

# **The Foolishness of Distractions**

WOLBI: Proverbs Hour-9

## WOLBI Proverbs Class Themes

- Hour-1: God Has Given the Guide to Wisdom in Proverbs
- Hour-2: The Best Life Possible is: Doing the Will of God for Life
- Hour-3: Don't Waste Your Life Like SOLOMON
- Hour-4: The Ultimate Sin is Pride
- Hour-5: The Second Greatest Day of Your Life
- Hour-6: The Un-intoxicated Life
- Hour-7: Raising Kids Who See Your Character & Look for the One God Says is Best
- Hour-8: Cultivating a Godly Work Ethic
- **Hour-9: The Foolishness of Distractions**
- Hour-10: The Power of Spoken Words

### OLD TESTAMENT FOOLS

In the Old Testament, the word fool is actually a translation of 4 different Hebrew words<sup>1</sup> that reflect subtle differences in “types” of fools.

## God's Will for My Character

- A. God Wants to Make Me **Wise**, Not Foolish
- B. God Wants to make Me **Teachable**, Not Stubborn.
- C. God Wants to make Me **Righteous**, Not Wicked.
- D. God Wants to make Me **Humble**, Not Proud.
- E. God Wants to make Me **Self-controlled**, Not Rash.
- F. God Wants to make Me **Forgiving**, Not Vindictive.

## **God's Will for My Relationships**

1. God's Will for our **Relationship to our Parents.**
2. God's Will for our **Relationship to our Partner.**
3. God's Will for our **Relationship to our Children.**
4. God's Will for our **Relationship To Our Friends & Neighbors.**

# God's Will Revealed for My Relationships

God's Will for our Relationship to Our Friends & Neighbors:

## Three Biblical keys to Wise Friendship:

God advises us to **value our friends** (27:10);

God advises us to **invest in our friends** (17:17; 18:24);

God advises us to **give counsel to our friends** (27:6, 9, 17; 28:23);

# God's Will for My Relationships

God's Will in our Relationship To Our Friends & Neighbors:

## Four Biblical Keys to Wise Neighboring:

Wisdom means we **keep our word to our neighbors** (3:27-28);

Wisdom means we **strive for peace with our neighbors** (3:29-30);

Wisdom means we **do not outstay our welcome with our neighbors** (25:17);

Wisdom means we **don't deceive or mislead our neighbors** (16:29;26:18-19).

## 4 Types of Old Testament Fools

1. **The Simple Fool:** See  
Proverbs 1:4; 7:6-7; 22:3

2. **The Perverse Fool:** Proverbs  
1:7; 7:22; 10:14; 12:15; 20:3;  
27:3; 29:9

1. **The Simple Fool:** The Hebrew word for “simple [fool]” is (peth- EE). The root word from which it is derived, implies extreme vulnerability, literally meaning “to be opened up.” The simple fool opens his mind to any passing thought and opens his arms to any passing stranger. In other words, he lacks discernment. He has an over-simplified view of life and fails to recognize the cause-and-effect sequences that affect every area of life. (See Proverbs 1:4; 7:6-7; 22:3.)
2. **The Perverse Fool:** The Hebrew word that refers to a “silly fool” is (ev-EEL). Its definition is “to be perverse, silly.” The mouth of a silly fool often gets him in trouble. “Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish [ev-eel] is near destruction” (Proverbs 1:7; 7:22; 10:14; 12:15; 20:3; 27:3; 29:9).

## 4 Types of Old Testament Fools

### 3. The Rebellious Fool:

Proverbs 10:23; 13:19–20;  
18:6–7; 19:29; 26:3

### 4. The Hardened Fool: Psalm 14:1

**3. The Rebellious Fool:** One who rejects the correction of parents or other authorities will become a rebellious fool.

This type of fool is identified in Scripture with the Hebrew word (kess-EEL), which means “fat, i.e. stupid or silly.”

The word denotes a person who seems determined to make wrong choices.

He does not have a mental deficiency, but rather rejects the wisdom of God. (Proverbs 10:23; 13:19–20; 18:6–7; 19:29; 26:3). Scripture gives more warnings about the sensual fool than about any other type of fool.

**4. The Hardened Fool:** The most dangerous type of fool is a steadfast fool. The Hebrew word (naw-BAWL), which means “stupid, wicked,” identifies this type of person. Elsewhere in the Old Testament, this word also is translated as vile person. A steadfast fool totally rejects God and His ways. “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good” (in ). This type of fool is self-confident and close-minded. He is his own god, freely gratifying his lower nature.



# Christ our Wisdom in Proverbs

1 Corinthians 1:30

## CHRIST OUR WISDOM IN PROVERBS

Paul revealed a wonderful truth about Christ. He said 1 Corinthians 1:30: It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God -- that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. (NIV).

Jesus becomes that wisdom as His brother James said in James 3:17: But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. (NIV).

In the Proverbs we find the wisdom of Christ distilled in a very practical form.

In Proverbs we see Christ as the incarnate wisdom. Proverbs Wisdom >>>>>> Scriptures The Word

Proverbs 8:27-29 When he prepared the heavens, I [was] there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: 28 When he established the clouds above: 29 when he appointed the foundations of the earth: (KJV) John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. (KJV)

Proverbs 8:30 Then I was by him, [as] one brought up [with him]: and I was daily [his] delight, rejoicing always before him; (KJV) Hebrews 1:2 by [his] Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; (KJV)

Proverbs 8:22 The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. (KJV) Colossians 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. (KJV)

Proverbs 8:30 Then I was by him, [as] one brought up [with him]: and I was daily [his] delight, rejoicing always before him; (KJV)

Luke 3:22 Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. (KJV)

John 17:24 for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. (KJV)

Proverbs 8:14 Counsel [is] mine, and sound wisdom: I [am] understanding; I have strength. (KJV) 1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and [that] there be no divisions among you; but [that] ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. (KJV)

Proverbs 2:4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as [for] hid treasures; (KJV) Colossians 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (KJV)

Proverbs 1:33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil. (KJV) Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (KJV)

Proverbs 8:1, 4 Doth not wisdom cry Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice [is] to the sons of man. (KJV) John 7:37 In the last day, that great [day] of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. (KJV)

Proverbs 8:35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD. (KJV) John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. (KJV)

Proverbs 8:20 I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: (KJV) Psalm 23:3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (KJV)

Proverbs 30:4 Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what [is] his name, and what [is] his son's name, if thou canst tell? (KJV) Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. (KJV) 1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, [even] in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. (KJV)

<b>Wisdom</b>	<b>The Word</b>
Prov. 8:27-29	Jn. 1:1-3
Prov. 8:30	Heb. 1:2
Prov. 8:22	Col. 1:17
Prov. 8:20	Ps. 23:3; Lk. 3:22; Jn. 17:24
Prov. 8:1,4,14	Jn. 7:37; 1 Cor. 1:10
Prov. 2:4	Col. 2:3
Prov. 1:33	Mt. 11:28
Prov. 8:35	Jn. 6:47
Prov. 30:4	Mt. 1:23; 1 Jn. 5:20

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# The Foolishness of Distractions

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A believer, not actively engaged in exercising The Discipline of Time, by “Rejecting Profane & Empty Living”: will slowly become amused, carried along, floating with the current of the world, and going away from God.

This doesn't mean that a believer immediately goes against God; rather, it is a slow process of the Lord having less and less influence over the priorities of life.

# Is God Weightless in Your Life?

1 Timothy 4:7

## IS GOD WEIGHTLESS IN YOUR LIFE?

Recently David Wells, a gifted theologian and one of the two founders of the current Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals, expressed this condition well as he said: It is one of the defining marks of our culture that God is now weightless. I do not mean by this that God is ethereal, but rather that God has become unimportant. He rests upon the world so inconsequentially as not to be noticeable. He has lost his saliency for human life.

Those who assure the pollsters of their belief in God's existence may nonetheless demonstrate by their habits and beliefs that:

God is less interesting than television,

God's commands are less authoritative than their appetites for affluence and influence,

God's judgments are no more awe-inspiring than the evening news; and

God's truth is less compelling than the advertisers' sweet fog of flattery and lies.

That is weightlessness. It is a condition we have assigned God to, after having nudged him out to the periphery of our secularized life.

Weightlessness tells us nothing about God but everything about ourselves, about our condition, about our psychological disposition to exclude God from our reality .”

# Surrendered Minds: Foolishness or Wisdom

Romans 12:1-2

## SURRENDERED MINDS: FOOLISHNESS OR WISDOM

God is asking us to give our mind surrendered to His control.

God is looking for godly, mature believers who will make it a life-long goal to resist the temptation of self-absorption in all the activities of life and instead begin to seek what God desires for their lives.

People of Paul's day were immersed in a self-seeking, lust-feeding culture.

When they came to Christ they had to go on living in that world. To make it through life without getting neutralized, defeated, and sidelined, Paul starts with the key to godly living, which is:

# Avoiding What Displeases God

Hebrews 13:20-21

## AVOIDING WHAT DISPLEASES GOD

These exercises from God are to train ourselves in regularly seeking out what pleases Him. In the world that the New Testament was written, saints learned that they had to avoid the overpowering culture of amusements. Most Roman citizens were drawn into the gaming world of spectacles in the arenas.

A non-stop calendar of events began in the capital city of Rome and soon went to the furthest flung provinces, of ever increasingly exciting spectacles: live gladiatorial fights to the death; and men vs. ravenous beasts; and beasts vs. beasts fighting to the death; duels, bloody deaths, shocking sights, and intense visual stimulation. The roar of the crowds became intoxicating and no one wanted to miss the events that often ran all day long for days at a time.

That is why Paul the Apostle wrote to a church nearby Ephesus, where Timothy was serving. Just 100 miles from where 1 Timothy was sent, Colosse was also in the middle of the most Roman province of all. Paul wrote believers in Asia Minor where both Ephesus and Colosse were being doused with everything the Roman Empire had to offer.



# Pointing Your Mind Towards God Colossians 3:1-4

## POINTING YOUR MIND TOWARDS GOD

Paul had a very simple command in chapter 3: choose where you will park your mind, and you choose your destiny. Listen to his sobering words breathed out by the Spirit of God through Paul God's faithful servant:

Colossians 3:1-4 (NKJV) If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

The overpowering Gladiatorial gaming culture of the 1st Century that troubled, tempted, and weakened the early church has morphed into an even more alluring 21st century, irresistible, and almost inescapable culture, that even the lost world is sitting up and sounding a warning cry about. We need to:

# Beware of the Ultimate Temptation:

## Anything that Distracts us from Seeking & Hungering After God

### BEWARE OF THE ULTIMATE TEMPTATION

The ultimate temptation is anything that can distract us from God. We are to love Him most, seek Him first, program Him as our destination in life, set Him as the start-up page of our day, and tune our minds to listen Him.

All of those choices come back to our minds. Anything that can even slightly pull our minds regularly away from God is a temptation. Today we live with seemingly the strongest and most universal temptation since the days of Noah.

Have you stepped back and seen where the entire culture of both America and the world are heading?

Almost four years ago, Adam J. Cox is a clinical psychologist wrote a journal article describing the effect on young people, of today's nearly universal contact with electronic stimuli. Here is a summary of his article in the New Atlantis Journal :

"Fifty years ago, the onset of boredom might have followed a two-hour stretch of nothing to do. In contrast, boys today can feel bored after thirty seconds with nothing specific to do."

The ubiquitous barrage of battery-powered stimuli delivered by phones, computers, and games makes "the chaos of constant connection" an addictive electronic narcotic.

As continuous stimulation becomes the new normal, "gaps between moments of heightened stimulation" are disappearing; amusement "has squeezed the boredom out of life." For the hyper-stimulated, "the synaptic mindscape of daily life" becomes all peaks and no valleys.

Cox worries about the deficits in the communication abilities of young males for whom a "womb of all-encompassing stimulation" induces "a pleasant trance from which they do not care to be awakened."

Self-absorption, particularly among young males, may be the greatest danger of immersion in the bath of digital amusement: "Not only does withdrawal into electronica enable them to bypass the confusion and pain of trying to give their emotions some coherence; it also helps them avoid the realities of being a flawed, vulnerable, ordinary human being."

Cox doubts it is a mere coincidence that "the stratospheric increase in diagnosed learning and attention deficits" has correlated with "the advent of the electronic

playground.” When so many Americans meet the diagnostic criteria for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, it “is arguably no longer a disorder at all—it’s just the way we are.”

Yes, “we.” Not just boys but adults of both sexes, too, seem insatiably hungry for handheld devices that deliver limitless distractions.

Neuroscience demonstrates that the brain is not a finished product; neural networks can be rewired by intense and prolonged experiences.”

# Only God Can Reverse the Erosion Col. 3:1,2,5,8

## REVERSE THE EROSION

To be useful God wants a reverent mind and life. The only way to cultivate a reverent mind is to feel the weight of obedience to God's command that we first reset our minds Godward, as Colossians 3:1-2 exhorts us:

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. (NKJV)

Then with God as our homepage and target, we decide that it is our responsibility to throttle, weaken, and by God's grace: mortify our lusts, as Colossians 3:5, 8 tells us. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. (NKJV)

To mortify means "to throttle sin and crush it in our lives, sapping it of its strength, rooting it out, and depriving it of its influence." Mortification involves the cultivation of new habits of godliness, combined with the elimination of old sinful habits from our behavior.

The only way to recover from the irreverence of an eroded mind, a mind that has gotten neutralized, where evil seeps in a bit more each day, is to pursue personal sanctification:

**Ask God to Help You  
Starve Your Flesh  
Romans 13:14**

STARVE MY FLESH

Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. NKJV

Cut all supply routes. If there are magazines, videos, games, social media, and so on, that are less than Christ-like, then I must disable them. Do whatever it takes to starve the influences that make God weightless in your life, and in of your family.

Put on Christ & Starve my flesh!

# Ask God to Help You Saturate Yourself With His Word Colossians 3:16

## SATURATE MYSELF WITH THE WORD

After you read and ponder, work on memorizing key Scriptures that can help you have greater victory over sin, and then regularly meditate upon those verses. Meditate day and night!

Joshua 1:8 “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. NKJV

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. NKJV

Today, God asks for every believer in Christ’s Church to make daily choices to regain and maintain a mind surrendered to God’s gracious sanctifying power. Resist any weightlessness of God in your life.

How much do God and His Word directly challenge me: into changing the way I think and act on a daily basis. That is:  
The choice is yours.

**“May the mind of  
Christ, my Savior, Live  
in me from day to day...”**

Katie Barclay Wilkinson (1859-1928)

May the mind of Christ, my Savior, Live in me from day to day,  
By His love and power controlling All I do and say.  
May the Word of God dwell richly In my heart from hour to hour,  
So that all may see I triumph Only through His power.  
May the peace of God my Father Rule my life in everything,  
That I may be calm to comfort Sick and sorrowing.  
May the love of Jesus fill me As the waters fill the sea;  
Him exalting, self abasing, This is victory.  
May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe,  
Looking only unto Jesus As I onward go.  
May His beauty rest upon me, As I seek the lost to win,  
And may they forget the channel, Seeing only Him.  
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