

**Sermon Notes**  
**Good News Church**  
*Psalms, Proverbs & Parables*  
**Proverbs & Providence – God’s Guidance and Grace for America**  
**“Wisdom, Worship, Words, Work, Humility & Honesty”**  
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**Proverbs & Providence – God’s Guidance and Grace for America (Part 1)**  
Six Core Themes: “Wisdom, Worship, Words, Work, Humility & Honesty”

The book of Proverbs ultimately is about Wisdom, Worship, Words, Work, Humility, and Honesty. As we look ahead to America’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, and look back on our history, there’s no doubt that our country was founded on these six Biblical principles. It’s also evident that we’ve been adrift from these principles for at least the past 65 or 70 years, and for our nation to continue to be great, we must humble our hearts, and return to God and His ways of Wisdom, Worship, Words, Work, Humility, and Honesty.

**About Proverbs**

- **Author:** King Solomon, Agur, King Lemuel
- **Style:** Wisdom literature (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon)
- **Date:** 950 B.C.
- **Theme:** *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”* – Proverbs 9:10
  
- **King Solomon wrote over 3,000 proverbs and wrote 1,005 songs. (1 Kings 4:32)**
  - **Additional authors:** Agur (CH. 30), King Lemuel (CH. 31)
  
- **Blessing:** King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. (1 Kings 10:23)
  
- **Downfall:** King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women... He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. (1 Kings 11:1a, 3-4)
  
- **Solomon’s life is perfect evidence that knowledge / wisdom of God is not enough. We need to be surrendered.**

**Proverbs Introduction (Purpose)**

1 The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: 2 for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; 3 for receiving instruction in prudent behavior (work), doing what is right and just and fair (honesty); 4 for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young—5 let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—6 for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise. 7 The fear of the Lord (worship) is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. 9 They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

## Proverbs - 6 Core Themes

### Wisdom – Worship – Words – Work – Humility – Honest

1. **WISDOM** (vs. Folly): The central contrast of the book. Wisdom represents right living, truth, and self-control, while folly symbolizes living without moral boundaries.
  - **Do not be wise in your own eyes... blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction. (29:18)** Spiritual perspective is CRITICAL!
  - **"A life frittered away (foolishness) disgusts God; he loves those who run straight for the finish line." (15:9 MSG)**
  - **Barriers to Wisdom**
    - **HEART / EMOTIONS (temper, anger)** - 'Fools have short fuses and explode all too quickly; the prudent quietly shrug off insults'. (12:16 MSG) A fool always loses his temper, But a wise man holds it back. (29:11)
    - **MIND / THINKING (clouded)** - Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise. (20:1)
    - **SPIRIT** - pride
  - **SOURCE OF WISDOM** - **"Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." – Colossians 2:3**
    - The Declaration of Independence and Constitution are evidences of the faith of our founding fathers and Godly wisdom.
2. **WORSHIP** (Fearing God / Reverence vs. Irreverence / Unbelief): recognizing God's authority and aligning your daily life with His standard of good and evil
  - **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. – Proverbs 9:10**
    - **Worship is reflected in generosity** - Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. (3:9-10) A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. (11:25)
    - **"In God We Trust"** is the central theme on all of our American currency in throughout our government.
  - **Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. (16:3)**  
**POWERFUL REALITY > We worship a God who is in control.**

- Blessed is the one who always trembles before God, but whoever hardens their heart falls into trouble. (28:14)
  - **FOCUS OF WORSHIP** - Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Whose hands have gathered up the wind? Who has wrapped up the waters in a cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is the name of his son? Surely you know! (30:4-5)
3. **WORDS** (Healing vs. Hurt): Proverbs heavily stresses the power of words. The tongue can bring healing and life, or cause massive destruction, gossip, and conflict.
- Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. (4:24)
  - Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity. (21:23)
  - Like a maniac shooting flaming arrows of death is one who deceives their neighbor and says, "I was only joking!" (26:18-19)
4. **WORK** (Hard Work vs. Sloth / Laziness): Hard work, planning, and financial stewardship are highly encouraged. Laziness and greed, by contrast, are warned against as paths to poverty. **God created us to work.**
- Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth. (10:4)
  - All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty. (14:23)
  - Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies will have their fill of poverty. (28:19) **Wants & Wishes vs. Work**
    - "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat." – 2 Thess. 3:10
5. **HUMILITY** (vs. Pride): Humility is required to learn, grow, and receive correction. Pride is considered the ultimate precursor to destruction and personal downfall.
- Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (3:5-6)
  - Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. (16:18)
  - Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise. (19:20)
  - **BE KNOWN** (in close relationships) - **As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.** (27:17) Submitting ourselves to God and one another.

6. **HONESTY (Integrity vs. Corruption):** The book provides guidelines for handling friendships, marriage, and family, while emphasizing the importance of honesty, integrity, and defending the poor and marginalized.
- **Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. (4:23)**
  - **Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out. (10:9)** There are no short cuts.
  - **The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy. (12:22)**

## **FOUNDING OF AMERICA**

The United States of America was founded on these same key Proverbs principles :

Wisdom, Worship, Words, Work, Humility, Honesty

## **DAVID BARTON (Wall Builders, “The American Heritage Series”)**

- *“Every single charter written at the start of the United States puts the propagation of the gospel as one of the top priorities.”*
- *“The single most quoted source for the Declaration of Independence is the Bible.”*

To be continued next week!

## **CONCLUDING THOUGHTS**

Over the past 75 or so years, we have been slowly drifting away from those values and principles.

**In his 1796 Farewell Address, President George Washington said, “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and morality are indispensable supports.”**

For many people, faith is abstract, irrelevant, and unnecessary. In fact, that’s our natural bent! But if you want to see evidence of the reality, truth, and power of faith, specifically in the person of Jesus Christ, look no further than the United States of America, a country that was founded on the faith and principles of Christianity.

As we celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States of America, know that **to embrace faith in Jesus Christ is not at all outside of what it is to be an American, but it is in fact the very essence, foundation, and fabric of what has made this nation the greatest nation in the history of the world.**

And this nation is only great because of the unmerited favor and grace of God, through Jesus Christ.

**And THAT’S Good News!**