
TAKING THE **WHOLE WORD** TO THE **WHOLE WORLD**

THE BIBLE IS
LIKE A MIRROR, AND
wisdom will determine
WHAT YOU DO WITH
WHAT YOU SEE.

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the BIBLE



WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

WISDOM FOR THE BEGINNING, THE MIDDLE, AND THE END



Dr. J. Vernon McGee
THRU the BIBLE Founder



This article is an excerpt from our **Proverbs Bible Companion**.
Download the full digital booklet [here](#).

PROVERBS ARE SHORT SENTENCES DRAWN FROM LONG EXPERIENCE.

A proverb is a saying that communicates a specific truth in a pointed and pithy manner. **A good proverb is a truth that's easy to remember, it's a rule for conduct, a philosophy based on experience.**

The book of Proverbs seems like it's a collection of sayings without any particular order. You read them and think, *Finally, I've found a verse in the Bible that I can lift out and let stand alone. I can put it in a frame and hang it on the wall.*



Sorry, but I don't believe you can do that even with Proverbs. It's important to understand the context. The book tells a story of a young man starting out in life, and he gets his first lesson in the first chapter, verse 7: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

After the young man grows a while, he is invited to two different schools. They send out their catalog to him, telling about the advantages of their school. The first is known as the "College of Wisdom." The other is the "College for Fools." (By the way, they still advertise today.)

In chapter eight, the young man goes to the College of Wisdom and chapters 10–24 are his curriculum. This instruction is good for all of us. It transcends all dispensations—from the Old Testament, to the New Testament, to the church. Proverbs is a good book for anyone—I wish I could give it out to every young person in the world today. That would be wonderful. I want them to learn about the broad way and the narrow one. The broad way is the wide path at the entrance where the mob hangs out. It's where you can do what you please and call it the way of liberty.

But notice this broad way gets more narrow as you go along. The way of the lawless is the dark way. “The way of the wicked is like darkness” (Proverbs 4:19). Bright lights adorn the entrance, but down a little farther, the lights go out and people don’t even know what they stumble over. That is the broad way the Lord Jesus described in Matthew 7:13-14. It’s like the big end of a funnel that shrinks until it finally ends in destruction.

In contrast, the narrow way is just that—very narrow at the entrance. The Lord Jesus said in John 14:6, “I am the way” It’s so narrow that it’s limited to one Person: Jesus Christ. No one can come to the Father but through Him. You just can’t find a way more narrow than that. Peter said in Acts 4:12, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Jesus said in John 10:9, “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” The entrance is narrow, but after the entrance the way gets wider and wider, leading to an abundant life here and on into the light of heaven itself. My friend, we need to enter into the narrow end of the funnel, and that end is labeled *The Lord Jesus Christ*.

That is exactly the picture we get from our verses in Proverbs. We are given the option of two ways: the path of the just and the way of the wicked. Our choice will define our beginning, the middle, and the end of our lives. The broad way is described in Proverbs 16:25, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” That’s lesson one.



I am the door.

IF ANYONE ENTERS BY ME,
he will be saved.
AND WILL GO IN AND OUT
AND FIND PASTURE.

JOHN 10:9



As an aside, here's something that will make our study of Proverbs a thrilling experience for you. I believe there is a proverb that is a thumbnail sketch of every character in the Bible, and we're going to study a few of them. There will be a proverb that fits all your friends and acquaintances, every one of us. As we read through the chapters, every now and then you'll come to a proverb and it will make you immediately think of Mr. or Ms. So-and-So. The proverb will fit them exactly! It'll show us just how up to date the Word of God really is, and it will make for an interesting study. I'll warn you now—you'll be wise if you keep some of those descriptions to yourself, because not every one will be flattering. But the Bible is like a mirror, and wisdom will determine what you do with what you see.

MY TURN

Want to start a wise habit? Keep a journal on what you're learning in Proverbs. **Write verses out in your own hand and describe what it means to you.** You will be so glad you did this when our study is over. (What you'll realize is that the study never really will be over—you'll learn more and more each time you focus on Proverbs.)

Do you do this already? You may have noticed that Proverbs has 31 chapters—perfect to read one every day, corresponding to the day of the month (read Proverbs 16 on the 16th day of the month, etc.). Many Christians have made a lifelong habit of this, consistently, if not always perfectly. Join the ranks of Dr. McGee, Billy Graham, Corrie ten Boom and many, many others in this habit. Begin today!

P.S. You might want to circle or underline your favorite or most meaningful verse every day, and write about it in your study journal.

In your notes or journal, or in conversation with your study group, make it a habit to call out when a proverb is stated here in Proverbs, but repeated or illustrated elsewhere in the Bible. Dr. McGee did this in this piece on “the broad way and the narrow way,” describing how Jesus illustrated this in Matthew 7:13-14. Listen and learn closely, and your list will grow.

G 2023

2023 IN REVIEW: A VISIT WITH THRU THE BIBLE'S PRESIDENT, GREGG HARRIS



Gregg Harris
President, THRU the BIBLE

Q As you look back at this year, how would you describe it in one or two words?

A **Change and complexity!** It seems that the Lord is not going to let us get complacent about the already amazing outreach He has created through Dr. McGee's teaching. The COVID 19 emergency was declared over in May, which brought many positive changes, including much more travel and in-person meetings for our team members. We also completed a remodel of our new headquarters building, which will provide enhanced facilities for audio and video recording and team meetings. The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) has all of us researching how this powerful technology can help us be more efficient and potentially expand the ministry in exciting ways. We're also increasing our focus on distributing THRU the BIBLE through apps, digital, and social media platforms around the world. It's both exciting and challenging.

Q What else are you excited about?

A **We are seeing God bring younger people into our staff, our Board of Directors, and our ministry partners around the world. This is crucial, because it shows us that the Lord is far from being done with our mission.** Our technology team is full of young, technically-gifted believers who are bringing their skills and passion to THRU the BIBLE's mission. We believe He is raising up a new generation to take the whole Word to the whole world!

Q Can you give us an example of this?

A I was greatly encouraged by a recent trip to Central Asia. I'd never traveled to Kyrgyzstan or Kazakhstan, so I didn't know what to expect. **What amazed me was the number of young team members I met and how excited they were to get Dr. McGee's teaching to people through social media.** It seems that everywhere we travel around the world, we see a mobile phone in almost everyone's hands. I see God raising up people to meet the challenge of getting His Word to anyone on earth who wants it.



What's a guy from Delaware doing in Kyrgyzstan?

Q We know you love to tell stories of God doing things we never could. Does one come to mind?

A Of course [laughing]! **A prisoner in Lithuania shared a long testimony that was simply incredible. A pastor visited him in prison, led him to faith, and then 10 years later, in his own words, "A CD recording of THRU the BIBLE fell into my hands by accident. It contained studies of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and other books. I began to listen to these recordings for about three to five hours every day." This began a journey of equipping this man to minister to others in the prison.** He was released for good behavior and now goes back into the prisons to minister to them using the TTB-Lithuanian programs. For me this is a perfect example of THRU the BIBLE "flinging the Seed." We invested to have those programs made and broadcast on radio, but we had no direct involvement with the recording of the messages onto a CD! **God oversaw this man's training using the THRU the BIBLE "seed," and the fruit of his life is tremendous.**

Q What challenge do you have for our THRU the BIBLE family?

A **First: Pray!** Every day I am more convinced that the prayers of God's people are the basis for everything good that happens in our worldwide ministry. **Second: Thank you!** Those of you who support this ministry are a vital part of what God is doing, and we treasure your involvement.



DISCOVERING THE GREATNESS OF GOD

We often think of salvation as being something in the future, that it's a package labeled "Do not open until eternity." But the salvation God gives is for right now, and it comes with gifts for you. They're right there with your name on them underneath His Christmas tree, and you can open them now. You don't have to wait till Christmas!

–Dr. J. Vernon McGee, from "Under the Tree: Eight Gifts Jesus Gives You at the Cross"

Do you have something special on your Christmas list this year? A listener named Chantou from Cambodia tells us of some special gifts he's already gotten and the one he's sharing with those around him:

"My life has improved on both a spiritual and a physical level as a result of listening to your programs on Psalms. I am filled with joy as never before. With God's Spirit working through me, I was able to lead one of my neighbors to faith in Jesus Christ. I couldn't keep this good gift to myself, and he eagerly chose to believe. Now that we have joined forces, every

evening we listen and thank God for the many blessings He bestows on us. We pray the Lord makes each of your listeners fruitful as they share Jesus with others."

Today as we thank God for this listener and all those who are reaching out with the good news of the gift of salvation, thank Him for the gifts He's giving you as well. Here's a list of eight Dr. McGee says every child of God receives when they believe in Him:

1. **His presence in Your life,** 2. **Peace,**
3. **Joy,** 4. **Hope,** 5. **Triumph in times of trouble,** 6. **Love,** 7. **His Spirit,**
8. **His mercy**

This is an example of the email our World Prayer Team receives every weekday. Together, we travel the world on our knees, interceding for one country at a time. Join us in covering the entire earth with prayer every year.

GO TO TTB.ORG/PRAY TO SIGN UP.

J E S U S I N

Proverbs

WITH DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

He is the Path

While the book of Proverbs seems to be a collection of sayings without any particular order, it really tells a story. It's a picture of a young man starting out in life. It is a good book for anyone.



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Someone may raise this objection: “But there’s nothing in it about the gospel!” Just wait a minute, look closer. **The One in this book described as wisdom is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.**

“To know wisdom” (1:2). The word “wisdom” in the Scriptures means “the ability to use knowledge correctly.” It occurs in this book alone 37 times. Many brilliant people have knowledge, yet they lack wisdom. They don’t seem to know how to use their knowledge right.

Let me add something more here. Wisdom in the Old Testament means Jesus Christ for the believer today. *“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,”* says 1 Corinthians 1:30. **Notice that wisdom is number one. Christ is the wisdom for the believer today. And to know wisdom is to know Jesus Christ.** Paul gave as his ambition in Philippians 3:10: *“That I may know Him”* Oh, that the same ambition to know Christ might grip your soul and my soul today! We need that.

Wisdom, therefore, is Christ. Wisdom is the ability to use our knowledge aright. To know Christ is not to play the fool; it is to be a wise man. I saw a bumper sticker the other day which read: “Wise men still seek Him.” Friend, you may not be brilliant, but when you receive Christ and come to know Christ, then you have wisdom. And you’re at the beginning of a wonderful path that leads closer and closer to Him, like you’re on a path that leads from the darkness to light.



I had my assignment. As we got ready to record our weekly conversations in the studio for December, Steve and I were asked to bring our favorite letters from 2023 to share.

I realized that a common factor in all my favorite stories was that they were shared by everyday, ordinary, broken people discovering the precious life of Jesus Christ, alive in them—and they couldn't help but share it with someone else.

Let me share a line or two from some favorites:

Susan from the UK writes of the World Prayer Team: "I am so encouraged and uplifted by the notes from brothers and sisters all over the world ... I take each request to heart, and I keep a notebook to write down some of the letters that especially touch me."

John from Ohio shares: "The Bible Bus has been a light in my darkness and is guiding me as I help others. I listen to your program daily at my lunch break, and I've now got about 12 others who join me. Please pray we will be a light to those around us."

Amanda, a young mom, says: "Thank you for teaching me different lessons at different stages of my Christian growth. Thank you for keeping it available for the next generation. We need it and so will they!"

**I'm opening a new folder for my favorite letters of 2024.
I'd love to include yours.**

Thank you for your generosity of spirit and funding this year—these letters are a testimony to your faithful investment in 2023. Together, let's do it again next year as we follow God's lead.

Grateful for your partnership,



Gregg Harris
THRU the BIBLE, President



THE PEOPLE LIVING
IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN
a great light;
ON THOSE LIVING IN THE LAND
OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH
a light has dawned.

MATTHEW 4:16 NIV

Thank you for your partnership this year in taking
the Word of Light and Life to people living in darkness.
Glory to God in the highest and on earth,
peace and goodwill to you.

**WARM AND LOVING CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
TO YOU AND THOSE YOU LOVE.**

*from the staff & Board of Directors
of THRU the BIBLE*

I LOVE TO

TELL THE STORY

Alexis in Wisconsin writes: *"When my husband and I found out that Dr. McGee is now in heaven, and the messages were recorded long ago, we were blown away at how much truly hasn't changed in the human condition. We are a young adult couple with a young son. We have a toxic, pagan, new age background and have to literally be born again, stripping away the old and putting on the new.*

"These teachings are so helpful in learning grace and are something I look forward to every day. I have been sharing you with my friends, family, and strangers including last week with a Chinese man who now joins us on the app in Mandarin. Thank you for this ministry. I pray many people will decide to put their faith in Christ around the globe. All to the glory of God."

WANT YOUR YEAR-END GIFT TO THRU THE BIBLE ATTRIBUTED TO YOUR 2023

CHARITABLE GIVING? Please keep these dates and times in mind as you make your plans:

Online at TTB.org/give: Gifts must be submitted before 10:00 PM (PST) on December 31.

Calling 1-800-65-BIBLE: We'll be happy to help you by phone before 2:00pm (PST) on December 30.

Mail: Gifts must be postmarked and checks dated in 2023.

Interested in investing your gift in an annuity with THRU the BIBLE?

For more information, give us a call at 1-800-65-BIBLE and select option 5 when prompted.

Thank you for your faithful investment in taking the whole Word to the whole world in 2023. Only eternity will measure your impact.



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