

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

(#126) The Proverbs of Solomon 17:16- More Money Than Brains

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 17:16:

Why is there in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom, since he has no heart for it?

Wisdom is affordable for anyone.

Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding. (**Proverbs 23:23**)

When there are so many who have either the experience or the knowledge of Scripture to pass along "wisdom," "the purchase price of wisdom" is not too high for anyone to gain! There are plenty of wise: parents, family members, teachers, preachers, or concerned neighbors who stand ready to impart lessons they have learned, some learned the hard way. God's Wisdom in the Bible may be found almost anywhere and in any language around the world!

A "fool" may be blessed with a job, pay, dwelling place, food, and clothes, but not have the desire to use any of it to gain "wisdom." The availability of wisdom highlights the absence of desire in a "fool" to obtain it! The "fool" doesn't ask the questions, study the Scriptures, or meditate on the examples it would take to learn from outside sources! The "fool" chooses to rely upon: neighborhood, family reputation, talents, chances, or religious traditions instead of the pursuit of real "wisdom."

Sadly, the adage applies: "You can lead a horse to water, but cannot make it drink." Jesus spoke it first:

"The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here. The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the



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earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.” ([Matthew 12:41-42](#))

When the Jews in Antioch of Pisidia ([Acts 13:14, 44-45](#)) cast the Gospel of Jesus Christ from them:

Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, ‘It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.’ ([Acts 13:46](#))

The memory of lost opportunities are a part of the eternal torment of a rich man, as Jesus described, who was told:

But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.’ ([Luke 16:25](#))

Please heed the admonition: “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion” ([Hebrews 3:15](#)). “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” ([Mark 16:16](#)).

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