

FOLLOWING JESUS IN THE AGE OF AI

PROVERBS 2:1-18.

Peter Foxwell. The Cornerstone Church. July 12, 2026.

Dismiss the Middle School

STUDY GUIDE

As you came in this morning, you should have received a bulletin. Inside, you'll find a simple study guide you can use in a few different ways: to follow along with today's teaching, to reflect on during your personal devotions this week, or to spark conversation in your small group.

More resources are available online. The link is in your study guide.

Let's get started on today's teaching ...

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS HERE

Artificial intelligence is here, and it's already shaping the way we live—for better and for worse.¹

According to one author:²

- 4 in 10 Christians use AI for prayer and Bible study.
- 1 in 3 adults trusts AI's spiritual advice as much as their pastor's.

That's why, in today's teaching, we're diving into the Bible to find the wisdom we need to navigate a rapidly changing world.

Then, we'll apply that wisdom as we map out a faithful approach to AI.

So, let's begin by looking at the Bible in Proverbs, chapter 2.

¹ <https://www.barna.com/research/christians-trust-ai-flourishing-spiritual-authority/>

² <https://careynieuwhof.com/ai-guide/>

INTRODUCING WISDOM AND PROVERBS

The book of Proverbs is an ancient collection of God-inspired wise sayings.

It is an excellent source of common sense written from God's perspective. It tells us how life works; and how it doesn't.

The book tells us that the foundation of wisdom is the fear or the reverence of God; that is, giving him his proper place in our lives.

Proverbs makes way for New Testament wisdom, which goes a step further, telling us that Jesus Christ is ***“the wisdom of God”*** (1 Corinthians 1:24). How so? The Incarnation, suffering, and death of Jesus look like foolishness, but in reality they are God's wisdom displayed in a brilliant plan of salvation.

The message is: We become wise when we follow Jesus.

OK. Let's read Proverbs, chapter 2. It contains a talk from King Solomon to his son.

Over ...

PROVERBS 2:1-18

IF

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2 listening closely to wisdom and directing your heart to understanding; 3 furthermore, if you call out to insight and lift your voice to understanding, 4 if you seek it like silver and search for it like hidden treasure,

THEN

5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God. 6 For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. 7 He stores up success for the upright; He is a shield for those who live with integrity 8 so that he may guard the paths of justice and protect the way of his faithful followers.

9 Then you will understand righteousness, justice, and integrity — every good path. 10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will delight you. 11 Discretion will watch over you, and understanding will guard you.

PROTECTION & LIFE

12 It will rescue you from the way of evil — from anyone who says perverse things, 13 from those who abandon the right paths to walk in ways of darkness, 14 from those who enjoy doing evil and celebrate perversion, 15 whose paths are crooked, and whose ways are devious.

16 It will rescue you from a forbidden woman, from a wayward woman with her flattering talk, 17 who abandons the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God; 18 for her house sinks down to death and her ways to the land of the departed spirits.

THREE INSIGHTS INTO GODLY WISDOM

Proverbs chapter two offers us three insights into godly wisdom.

1. Proverbs 2 Describes The Urgency Of Wisdom - verses 1-4.

The king's son needed wisdom - an understanding of how life works from God's perspective. He needed to know how to use his power and influence in a godly manner. He especially needed it when he was young. It was urgent.

So, the dad heaps on words to communicate urgency:

- Accept my words
- Store up my commands
- Listen closely
- Direct your heart (internal guidance system)
- Call out
- Lift your voice
- Seek it like silver (like a miner digging through rocks to find it)
- Search for it like treasure

We're not born wise. But we urgently need it now. It has to be learned, which it takes effort and urgently searching. You really have to want wisdom to find it.

I don't enjoy reading instructions or owners manuals, but when the warning light comes on in my car, I get right on it. I read urgently. In a similar way, that's how we gain wisdom; we read Proverbs - God's owner's manual, we "mine" and apply it.

Some years ago I was encouraged me to read a chapter of Proverbs everyday. It's 31 chapters long, so one chapter each day of the month. It has opened my eyes to God's common sense approach and changed my life.

2. Proverbs 2 Describes The Gift Of Wisdom - verses 5-11.

God loves to make us wise. It's his gift to us. The book of James tells us:

James 1:5 (CSB) Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God — who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly — and it will be given to him.

Solomon tells his prince-son: IF he seeks wisdom, **THEN** he will find it, because God will give it to him.

Proverbs 2:6 (CSB) For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Wisdom helps us see that:

- **God is caring for us** in every situation (verses 5-8):
 - We know (understand) God - verse 5
 - God gives us success (or sound judgment, common sense) - verse 7
 - God protects us - verses 7-8

Proverbs 2:7b-8 (The Message) God is ... a personal bodyguard to the candid and sincere. He keeps his eye on all who live honestly, and pays special attention to his loyally committed ones.

- It helps us see that **God is directing us** in every situation (verses 9-11):

God's wisdom point us to true north, towards what is right, just, and fair. When we treat people right, when we tell the truth for example, it wins us a good reputation and friends everywhere (Proverbs 3:4). Wisdom is God's pathway to success and it is his gift to those who ask for it.

3. Proverbs 2 Describes The Benefit Of Wisdom - verses 12-18.

The benefit of wisdom is this: it saves us from ruin and destruction - both now and in eternity. Our life-choices lead us either to life or to death.

Proverbs 2:18 (CSB) ... for her house sinks down to death and her ways to the land of the departed spirits.

There really is a highway to hell. And our foolish choices lead us there.

There is also a narrow road to heaven and wise living leads us there; it begins with reverence for God and that leads to faith in Jesus Christ. That's wisdom.

Solomon uses two graphic examples to describe the benefit of godly wisdom:

- The temptation of easy money (verses 12-15) Wise living would spare his son from a life of crime and the deadly influence of criminals.
- The temptation of easy sex (verses 16-19). Wise living will also spare his son from sexual immorality that leads to negative consequences.

And wise living will spare us from disaster and lead us on the path to life.

FOLLOWING JESUS IN THE AGE OF AI

So, that's a fast look at the urgency, gift, and benefit of wisdom. What I want us to do now is apply these insights to following Jesus in the age of AI

We need God's wisdom to help us navigate the positives and negatives of this amazing technology.

Based on the wisdom of Proverbs chapter 2, **five SAFEGUARDS** we should always keep in mind:

1. **AI is a machine; it is not God (verses 1-5).** It's an app, or a highly capable computer program. AI is amazing technology but it cannot replace God in your life. A relationship with God is the source of the wisdom we need.
2. **AI can inform you, but can't transform you into a godly person (verses 6-10).** It can give you amazing amounts of biblical information very quickly and mostly accurately, but it cannot lead you to spiritual transformation. Only embracing God and his truths in your heart will do that. AI is not your spiritual leader; it does not know what it feels like to fear God, to repent of sin, to trust in Jesus as your Savior, or to have godly joy or sorrow. Don't let AI replace your relationship with God.
3. **AI is a tool, not a friend made in God's image (verses 12-18).** It is a fake friend like the criminals or the immoral woman in Proverbs 2 who uses "flattering talk" (verse 16). AI is not made in the image of God; it has no soul. I enjoy my chats with Gemini, but chatbots are simply machines trained to gain your trust by saying what you want to hear - it's called "simulated empathy." It does not have feelings or compassion. So, be careful not to get emotionally entangled with your machine. Parents, it's wise to teach your kids about this danger and monitor their attachment to chatbots.

4. **AI gives advice, but its not always good (verses 12-15).** It is **NOT** morally neutral; a bunch of people working for an AI company trained it to think about right and wrong based on an algorithm they wrote. It will advise you based on its training data, not necessarily on godly wisdom. This can have tragic consequences, for example ...

The Sewell Setzer Case (2024): A 14-year-old in Florida died by suicide after forming an intense, emotionally immersive relationship with a customized chatbot on the Character.AI platform. Lawsuits alleged the bot groomed the teen, romanticized death, and urged him to take his life. His mother ultimately reached a settlement with Character.AI.³

5. **Live by faith not fear (verses 7-8).** There is some legitimate concern about Artificial Intelligence replacing our jobs. However, we know that it is unwise to let our circumstances dictate how we feel. Instead, we want to grow our trust deep down into God and his promises. He is good, faithful, and able. He will make a way. He will take care of us. Life does feel hard some days, but there is joy and peace in knowing the Lord.

Let's be wise as we follow Jesus in the age of AI. Let's resist the urge to treat AI as an authority rather than a tool.

Our ultimate trust belongs to God and His Word, not to algorithms or machines
Let's follow the Bible's encouragement in Proverbs 3:

Proverbs 3:5-7 (CSB) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight. 7 Don't be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

³ <https://apnews.com/article/chatbot-ai-lawsuit-suicide-teen-artificial-intelligence-9d48adc572100822fdb3c90d1456bd0>

PERSPECTIVES ON AI

Written with AI assistance.

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly reshaping how we work, communicate, and make decisions. For Christians, the rise of AI is not merely a technological development but a theological moment that calls for wisdom, discernment, and faithfulness.

Scripture reminds us that human beings are uniquely created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). While AI can process data, generate language, and mimic creativity, it does not bear God's image, possess a soul, or exercise moral responsibility. This distinction is crucial. AI is a tool—powerful, but ultimately subordinate to human stewardship under God's authority.

Used rightly, AI can serve the common good. It can assist in medical research, enhance communication, and even support ministry efforts such as Bible study, administration, and outreach. In this sense, it reflects humanity's God-given mandate to cultivate and steward creation (Genesis 1:28).

However, AI also presents significant dangers. It can amplify deception, erode truth, and tempt us toward intellectual laziness or misplaced trust. Christians must resist the urge to treat AI as an authority rather than a tool. Our ultimate trust belongs to God and His Word, not to algorithms or machines (Proverbs 3:5-6).

As we engage with AI, we must do so thoughtfully, asking not only what we can do, but what we should do. In all things, we seek to glorify God, love our neighbor, and walk in truth.