

# BIBL 588: THE BOOK OF PROVERBS DEVELOPING WISDOM IN A COMPLICATED WORLD

Tremper Longman III

July 18– 22; 8:30 – 11:30 am

1 or 2 graduate credit hours; or 1 audit hour

In-person, live online & Recorded

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course intends to instruct students how to read and interpret the book of Proverbs according to its original meaning as well as its continuing significance for faith and practice. This study involves not just the mastery of the content of the book, but a study of the principles of interpretation (hermeneutics) that grant access to the meaning of the book as well as the ability to bridge the horizons to our present situation. Proverbs' purpose is to make its readers wise on a practical, ethical, and theological level. But becoming wise involves more than just learning the content of the book of Proverbs, it includes being able to read people and culture. This course will help students appropriate the wisdom of the book in both its original setting as well as from a twenty-first century Christian perspective.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

**Upon the successful completion of this course, students should have a clearer understanding of:**

1. Develop a better acquaintance of contents of the book of Proverbs.
2. Students will be able to apply appropriate interpretive approaches to the book of Proverbs to recover original meaning and subsequent significance of the biblical text (for church, Kingdom, and wider world), taking into account historical backgrounds and critical issues.
3. Students will grow acquainted with the ancient Near Eastern and Old Testament backgrounds to the book of Proverbs.
4. Students will grow familiar with the canonical place of the book of Proverbs, and in particular they will understand how this book presents Christ.
5. Students will learn to preach and/or teach the book of Proverbs, and they will know how to utilize it with integrity in pastoral counseling.
6. Students will learn the relationship between the three main wisdom books (Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes).
7. Students will understand the nature of wisdom in the Bible.
8. Students will learn how Proverbs contributes to the Bible's understanding of reward and punishment (retribution theology).

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Day 1 July 18** Hermeneutical Introduction and Introduction to the Book of Proverbs

**Day 2 July 19** Theology of the Book of Proverbs, Part 1

**Day 3 July 20** Theology of the Book of Proverb, Part 2

**Day 4 July 21** Proverbs in Relationship to Ecclesiastes and Job

**Day 5 July 22** Reading Proverbs in the Light of the New Testament

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Bartholomew, Craig G. and Ryan P. O'Dowd, *Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction* (IVP, 2018). 336pp. ISBN: 978-0830852185.

Bland, Dave, *Proverbs and the Formation of Character* (Cascade, 2015). 200pp. ISBN: 978-1498221641.

Longman, Tremper, *The Fear of the Lord is Wisdom: A Theological Introduction to Wisdom in Israel* (Baker, 2017). 336pp. ISBN: 978-080102716. Wright, N. T. *The Epistles of Paul to the Colossians and to Philemon: An Introduction and Commentary*, 19-163. TNTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

Looking for textbooks? Please [contact](#) the Regent Bookstore, or check out their [direct-fulfillment website, Aerio](#).

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Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students: [moodle.regent-college.edu/login](https://moodle.regent-college.edu/login)

