



The June 2, 2020 edition of TruNorth Daily Devotional with Dr Jim Brown:

## Practical Wisdom from the Proverbs

### Proverb 1:7

***“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Knowledge but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”***

The Book of Proverbs focuses on practical living as opposed to theology. Yet KEY to the book and indeed the entire Bible, is that that true knowledge, understanding and wisdom flow from one’s relationship to the Lord.

#### ***“The fear of the Lord”***

This verse puzzles many church-goers and turns OFF many who are unchurched.

This “FEAR” of the Lord is not a cowering fear, but proper respect and honor that the creature owes his Creator and the “saved” owe their Savior.

#### The ***“fear of the Lord...”***

- *“It is that affectionate reverence by which the child of God bends himself humbly and carefully to his Father’s law.”* (Bridges)
- *“Reverential submission to the Lord’s will characterizes a true worshiper.”* (Ross)

- *“Signifies that religious reverence which every intelligent being owes to his Creator.”*  
(Clarke)

An Example... You're driving on the freeway when out of nowhere comes a RED LIGHT in your rearview mirror. Does your blood pressure shoot up? Does your heart start to pound? Did you glance at your speedometer? Why? Because the police officer has caused you to be FEARFUL due to his authority to pull you over, give you a ticket, arrest you or worse. You are not afraid of the individual, but you are of the badge and his authority.

***“... is the beginning of knowledge.”***

Solomon here probably also meant wisdom, but the point is that with wisdom and knowledge there must be a starting point. Solomon was saying that the starting point for wisdom / knowledge is God the Creator. In Genesis 3 the FALL of man was in choosing to be WISE in his own eyes, apart from God and His laws.

A famous pastor from the past – G. Campbell Morgan – put it this way:

*“The fundamental fact, then, is that in all knowledge, all understanding of life, all interpretation thereof, the fear of Jehovah is the principal thing, the chief part, the central light, apart from which the mind of man gropes in darkness, and misses the way.”*

***“But fools despise wisdom and instruction.”***

What is it about us that we always seem to want to “do it my way”? Instead of learning from mom to “don't touch that hot stove, you'll burn yourself” – most decide to NOT believe her and go ahead and touch it. (Ouch!)

We do that with God too. God says we should do life His way and thus enjoy a life full of wisdom, knowledge, and successfully living. Yet many do NOT want to be subservient, don't want to acknowledge how Great God is, and end up with lives that are in a total mess. EVERY messed-up person or family I've met through the years, has violated multiple laws (principles) that God has stated in His Word and decided to do it “my way” – to his or her regret.

***Prayer: Lord, I acknowledge that YOU are the Almighty and not me. That YOU know what's best for me. You know what's coming down the road for me. I acknowledge YOU in reverence, fear, and awe. You are all powerful. Thank you for loving me just as I am and for helping me to continue to get better. Amen.***