

# Proverbs Week #4 (1:7)

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Proverbs 1:7

*7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Last week we focused on the first part of this verse and talked about what it means to fear the Lord. I gave you a loud example at the beginning of the lesson to help you visualize the respect that military men and women give to those officers of higher rank. I think this kind of learned respect is a part of what it means to fear the Lord. We learn to fear God properly as we learn about who He is, what He has done, and what He is doing. I read a few scriptures to you to remind you how God revealed himself to Israel at Mount Sinai. What I taught last week was to help you understand what it means to be in awe of God and what the fear of the Lord means.

I want to read and study this verse again today and focus now on the second part. The fear of the Lord may be the beginning of wisdom but not everyone will fear the Lord. In fact the verse goes on to tell us that fools will despise wisdom and instruction.

The revelation we have received from God in the Bible comes as knowledge, wisdom, and instruction. God's revelation teaches us and reveals to us truth about Him. Our response to what God has revealed also reveals something about who we are and what is in our hearts. Will we trust in the Lord and receive His instruction or will be like the fool who despises God's wisdom? This question needs to be understood in the light of God's revelation.

God told Israel about a day that would come when a people would have hearts that would receive God's instruction. Unlike the fools whose stony heart despises wisdom and instruction God's people will have hearts of flesh. They will be a people who do what God wants.

*“And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God.”* Ezek 11:19-20.

I think about this verse often and am reminded that I depend upon God and His gifts to live the life He requires of me. There are many other scriptures that will remind us to trust in God and rely upon Him and to trust Him to make us wise and not to allow us to live as fools. We will continue to learn them as we study the Proverbs.

*Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music to our God on the harp. He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; **the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.** Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion, for he strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your people within you. Psa 147:11-13*