

- I. “That’s Not Golf”
  - A. “Do you golf?”
  - B. A Zigzag Approach to Life
- II. Proverbs: Our Golf Coach for Life
  - A. King Solomon—the Smartest Guy in the Room (ever)

“Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.” I Kings 3:12
  - B. Purpose of Proverbs: To give us God’s wisdom for daily living Prov. 1:1-7

“A smart man learns from his own mistakes, but a wise man learns from everybody else’s mistakes.” Mark Twain
  - C. Three types of learning described in Proverbs
    - 1. Knowledge: Consists of “Correct information about God, us, creation)
    - 2. Discretion: Good judgment developed through training, experience
    - 3. Wisdom: Application of knowledge/judgment for a positive outcome.

**KNOWLEDGE + DISCRETION (SKILL, JUDGMENT) = WISDOM**
  - D. Three types of people described in Proverbs
    - 1. The “Simple”
    - 2. The “Wise”
    - 3. The “Fool”
  - E. Wisdom begins with God

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge” (vs. 7)

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.” Prov. 9:10
  - F. Proverbs equips us to answer “Is it wise?” about what we think/say/do
- III. Proverbs: What Wisdom Looks Like Lived-Out
  - A. Wisdom in the way we pursue God Proverbs 2:1-10

Truth #1: God is the source of all wisdom, knowledge and understanding

“If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.” Proverbs 1:23

Truth #2: The wisdom God gives us protects us from evil

“The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all;” Psalm 34:19 (NIV)

Truth #3: Wisdom must be pursued by deliberately cultivating our relationship with God. It doesn’t just happen automatically.

“I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.” Prov. 8:17
  - B. Wisdom in “guarding our heart” well

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” Prov. 4:23

“He who commits adultery lacks sense and destroys himself.” Proverbs 6:23

“Among the many mind-bogglingly implausible fantasies Fifty Shades of Grey sells, the one I think that most accounts for its popularity is the promise that shame of sexual sin can be alleviated by surrendering to it more fully.”

Megan Basham in *World*, March 7

- C. Wisdom in investing our finite time here in exchange for treasure that lasts

“My son, keep your father’s command and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life.” Proverbs 6:20-23 (NIV)
- D. Wisdom in managing our relationships in a way that honors God
  - 1. Marriage is a gift from God and a sign of his favor

He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord. Pr 18:22
  - 2. Conflict results from selfishness and a lack of wisdom

“It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.” Proverbs 21:9

“She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.” Proverbs 31:26

Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city. Proverbs 16:32

‘Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.’ Colossians 3:19

“Husbands, live in an understanding way with your wives...” I Peter 3:7

“Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.” Proverbs 17:1

“Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.” Proverbs 13:10
  - 3. What wisdom and humility look like “lived-out”

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” Colossians 3:12-14
- E. Wisdom in doing our work with excellence
  - 1. God will give us wisdom to do our work with excellence

Commit your work to the LORD and your plans will be established. Proverbs 16: 3
  - 2. God can give us favor and effectiveness in interpersonal relationships

When a man’s ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. Proverbs 16:7

3. God will give us wisdom as to what to say and when to say it

Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent. Proverbs 17:27-28

F. Wisdom in accumulating and stewarding our finances

1. Get a job that fits you and work hard at it

Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense. Proverbs 12:11

2. Save money and avoid debt

Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow. Proverbs 13:11

3. Honor God by giving Him back the first part of your income

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. Proverbs 3:9-10

4. God honors and rewards generosity with our money

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you. Luke 6:38

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed. Proverbs 19:17

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. Proverbs 11:24-25

IV. How to Pursue Wisdom

A. Schedule a daily “Quiet Time” to read the Bible, journal and pray

B. Ask God in prayer to make you wise

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. James 1:5

C. Hang out with wise people

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. Proverbs 13:20

D. Remain teachable

Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. Proverbs 9:8-9

V. The Legacy of a Life Lived Wisely

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. Proverbs 4:19

**Recommended Books and Resources**

Finding Truth: Five Principles for Unmasking Atheism, Secularism, and Other God Substitutes Nancy Pearcey

Living the Proverbs: Insights for the Daily Grind Charles Swindoll

Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God Timothy Keller

Every Man a Warrior: Book One – Walking with God Lonnie Berger

Every Man a Warrior: Book Two – Marriage and Raising Children  
Lonnie Berger

Surprising Secrets of Highly Happy Marriages  
Shaunti and Jeff Feldhahn

Sex and the Soul of a Woman: How God Restores the Beauty of Relationships from the Pain of Regret Paula Rinehart

Treating Pornography Addiction: The Essential Tools for Recovery  
Kevin Skinner

Undeclared: Redemption from Sexual Sin, Restoration for Broken Relationships  
Harry Schaumberg

The Pursuit of Holiness Jerry Bridges

**Notes and Quotes**

“Put simply, living wisely places us under an invisible umbrella of divine protection. By choosing to pursue wisdom, we align ourselves with God against foolishness, dishonesty, misconduct, and injustice. He delights to support us when we become a part of His agenda.”

Living the Proverbs, Charles Swindoll, p. 37.

“Dr. Brad Wilcox at U of V found that marital generosity, simply defined as one partner doing nice things for the other, expecting nothing in return, is one of the greatest contributing factors to happy marriages. Examples are 1) performing small acts of kindness, 2) expressing admiration, 3) expressing respect, and 4) forgiving their spouses for something.”

Shaunti Feldhahn, Surprising Secrets of Highly Happy Marriages

“When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, But he who restrains his lips is wise. Proverbs 10:19 (NASB)

“More than all else to be closely watched and protected (like a city or a bank vault), protect your inner self— your mind, your emotions, your character, your discernment—like a sentry at the gate watches over a city from his watchtower, because this is the source of all the decisions, responses, and deeds that represent your life.” Living the Proverbs, Charles Swindoll