

# BIBL 587: THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Bruce Waltke

May 25-29, 8:00-11:00 am

1 or 2 graduate credit hours; or 1 audit hour

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

In a world bombarded by inane cliches, trivial catchwords, and godless sound bites, the expression of true wisdom is in short supply today. The church stands alone as the receptacle and repository of the inspired wisdom that carries a mandate for a holy life from ancient kings and their courtiers. As the course and bulk of biblical wisdom, the book of Proverbs remains the model of curriculum for humanity, especially youth, to learn social skills in relation to God and others. As such the book of Proverbs invites serious study to do and to teach its wisdom in a world characterised by mediocrity, superficiality and blatant foolishness.

Wisdom literature from the Biblical period and earlier is found throughout the Levant, especially in Egypt. This literary context enables the modern interpreter to better appreciate this unique inheritance from the beginnings of recorded human history and to interpret its wisdom more accurately. Paradoxically, as the church grows older its memory grows sharper.

In this course the lecturer will be seeking to accomplish the Bible's own purpose: teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the student may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

**Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to...**

1. to overcome prejudices against the book, such as that its promises seem detached from earth's realities;
2. to instruct the student in fundamentals for understanding Proverbs, such as its structure, authors, addressees, and forms;
3. to interpret the book according to the accredited grammatico-historical approach, including its dependence on ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature;
4. to teach its distinctive theology and its application to life;
5. to prepare the student for a life-time of growth in its wisdom;
6. to locate its wisdom in the canon of Scripture; and
7. to apply the book's wisdom to specific areas of life such as speech, money, marriage, parenting.

## COURSE OUTLINE

- Day 1** Introduction to Course and the Book of Proverbs;  
Exposition of Proverbs 1:1-7: Righteousness in the Book of Proverbs
- Day 2** Exposition of Proverbs 1:8-3:35: Safeguards Against Wicked Men and Women;  
Exposition of Proverbs 4-9: Who is Woman Wisdom?
- Day 3** Exposition of Proverbs 10-12: Wise speech;  
Exposition of 15:30-22:16: On being money wise
- Day 4** Proverbs and politics
- Day 5** Exposition of Proverbs 30;  
Exposition of Proverbs 31

## REQUIRED TEXTS (ALL STUDENTS):

The NIV translation of the English Bible.

Waltke, Bruce K. *The Book of Proverbs Chapters 1-15*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2004.

———. *The Book of Proverbs: Chapters 15-31* (NICOT; 2005).

Please note that the Regent College Bookstore offers a 20% discount on regularly priced books

Full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, course assignment details, and pre-course reading instruction is available on Moodle. [moodle.regent-college.edu/login](https://moodle.regent-college.edu/login)