



## Today's Message

Date: November 16, 2014  
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas  
Title: *Learning to Listen at the Crossroads of Life*

Text: Proverbs 1:1-7 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:

<sup>2</sup> To know wisdom and instruction,  
to understand words of insight,

<sup>3</sup> to receive instruction in wise dealing,  
in righteousness, justice, and equity;

<sup>4</sup> to give prudence to the simple,  
knowledge and discretion to the youth—

<sup>5</sup> Let the wise hear and increase in learning,  
and the one who understands obtain guidance,

<sup>6</sup> to understand a proverb and a saying,  
the words of the wise and their riddles.

<sup>7</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;  
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Introduction: Today we begin a study of the book of Proverbs. The first seven verses introduce the book. They contain a title (v. 1), an explanation of the book's purpose (vv. 2-6), and the foundational theme that shapes all the lessons we will find in its pages (v. 7).

**I. God used the wisest man to write Proverbs . . . 1**

**II. in order to teach the young how to live. 2-6**

A. He taught the skill of wisdom . . .

B. to the “open” . . .

C. and to the wise.

**III. The first lesson is, fear the Lord.**

A. All wisdom rests on that lesson.

B. Only the fool ignores it.

**Today’s take-home truth: The first lesson of wisdom is fear the Lord.**