

"Uncommon Sense" from the Proverbs

Sunday Evening, September 6, 2026 – WOCC – Rich Howell

BOOK INTRODUCTION: **1)** *A proverb is a short, pithy statement of wisdom, wit or irony. Written proverbs date back to Hammurabi (2000 BC), and were also prevalent in the ancient cultures of the Far East – most notably in the writings and recorded annals of Confucius (551-479 BC?).* **2)** *The Hebrew word for proverb (mashal) is defined as "A _____ in the form of similitude, representation or comparison." Proverbs are rules for living _____ before God and man. And these rules are not merely stated, they are often illustrated with clear, concise pictures from everyday life.* **3)** *According to 1 Kings 3:7-15 and 4:29-34, we learn that God gave King Solomon (971-931 BC) a degree of wisdom beyond all who have ever lived (except for _____ – Mat 12:42!). We also learn that Solomon wrote _____ proverbs (of which _____ - _____ are recorded in this book, and another _____ or so in Ecclesiastes). He also wrote _____ songs, which may include the Song of Songs!* **4)** *I've heard it said that Proverbs is just a book of good old fashioned "common sense" but I prefer to call this inspired collection "_____ Sense!" What we read here is a _____ wisdom that Yahweh God graciously gave to King Solomon to enlighten, _____ and bless all wisdom-seeking people of every generation!.*

I. (1:1-7) INTRODUCTION

📖 (1:1) BOOK TITLE, AUTHORSHIP (See also 10:1; 22:17-23; 25:1; 30:1; 31:1)

📖 (1:2-6) BOOK _____

📖 (1:7) BOOK _____ (See also 9:10)

Wisdom defined: *Wisdom is insight and understanding into the true _____ of things – what is good, right and true. It is knowledge _____ with discernment and good judgment. Wisdom is more than knowing "what" – it is knowing _____ and knowing _____. And, true wisdom is only available to _____ - _____ people!*

EVENING DEVOTION: Five Questions about Wisdom (Answer list on back)

1. **What is WISDOM?** Knowing what is _____ and how to live _____; and _____ to live that way! (Prov 1:1-3; James 3:13)
2. **What's so great about WISDOM?** It brings great _____ and blessings to those who find it! (Prov 2:10-12; 3:2-4,13-26,35; 8:35;)
3. **Where does wisdom come from?** From the _____-wise, _____-wise God! (Prov 2:6; 3:5-8; Eph 5:15-17; 1 Tim 1:17)
4. **How does one become wise?**
 - ↪ By _____ing God (Psalm 14:1-2; Acts 17:26-27)
 - ↪ By _____ing God (Prov 1:7; 9:10; Job 28:28)
 - ↪ By _____ing and _____ing God (Prov 3:1-6; 4:1; James 1:22-25; Mat 7:24-27)
 - ↪ By _____ing God (Prov 2:1-6; 8:17; 23:23; Jam 1:5-6;4:2b; 2 Chr 1:7-12; 9:22-23; Prov 8:17; 23:23)

5. Why is Jesus greater than Solomon? (Luke 11:31)

- Solomon's wisdom can give us a _____ life, a _____ life
- But Jesus' "grace and truth" can give us _____ life, _____ life and _____ life!
(1 Cor 1:30; Jn 1:4,14,17; 10:10,27-28; Rom 6:3-4; 2 Cor 5:17)
- That is why the greatest wisdom of all is to *be* "_____ to SALVATION though _____
in _____!" (2 Tim 3:15)

EVENING DEVOTION ANSWER LIST (scrambled, of course!):

FEAR
BENEFITS
RIGHT
ASK
ONLY
ETERNAL
FAITH
HEAR
GOOD
RIGHT
NEW

BETTER
SALVATION
CHOOSING
FULL
SEEK
CHRIST
ALL
OBEY
JESUS
WISE