



**Studies in the Book of Proverbs** by [John T Polk II](#)  
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

**(#3) The Goal of Wisdom and the Means to the Goal 1:5-7:**

**Verse 5:** "A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel"

Any class of humanity that refuses to "hear" and "attain" to "increase learning" and "wise counsel" is a class of fools. Sad, indeed, that exploiting the "simplicity" and ignorance of children and teenagers has become an art form (government education, Rock and Rap music, VH1, MTV, Sesame Street, drug abuse, rebellion against marriage and family, abortion, *ad nauseum*). There will be proverbs to discuss these matters further, but for now, the warning should be heeded.

**Verse 6:** "To understand a proverb and an enigma, the words of the wise and their riddles."

A "proverb" is a dominant meaning revealed, an "enigma" is a puzzle to be solved, a "riddle" was a dark saying, sometimes obscure. The queen of Sheba "came to Jerusalem to test Solomon with hard questions" ([2 Chronicles 9:1](#)). Samson proposed a "riddle," or dark saying ([Judges 14:12-18](#)), to which only he knew the solution. "Proverbs" give explanations to matters that might otherwise remain unknown or unnoticed.

**Verse 7:** "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

This is the central theme throughout this Book, and all the rest of the Word of God! Since "fear" refers to respect and honor, ALL KNOWLEDGE comes from God, and without "the fear of the LORD" there will be no knowledge! All professors, teachers, schools, or subjects that exclude God are total failures at teaching "knowledge." All people who dishonor God will show their ignorance in many ways. There are some 17 passages in the Book of Proverbs that specifically attach advantages to "fear of the LORD," and the wise will notice, but fools will not!

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