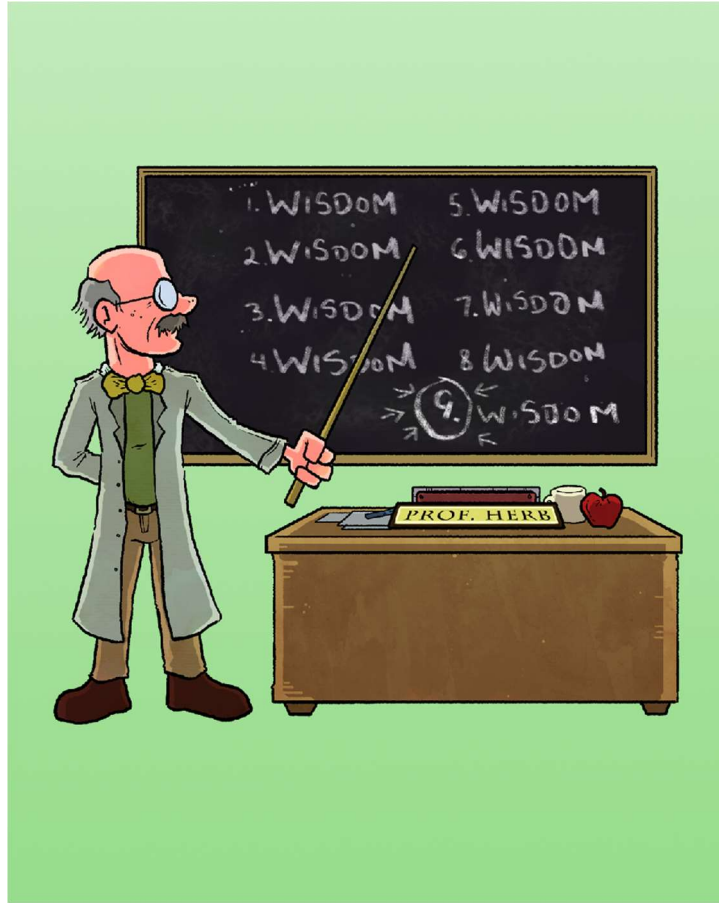


PROVERBS 9: WISDOM



Prof. Herb (Proverbs; see sign on desk) points to the word **Wisdom** written **9** times.

+ Industriousness is next to godliness. That may not be the typical quote, but along with cleanliness a good work ethic bolsters one's mind and spirit. The woman "Wisdom" in Psalm 9 is unafraid of hard work, a lesson that should not be lost on the young. Slovenliness and laziness, which Folly recommends, are part of the downward spiral leading to the grave (see v.13-18).

+ We have three mortal enemies of our soul, Satan, a wicked culture, and our sinful flesh. One of the ways these three team up to entice us to sin is through perversion of the Image of God in us. We were designed by God to enjoy, even become enthralled with certain events or activities. When a person dedicates spare time to a hobby or activity, they are expressing the joyful intensity of the Image of God. However, sin can turn fascination into addiction, which is harmful. Even "good" addictions such as exercise addiction, will cause problems when unbalanced. No wonder, then, that there exist so many forms of addiction! Even if one avoids alcohol, there are other things that are wonderful when moderated, but ugly when over-indulged.

Food, sex, money, entertainment, electronics – and many more pleasures beckon us to abandon ourselves to them. Industries are built upon motivating us, overtly or covertly, to participate even at the cost of a balanced life or family welfare.

+ The Christian always finds that two voices call out; the voice of godliness and the voice of temptation. At any moment we may be tested by God, or tempted by Satan. We are not autonomous, unaffected by spiritual powers, but are in a constant tug of war over our soul. This is why we are admonished not to live as if by our own strength, but dependent upon God's strength and the Spirit of God within us.