

# *Pearls of Wisdom From The Proverbs*

## *Syllabus / Study Guide*

**Course # OT611**

Christian Life School of Theology Global  
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Course Textbook: *Precious Pearls from The Proverbs*  
(By Greg Hinnant)

Presented by:



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# Pearls of Wisdom from the Proverbs

Rev. Greg Hinnant

## Introduction

### I. Course Description

This course is an in-depth exposition of twenty selected proverbs of divine wisdom touching on a broad range of timelessly vital subjects—motives, conscience, attitudes, speech, laziness, parenting, judgment, gifts, teaching, leadership, faithfulness, and so forth—and a full application of their principles and practical lessons to Christian thinking, living, and ministry.

### II. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Know the text and a paraphrase of each selected proverb and identify key definitions, principles, and biblical and life examples relating to it. (Knowledge)
- B. Understand the importance of the selected proverbs, their themes, substance, and inherent principles, and how they relate to his (or her) personal life, family, work, associates, acquaintances, church, and ministry. (Comprehension)
- C. Apply the substance and principles of the selected proverbs to his (or her) personal life and to other people in order to experience and promote growth in divine wisdom and grace. (Application)
- D. Construct teachings, homilies, and counsels that inform others of the importance, substance, principles, and relevance of divine wisdom in general and the selected proverbs in particular. (Synthesis)
- E. Analyze other biblical (and non-biblical) wisdom sayings in order to determine their meaning, application, (truthfulness,) and / or current relevance in individual lives, families, churches, cities, and nations. (Analysis and Evaluation)

### III. Study Tools

- A. The Holy Bible (KJV, NKJV, or NIV)

- B. This Syllabus / Study Guide
- C. Textbook: Hinnant, Greg. *Precious Pearls From The Proverbs*. Lake Mary, FL: Creation House, 2005.

#### **IV. Course Requirements**

- A. Prayerfully read and study the course textbook and syllabus prior to the intensive.
- B. Attend all the class lectures.
- C. Complete the final examination as assigned by your learning center director.

#### **V. Course Evaluation**

- A. Read and study the textbook, study guide and Scripture.
- B. Attendance at all class lectures is required. If a lecture is missed for any reason, the director must be informed in advance and the student must listen to a recording of the lecture.
- C. Complete final examination

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# Lesson One

## *About Right Motives and Clear Consciences*

### I. **Why Am I Doing This?** (textbook, pp. 25–31)

—GOD IS VERY INTERESTED in not only *what* we’re doing but *why* we’re doing it.

#### A. **Our Pearl of Wisdom—Proverbs 16:2**

All the ways [actions, paths] of a man are clean [innocent, justifiable, meritorious] in his own eyes, but the Lord weigheth the spirits [thoughts and motives].

Paraphrased, this pearl of wisdom reveals:

We usually assume the correctness of our decisions and actions and therefore justify them, but the Lord’s examination of us goes deeper: He judges our acts by the thoughts and motives from which they spring.

THIS TEXT INFORMS US that our deeds are “clean,” or pure, innocent, and worthy of God’s reward only when our accompanying thoughts and motives are right in God’s sight.

To God, *wrong motives render otherwise righteous acts unrighteous.*

—Therefore, God constantly examines our heart motives:

For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but *the Lord looketh on the heart.*

—1 Samuel 16:7, emphasis mine

#### B. **Give some examples of righteous and unrighteous motives.**

##### 1. **Righteous motives**

2. **Unrighteous motives**

**C. Sometimes we do the right things for the wrong reasons.**

—THE BIBLE TELLS of those who did noble deeds with ignoble intentions:

1. **King Saul's** offering of his daughter in marriage to David (1 Sam. 18:20–25)
2. **The Pharisees'** deeds of righteousness (Matt. 6:2, 5, 16)
3. **Absalom's** deceptive prostration (2 Sam. 15:1–6)

**D. Sometimes we do apparently wrong things for the right reasons.**

—THE BIBLE TELLS of questionable acts that arose from unquestionably good intentions.

1. **Elijah asked** a starving widow for all her remaining food. (1 Kings 17:10–16)
2. **Jesus ordered** a disciple *not* to attend his father's funeral. (Luke 9:59–60)
3. **Jesus healed,** and permitted his disciples to glean, on the Sabbath. (Matt. 12:1–8, 9–13)

**E. We must habitually examine our motives.**

1. **Be honest and humble:** *Recognize* and *respond* to the Holy Spirit's conviction. (1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13)
  - a. Confess your sins to God.  
  
—ANY FOOL CAN JUSTIFY his folly and any carnal Christian his bad motives, but it takes a wise and humble soul to acknowledge and forsake one's wrong intentions or desires.
  - b. Change your motives and / or actions, as needed.
2. Don't procrastinate, **be proactive:**

**II. The Ministry of Conscience** (Textbook pp. 83–90)

—THE BIBLE AND COMMON SENSE AGREE that God uses our consciences to speak to us.

**A. Our Pearl of Wisdom—Proverbs 20:27**

The spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the inward parts.

Paraphrased, this pearl of wisdom states:

The human spirit [specifically its faculty of conscience] is the Lord's lamp, with which He searches all our inner thoughts.

THIS TEXT REVEALS that God uses the human spirit, or "spirit of man," specifically its faculty of conscience, as a man uses a lamp in a dark room. When "lit" by the Spirit of truth, a man's conscience exposes, or makes him aware of, all that was previously hidden from him and others, but not from God—his true thoughts, motives, attitudes, emotions, and condition. God is the great Searcher of Hearts: "Thou desirest truth in the inward parts" (Ps. 51:6).

**B. What is our “conscience”?**

1. **“Conscience” is DEFINED as:**
  
2. **Oswald Chambers** taught, “Conscience is that innate faculty in a man’s spirit that attaches itself to the highest the man knows, whether he be an atheist or a Christian. The highest the Christian knows is God; the highest the atheist knows is his principles.”

**C. How does God use our consciences to help us?**

—A LAMP IS DARK AND USELESS without a flame. The Holy Spirit (or “Spirit of truth”) is the flame with which God lights our lamps of conscience (the “spirit of man”) and thoroughly searches our hearts.

Hence, the Holy Spirit is *the Illuminator*.

1. **The Illuminator:**
  - a. **Convicts** us (John 8:9)
  
  - b. **Constrains** us (1 Sam. 25:23–35)
  
  - c. **Corrects** us (Luke 15:17)

2. The Illuminator works **by or through**:
  - a. His **inner voice** (2 Kings 7:9)
  - b. Intercessory **prayers** (1 John 5:16)
  - c. Reading or hearing **God's Word** (Ps. 119:130; Heb. 4:12)
  - d. His full, rich **presence in a believer** (Luke 19:1–10)
  - e. Innocently asked **questions** (John 5:6)
  - f. **Exhorters, prophets, reformers** (Heb. 3:13)
  - g. **Adversity** (Gen. 42:21)
  - h. His **audible voice** (1 Kings 19:9, 13)
  - i. An **open visitation** (Acts 9:1–7)

**D. How can we keep our consciences clear?**

1. **Heed** Paul's apostolic warning.
2. **Keep** Paul's apostolic resolution.
3. **Gain** Paul's apostolic testimony.

## Lesson Two

### *On the Importance of Our Attitudes and the Danger of Envy*

#### I. **Attitudes, Attitudes, Attitudes!** (textbook, pp. 32–39)

—IN OUR ZEAL to sanctify our behavior, we sometimes overlook our being. But God never does. He always seeks first to correct our attitudes.

#### A. **Our Pearl of Wisdom—Proverbs 23:7**

As he thinketh in his heart, so is he.

Paraphrased, this pearl of wisdom states:

The way a man thinks is the way he really is [that is, more than what he appears to say or do, what he *thinks* determines and discloses, what he is].

HERE THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES US that, in God's sight, *what our attitudes are, we are*. We are bundles of attitudes temporarily inhabiting mortal bodies.

1. **“Bad attitudes”** may be **DEFINED** as:
  - a. **Pride**
  - b. **Prejudice**
  - c. **Judging**
2. Some **common bad attitudes** are:
  - a. **Pride**
  - b. **Prejudice**
  - c. **Judging**

- d. **Condemning**
- e. **Hating correction**
- f. **Insubordination**
- g. **Loathing one's occupation / employer**
- h. **Rejecting adverse circumstances**
- i. **Unforgiveness**
- j. **Self-pity**

**B. The Holy Spirit's primary mission in the Church Age is:**

- 1. **To conform us** to Jesus' character image (Rom. 8:29)
- 2. **To sanctify us "wholly"** (John 17:17; 1 Thess. 5:23–24)

**C. God arranges our circumstances to expose and purge our bad attitudes—and fully sanctify us.**

- 1. **Some examples** of such providential arrangements are:
  - a. The unmercifulness of **Jonah** (Jonah 3–4)
  - b. The sectarianism of **John** (Luke 9:49–50)

c. The prejudicial intolerance of **John** (Luke 9:51–56)

2. **To be sanctified, we must yield to the Holy Spirit** and let Him purify our attitudes.

a. **By confessing** sinful attitudes (1 John 1:9)

b. **By adopting** Christ's attitudes

3. **If we refuse to do so, we cannot:**

a. **Minister effectively** (2 Tim. 2:21)

b. **Worship acceptably** (John 4:23, 24)

c. **Be “free indeed”** (John 8:36)

**D. The Holy Spirit taught John to deal with sin at its roots.**

—DO WE DEAL WITH SIN at the *root or fruit level*?

1. When **examining ourselves**?

2. When **ministering to others**?

## II. Can You Stand Before Envy? (textbook, pp. 256–264)

### A. Our Pearl of Wisdom—Proverbs 27:4

Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous, but who is able to stand before envy?

Paraphrased, this pearl of wisdom tells us:

It is hard to stand against merciless wrath [vengefulness] in an opponent, and standing against a [furiously] angry adversary is outrageously difficult [lit. a “flood; overwhelming”; or like facing a huge tsunami], but it is even harder to stand [unmoved, undiscouraged, and spiritually undefeated] before someone who bitterly envies you. Who can do this?

THIS TEXT IMPLIES that, while many problematic and pernicious human attitudes and emotions may cause us trouble, *envy* is in an entirely different category. While it is hard to face enemies filled with fury or revenge, it is even *harder* to deal with those who are moved by envy.

1. “Envy” is **DEFINED** as:
  2. The **Hebrew word** used for “envy” in this text is *ginah* (kin-aw') and means “jealousy or envy; also zeal.” It is derived from *gana* (kaw-naw'), which means “to be zealous” (in a bad sense) or obsessed.
  3. **Envy is stirred by** various objects.
    - a. **Material objects**
    - b. **Immaterial objects**
    - c. **Spiritual objects**

4. **Envy is betrayed by** various manifestations.
  - a. Competitive **imitation** (emulation) (Acts 19:11–12, 13; Rev. 13:3)
  - b. Persisting petty **judging and** groundless **complaining**
  - c. **Depression**, a “fallen countenance,” when others succeed, prosper, or receive favor or honor (Gen. 4:6)
  - d. Outbursts of **anger or violence** (Gen. 4:6, 8; 1 Sam. 18:10–11)
  - e. Constant **contention** (James 3:14, 16)
  - f. Cruel **betrayal** (Gen. 37:23–28)
  - g. **Confusion** (of mind or action) (James 3:16)
  - h. **Rebellion** (Num. 16:8–11)

**B. Biblical Examples of persecutions provoked by envy**

—ARGUABLY THE WORST REBELLIONS AND PERSECUTIONS recorded in Holy Scripture were caused by envy.

1. The rebellion of **Satan** (Isa. 14:12–14)
2. The rebellion of **Antichrist** (Rev. 13)
3. The murder of **Abel** (Gen. 4:4–5, 6–8)
4. The betrayal of **Joseph** (Acts 7:9)

5. The persecution of **Moses** (Num. 12:2; 16:8–11; Ps. 106:16)
6. The persecution of **David** (1 Sam. 18:9, 29)
7. The persecution of **Paul** (Acts 13:45; 14:19)
8. The persecution and crucifixion of **Jesus** (Matt. 27:18)

**C. We must learn how to stand when envy arises *against us*.**

1. **Be spiritually minded.** (Eph. 6:12; Rom. 8:6)
2. **Forgive...a lot!** (Mark 11:25–26)
3. **Offer thanksgiving** to God and **patiently endure.** (1 Thess. 5:18; James 1:4)
4. **Live by faith**, believing that:
  - a. **God is controlling** all things for your good. (Rom. 8:28; Gen. 50:20)
  - b. **He will faithfully make** “the way to escape.” (1 Cor. 10:13)

**D. We must learn how to stand when envy arises *within us*.**

1. **Quickly confess** envy as “sin.” (1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13)
2. **Firmly reject** envy and **say so!** (Rom. 10:10)

3. **Follow the example** of John the Baptist. (John 3:27)
  - a. **Humbly acknowledge God's hand** in others' blessings, gifts, successes, etc.
  - b. **Humbly choose to be glad** for them. (John 3:29)

**E. It is absolutely vital that we stand against envy.**

—SATAN PERSISTENTLY TRIES to use envy to “divide and conquer” our:

1. Marriages
2. Families
3. Friends
4. Churches
5. Ministries
6. Businesses and other entities