

## **Guide to Successful Living**

### ***Huge Benefit from a Small Book***

Thirty-one short chapters comprise Proverbs. However, we must not judge the book's value by its size. Its benefit for our everyday lives infinitely surpasses its smallness.

Delores and I began reading Proverbs through once a month by reading one chapter a day according to the calendar date. On the first of the month we read chapter one; on the sixth we read chapter six; on the thirty-first we read chapter thirty-one. In this way we go through Proverbs twelve times a year. If we miss a day we read two chapters the following day or we just wait until the next month.

Of course, there are portions of Proverbs that will not apply to everyone. Over all however, all of us profit from the wise sayings and instructions of this wonderful Guide to Successful Living.

## **An Introduction to Proverbs**

### ***What is a Proverb?***

A Proverb is a short thing that expresses a truth. Example: "An apple a day keeps the doctor away" means that a proper diet will keep you healthy. A Proverb teaches us a lesson for life.

### ***Who can benefit from this Book?***

This Book is intended to teach us lessons in life or how we can live the good life. These Proverbs show us God's truth so we can cooperate with his efforts to make us happy.

Solomon introduces this book with an invitation for all to learn (2:2-6). His invitation is all inclusive; he invites:

- All People, verses 2-3
- The Simple, verse 4
- Young People, verse 4
- The Wise, verse 5
- The Understanding, verse 5

***The Purposes for this Book***  
*(Proverbs 2:2-6)*

1. So people may know God’s wisdom and teachings.
2. So people can understand words of insight. (In other words, so you can see “beneath the surface” appearance of life situations.)
3. So people can know wise dealings, righteousness, justice and integrity (completeness of character) in their relationships.
4. To give prudence to the simple. (Prudence is sound judgment in practical matters; being sensible, not rash.)
5. To give knowledge and discretion to young people. (Discretion is the ability to separate error from truth.)
6. To help a wise person increase in learning.
7. To help a person of understanding acquire skill (in applying that understanding).
8. To help a person understand a proverb and its interpretation (or application).
9. To help people understand the words of the wise and the hidden truths behind their sayings.



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