heart, and memorize
  
2. **Accept correction**

**III. What Proverbs Teaches Parents**

**A. Both Teach**

**B. It's About *God***

**C. Aim for the *Heart***

**D. Be *Proactive***

1. Choice of company
  
2. Sexual purity

**E. Speak to be *Heard***

1. The **principle**
  
2. The **rationale**
  
3. The **warning** (22:6)
  - Train up a child in the way he should go;
  - even when he is old he will not depart from it (ESV)
  - Extremely literal:** Initiate for<sup>1</sup> the child on the mouth of his way;
  - Even when he is old he will not turn from it.
  - Translated:** Start out a boy according to his own way;
  - Even though he may grow old, he will not turn from it.
  - Interpretive paraphrase:** Start out a boy after his own natural way
  - And he will *never* grow out of it!

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<sup>1</sup> Or *to*, or *with respect to*.

# Living in the Fear of the Lord

Session 6 — Insights from Proverbs

*Daniel J. Phillips*

10/28/07

*South Arizona Grace Bible Conference*

The fear of Yahweh is the starting-point<sup>1</sup> of knowledge;  
Wisdom and discipline, dense people despise. (Proverbs 1:7 DPUV)

## Introduction

### I. The \_\_\_\_\_ of It

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ject

B. The \_\_\_\_\_ject: \_\_\_\_\_

### II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of It

A. Because of His \_\_\_\_\_acy

B. Because of His \_\_\_\_\_acy

### III. The \_\_\_\_\_ of It

A. The Root Idea

B. The Fear of Yahweh Must Be \_\_\_\_\_

C. The Fear of Yahweh Must Be \_\_\_\_\_

D. The Fear of Yahweh Must Be \_\_\_\_\_

### IV. The Problem of It

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<sup>1</sup>Or “beginning,” “principle;” the idea is that of “axiom” or “premise.”