

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)  
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

## (#114) The Proverbs of Solomon 16:22- Expanding the Mind

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

### **Proverbs 16:22:**

Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has it. But the correction of fools is folly.

Another proverb says:

The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook. (**Proverbs 18:4**)

"Understanding" is a constant "flowing book" providing "deep waters" of knowledge. A person of "understanding" always has information to share that has been influenced by God's Wisdom, studied with an open mind, and reflected in conversation.

In the wilderness wandering, Moses was advised to get men to help him judge the people's problems:

Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. (**Exodus 18:21**)

Moses commanded the people to "Choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes, and I will make them heads over you" (**Deuteronomy 1:13**). Only by carefully studying God's Wisdom can anyone accurately "understand" human behaviors and know how to guide them to a proper solution! Solomon, himself, asked God to "give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil" (**1 Kings 3:9**).

Wisdom and understanding are closely associated, so it is not surprising, then, that wise Solomon's Book of Proverbs refers to "understanding" in more than 50

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.*



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verses! Meeting His Apostles after His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ “opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures” ([Luke 24:45](#)). Christians know about life and the life to come!

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ([Ephesians 5:15-17](#))

Since inspired Scriptures provide “correction” ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)), only “fools” will refuse to hear them. The Old Testament Prophet, Jeremiah, wrote: O LORD, *are* not Your eyes on the truth? You have stricken them, But they have not grieved; You have consumed them, But they have refused to receive correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; They have refused to return. Therefore I said, ‘Surely these *are* poor. They are foolish; For they do not know the way of the LORD, The judgment of their God.’ (Jeremiah 5:3-4)

Fools feed on “folly” and have nothing positive to add to “understanding.” Until and unless they repent and turn to God’s Word, a fool may refuse to be corrected by God’s Word!

