



The Way of Reverence

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Evening Message for September 2, 2012 (Ray Reynolds)

TEXT: Proverbs 1:1–7

Introduction: The opening paragraph of the Book of Proverbs summarizes the message of the whole book: “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction*” (**Proverbs 1:7**). There are two contrasting ways to live: the way of the wise and the way of the foolish. Throughout this series we will see several things that can help us to walk in the “way of the wise.” In this first lesson, we will notice the way of reverence. Let’s study together....

Discussion:

I. The Way of the Wise = Reverence

The wise fear the Lord in a relational sense (**Proverbs 1:1–7**).

The wise fear the Lord in a spiritual sense (**Proverbs 1:29**).

The wise fear the Lord in a universal sense (**Proverbs 3:19–20**).

II. The Way of the Foolish = Irreverence

The foolish do not fear the Lord because of selfishness (**Proverbs 3:1–8**).

The foolish do not fear the Lord because of rebellion (**Proverbs 17:11**).

The foolish do not fear the Lord because of bad company (**Proverbs 24:21–22**).

Conclusion: There are only two ways to live: the way of the wise and the way of the foolish. When we choose the wrong way it results in the tragic consequences of pain and death (**Romans 3:23, 6:23**). This is the bad news. However, the New Testament gives us the good news, which is the “gospel.” Jesus came to the earth, perfectly lived the way of the wise, and paid the price for our rebellion. He provides the path for us to be reconciled to God. Will you surrender to Him? Will you believe in Him? Will you repent of your sins? Will you confess your faith? Will you be immersed into His blood? What path will you choose?

WORD OF THE DAY = “REVERENCE”