

1 Bible Discoveries: Literature of the OT Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
Book 2 Israel's Golden Age Under David and Solomon

Since many of the proverbs are complete in themselves, and since many of them have no relationship to the verses which come before and after them, someone has called them "Unstrung Pearls". Mr. Martin A. Hopkins, long time missionary to China, made a special study of the proverbs, and re-arranged them topically, according to their relation to the various phases of man's life. (This study, called "The God-Centered Life", available from C.A. Rowland, Box 351, Athens, GA, at 35 cents a copy, is highly recommended for your private study.) In order to get the most from our studies in Proverbs in the time allowed, we will follow his topics rather than the chapter divisions in our Bibles. The first of these topics is:

GOD IN THE INDIVIDUAL LIFE OF MAN - PUTTING GOD FIRST

Mr. Hopkins lists ten qualities a person will have if he puts God first in his life. We re-arrange these qualities for ease and continuity in classroom discussion:

A. Reverential Fear of God:

1. Why is it important to have a fear of God? Proverbs 1:7a, 9:10a, 15:33a

2. What does a fear of the Lord cause a person to do? Proverbs 8:13a, 16:6b, 3:7b

3. What are some of the things which are promised to one who has a fear of the Lord?
Proverbs 14:26a, 10:27a, 19:23a, b, c, 22:4

B. Practice of God's Presence:

1. What parts of man does God know about? Proverbs 5:21, 16:2b, 15:11b

C. Whole-Hearted Trust in God:

1. What things are promised to those who trust in the Lord? Proverbs 16:20b, 29:25, 3:5-6

2. What else might one put his trust in? Proverbs 3:5b, 28:26a

D. Submission to God's Sovereign Will:

1. What happens many times to the plans we make? Proverbs 16:9, 19:21

E. Agreement with God's Loves and Hates:

1. What are some of the things God loves? Proverbs 15:19b, 11:20b, 12:22b

2. What are some of the things God hates? Proverbs 8:13b, 1:16-19

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F. Obedience to God's Word:

1. At what times can God's Word help a person? Proverbs 6:22

2. What happens to one who does not keep God's Word? Proverbs 13:13

G. Confession of Sin to God - Keeping Right with God:

1. What does one do if he does NOT confess his sin? Proverbs 28:13

H. Acceptance of God's Chastisements (or Punishments):

1. What does God's chastening prove? Proverbs 3:11-12

I. Effectual Prayer to God:

1. What will God do about the prayer of the righteous? Proverbs 15:29b, 15:8b, 10:24b

J. Offering of One's Substance to God:

1. What will God do for the one who gives to Him? Proverbs 19:27, 10-22, 3:9-10

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. How many of these ten qualities do I have? Is God really FIRST in my life?

2. What would God have me to do about any of these qualities I do not have?
