

# **The Product and Power of Proverbs**

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## Introduction:

A. We have previously determined that the purpose of Proverbs was to build Christian character.

B. And we looked at God's plan to accomplish the purpose of building Christian character.

C. Now we want to consider the power source for accomplishing God's plan.

1. God rules by his own power. (Psalm 66:7)

2. God is our deliverer and strength. (Psalm 18:2, 32)

3. God created the earth by the power of his word. (Genesis 1)

4. All Scripture is given by inspiration and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)

D. There are three aspects of Bible study.

1. Attitude for correct Bible study.

2. Correct approach to Bible study.

3. The awards of correct Bible study.

a. We need to seek God in his word. (Proverbs 2:3)

b. Prayer.

1. Father we thank you for your strength.

2. Show us how to communicate spiritual truth.

3. The Holy Spirit is the teacher of truth.

4. Let your word prepare the hearts of men.

5. We pray for Jesus' sake.

I. Correct Bible study includes an attitude of application.

A. God gave us the word for one reason, to change lives, not to increase our knowledge. (1 Corinthians 8:1)

1. We need to receive the word of God. (Proverbs 2)

2. We need the attitude of submission in order to benefit from Bible study. (Proverbs 3:1)
3. When God got my attention he gave me a thirst for his word.
4. I studied the word of God night after night but my attitude needed to be oriented toward application.
5. The word is life and health to those who find it. (Proverbs 4:20-21)
6. The word of God is able to build us up if our attitude is one of application. (Acts 20:32)
7. Attitude needs to be one of application. (Proverbs 5:1; 20:21-23; 7:1-3; 12:27; 28:19; 28:20-22)

B. What is your attitude toward Bible study?

1. Is your attitude one of application or one of curiosity?
2. The wise man or woman will have the attitude of application.

II. The correct approach to Bible study is necessary.

A. Personal investigation is essential to Christian character.

1. Personal investigation means that each believer searches the word to see what it means.
2. We go to commentaries only after personal study.
3. Commentaries are good but initially we need to study by personal investigation.
4. Commentaries are other men's thoughts about the book.

B. Hard work is also important.

1. Lack of hard work explains why people go to commentaries first.
2. It's easier to read other men's ideas than it is to study yourself.
  - a. If we incline our hearts to wisdom and cry after knowledge we will find.
  - b. This implies action on our part.
  - c. I have meditated on single verse for years. (John 15:5)
3. We need to avoid laziness, taking a lesson from the ant. (Proverbs 6:6)
4. The one that works his land will eat. (Proverbs 12:11)
5. The place of the sluggard is wasted. (Proverbs 20:24)

7. If we are going to grow in Christian character we need to have the word of God as our power source to change our lives.

8. We need to commit ourselves to the master of the book. (Proverbs 24:13-14)

### III. Awards follow correct Bible study.

A. The fear of God is a reward of Bible study so that God blesses and preserves the faithful. (Proverbs 2:5)

1. God gives life and health. (Proverbs 4:22)

2. We learn digression and knowledge. (Proverbs 5:2)

3. We gain reproof and instruction for life. (Proverbs 6:23)

4. Wisdom can be ours. (Proverbs 18:4)

5. Do you know men characterized by these qualities?

6. These qualities can be ours if our walk is one of application, personal investigation and hard work.

7. We will also have the testimony of being wise men that hear God instead of sluggards.

a. Hearing the word of truth in order to apply God's truth. (Matthew 13:13)

1. A wise man will hear and gain understanding. (Proverbs 1:5)

2. A wise man will hear and learn while a fool hates instruction. (Proverbs 1:7)

3. Hear and be wise. (Proverbs 8:33)

4. A wise hears and heeds but a fool ignores instruction. (Proverbs 13:1)

b. A wise man will also have right perspective.

1. Diligence needs to characterize our lives. (Proverbs 10:5)

2. Wise lay up knowledge but the fool ignores instruction. (Proverbs 10:14)

c. We will be able to accept reproof and learn from it. (Proverbs 9:8)

1. Shallow men refuse instruction while the wise accept instruction.

2. After coming on staff with the Navigators I had promised to bring a crib to a conference for a man's baby and was rebuked for it.

a. Rebukes are good for us.

b. Open rebuke is better than secret love.

3. Poor men refuse to hear rebuke.

4. How do you take rebuke? Pride leads to bitterness.

B. The wise fear God. (Proverbs 14:16)

1. While in business I got into a religious discussion with a man in a barber shop.

2. A wealthy Latin American man said that God would never punish him because he would buy his way out of hell with his money.

3. Confidence in money or strength or wisdom is foolishness; our confidence must be in God.

4. The king's favor is toward the wise servant but his wrath is toward fools. (Proverbs 14:35)

5. We choose what way we will travel; the way of God's wisdom or the way of man's wisdom. (Proverbs 1)

a. As believers in Christ we need to hearken unto the Lord.

b. This is God's desire for each one of us.