

- WELCOME TO -  
**MAURICE REFORMED CHURCH**

...FOLLOWING GOD, LOVING OTHERS...



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The background image is a photograph of a dirt path that stretches from the bottom of the frame towards a distant horizon. The path is flanked by tall, dry grass. In the distance, a small cross is visible on a hill, silhouetted against a bright, orange-hued sunset sky. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

A STUDY OF PROVERBS  
**THE PATH OF WISDOM**

AUGUST SERMON SERIES WITH PASTOR JEREMY

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS**  
WEEK OF AUGUST 2-8



# SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

## THE PATH OF WISDOM | STUDY OF PROVERBS

#1 T\_\_\_\_\_ A\_\_\_\_\_ T\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 1:8-19

#2 The Path of Wisdom is found in the F\_\_\_\_\_ O\_\_\_\_\_ T\_\_\_\_\_ L\_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 1:1-7

#3 The Path of the Fool Produces:

T\_\_\_\_\_

D\_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 1:20-33

#4 The Path of Wisdom Produces:

P\_\_\_\_\_

R\_\_\_\_\_

J\_\_\_\_\_

E\_\_\_\_\_

D\_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 2

# MONDAY, AUGUST 3

## PROVERBS 1 — TO FEAR THE LORD

I am wondering if you ever feared anyone as you grew up? I have heard it said that children of past generations feared their parents so they tried to obey them the best they could. For many people today this fear is viewed as bad and inappropriate. Because of this thought the pendulum has swung to the side of parents trying so desperately hard to be their kids' friend rather than their leader. In reality, what we need is to learn what healthy fear actually is and live in that.

In our passage today Solomon shares a little bit about wisdom and his desire for those around him to know this wisdom. In verse 7 he writes that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; and that fools despise wisdom and instruction. For those who lived in fear towards others this may trigger you. Here is what we need to know about fearing the Lord. First, we don't need to be scared, but Jesus himself says we are to fear the one who can destroy both body and soul. We need to realize that God has all power and authority over us and can do as He pleases. Second, the word fear today is often described as reverence or awe in these passages. To revere, honor and respect the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. In other words, truly knowing God and understanding the position He truly is in, is what brings us to start receiving knowledge.

Church, we must be careful to not swing the pendulum too far, especially on how we interact with God. Yes, God is our Father and yes he loves us, but God is holy and we are not. God is not meant to be our buddy or pal, but our holy, honored and almighty leader. We can belittle God in how we treat Him in our prayers, in our conversations with others and in our worship. It's time to make sure our pendulum is in the middle, where it should be, in our understanding of a holy God who is worthy of all our praise, adoration and reverence.

**SONG:**

"Great Are You Lord" - All Sons and Daughters

### KIDS QUESTION:

What does it mean to fear the Lord? Talk to your parents about this topic.

### YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:

How do you speak to God in prayer? Why should our interaction with God be reverent and what does that mean?

**PRAYER:**

Lord, You are God and we are not. Lord, You hold all authority and we do not. Lord, forgive us when we have belittled You in our interaction with You and we have lowered You to less than what You are in our minds.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

## PROVERBS 2 — THE BENEFITS OF SEEKING WISDOM

As parents we often try to help our kids see the results of their actions. If they choose to do option A then this will happen and if they choose to do option B then this will happen. We do this to help them see the best choice and help them understand why it would be the best choice. Today in our passage Solomon shares some “if this, then that” will happen statements with us.

Solomon encourages his readers to seek wisdom and if they will seek wisdom then two things will happen. First, they will find wisdom and have their path guarded. In other words when we seek wisdom we will find it because God will show it to us and will help us walk in it. Second, having wisdom will help us know what is right, what is just and what leads to equity. Another thing we learn in this passage is that once again the only source for this is God and He alone is the giver of wisdom and knowledge.

This month as we continue to walk down the path of wisdom we are reminded that it's not just about receiving wisdom, but living according to it. It's one thing to know what is right and know what is just, but it's another thing to actually live it out. If we choose not to live it out we will find ourselves being tricked to walk another path. Think of it this way, there is no time in our life that we are standing still, we are either walking the path of wisdom or walking the path of deception. Which one are we walking today?

**SONG:**

["Christ Our Wisdom"](#) Christ Our Wisdom (Official Video)

### KIDS QUESTION:

Do you walk the path of wisdom or deception? Explain each. Do you ever find a time where you seem to stand still?

### YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:

Why is it important to not just know something but to apply it to your daily life?

**PRAYER:**

Lord, thank You for sharing wisdom with us. Help us to not just know it in our heart, but put it into action.

[illegible]

# WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

## PROVERBS 3 | WORDS TO LIVE BY

Today I want to focus on multiple Proverbs that stood out to me. In verses 5 and 6 we hear a very popular passage about trusting in the Lord with our whole heart and lean not on our own understanding. When we trust in God and acknowledge Him in all we do then our paths will be straight. We can only walk a straight path when we are following after God and not our own desires.

Verses 7 and 8 continue this thought by teaching us to not be wise in our own eyes, but to turn away from evil and find healing. In our culture we have an epidemic of the phrase, "But I think" and of the attitude that everyone can have their own truth. Again it is not about what I think is right, but about what God says is right. When we truly receive Christ and follow Him we will find healing.

Verses 11 and 12 remind us that being disciplined by God is a good thing. He disciplines those He loves so that they get back on the right path. When God's truth hits a little too close to home we need to accept that truth and live according to it.

All of these verses challenge the idea that we as humanity hold all knowledge and wisdom. We will miss out on true wisdom if we can't get past the fact that we might be wrong. Pride can be a huge deterrent from fearing the Lord, acknowledging Him in all things and accepting His discipline. May we each be challenged by these truths today and apply them to our lives.

**SONG:**

## "Trust in God" Elevation Worship

### KIDS QUESTION:

How do you trust God? Tell of a time you trusted God instead of your own understanding. How did things turn out?

### YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:

Share a time when you trusted God and not your own understanding. Where are some places in your life that pride has caused you to miss the path of wisdom?

**PRAYER:**

Lord, teach us to trust in You with all of our hearts.

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# THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

## PROVERBS 4 — THERE ARE TWO PATHS

Earlier this week we talked about how we are either walking on the path of wisdom or the path of folly, there is no standing still. Today Solomon reminds us that we need to be intentional. We must get wisdom and not turn away from her words. We must keep wisdom and we must walk according to the instructions of wisdom. Solomon wants those listening to know that it is not easy to stay on the path of wisdom. No, it will take effort and focus.

The other path, the path of folly, is to be avoided. We must turn away, again an intentional decision, and not walk in its deception. This path is described as darkness, a place where we easily stumble and fall, and where devious talk and crooked speech are spoken. I don't think it is too hard to know which path we want to walk down, but the constant challenge is to make sure we are truly walking down the right path.

In the New Testament we are told that there are two paths in life. One is wide and easy to find and the other is narrow and hard to find. Unfortunately, it is the path of folly that is wide and easy to find, while the path of righteousness is narrow and few will ever make the effort to find it. Take a moment today and seek God to find what path you are on today.

**SONG:**

"Walk With You" - Michael Bethany

### KIDS QUESTION:

Are you aware of what path you are walking on? How are you intentional about it?. This is a difficult thing to understand. Have your parents give you an example of their walk and choices they made. Talk about it as a family.

### YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:

Why is the path of folly so easy to find and walk on? What are some things you can do to intentionally walk the path of wisdom?

**PRAYER:**

Lord, help me not to be lazy today in my search for wisdom.  
I know following you takes intentionality, so give me strength to  
continue forward.

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# FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

## PROVERBS 5 — DON'T BE LED ASTRAY

(Viewer Discretion Advised)

From the beginning of scripture God has said that intimacy in a relationship is good. He tells Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply. He talks about how this act of intimacy makes the couple one. God is clear that sex is good, but He is also clear that the enemy has twisted it and caused what was created for good to be tainted.

In our chapter today the topic of sexual intimacy is being talked about and there is need for wisdom to be spoken. It is clear that the adulterous woman is attractive. Just like the forbidden fruit in the garden that looked good and smelled good and tasted good. Following the adulterous woman can seem to provide enjoyment, pleasure and happiness. As the passage goes along we are told that we are to remain faithful to the one we have committed to. We are not to go out searching for other wells to drink from.

In our world today sexual sin is not just adultery, but can be a variety of things. I believe that the warning that is given in this passage is true for all of the other sexual temptations as well. Each of these temptations might look good, feel good and provide temporary satisfaction, but they all lead to death and darkness. Again, the author reminds the reader to be intentional about turning away and staying as far away from that path as possible. It is not worth asking how far is too far, for by the time you ask that question you are too far. Wisdom is found in honoring the marriage bed and respecting the beautiful act that God has ordained as good.

**SONG:**

"Walk With You" Zach Williams

### KIDS QUESTION:

Is it easy to sin? Why or why not?

**YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:**

## Why does sin often seem good or enjoyable?

**PRAYER:**

Lord, we know that the enemy is always twisting what you created as good. Lord, keep us away from temptation so that we can walk in Your wisdom.

[illegible]

# SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

## PROVERBS 6 — SEVEN THINGS THE LORD HATES

God is love, so how can this passage say God hates something? God obviously does not approve of all things. He doesn't love sin and so in this passage we are simply given a list of things that God considers on the path of foolishness. First, are haughty eyes. These are eyes that are filled with pride and arrogance and eyes that look down on others. This is a picture of selfishness instead of love. Second is a lying tongue. From the beginning the enemy has been a deceiver and has drawn people away from living for God. It's not too hard to understand that God would desire for us to speak the truth and not twist it in any way.

Third, we see that God hates people who kill those who are innocent. We see this battle in our world today and watch people from all stages of life be murdered. Fourth comes the desire to do evil things. God does not want a heart in us that desires to do things opposed to Him. Fifth, goes right along with that and talks about feet that are excited to join in with sin.

The final two consist of division in the body. This happens through telling lies about each other and sowing discord and division. God desires unity for His people and knows that gossip and twisted stories will destroy unity.

Also something to note in these verses is that the author uses the visual of the eye, tongue, heart, hands, feet and then the outward actions of speaking and doing. This is an early picture of what Jesus talked about with murder and adultery not just being outward expressions. God hates these things as attitudes and feelings inside and actions outside, both are detestable to God.

**SONG:**

"Seven Things the Lord Hates" - Seven Things the Lord Hates  
Song of Conviction and Reflection #Praise and Worship

### KIDS QUESTION:

## What seven things does God hate?

### YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:

After looking at those seven things, I encourage you to discuss why God would hate those things.

**PRAYER:**

Lord, thank You for clearly showing what things are not from you. Lord, take any of these things out of our thoughts and feelings and guard us from ever thinking or doing these things that are opposed to Your truth and wisdom.

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