

The Beginning of Knowledge

We live in the information age. Since information is so readily available, why do people do such dumb things?

Introduction **1**

Purpose # 1 *“for gaining wisdom and instruction”* **2a**
Wisdom

Instruction

Gaining

Purpose # 2 *“for understanding words of insight”* **2b**
Understanding

Expanding on Purpose # 1 **3-4**
Receiving

Instruction in prudent behavior

What is right, just and fair

Giving

To the simple - prudence

To the young – knowledge and discretion

Expanding on Purpose # 2

5-6

Conclusion and Transition

7

The beginning of wisdom

Questions for Discussion

1. Tell the group about a time where you either ignored someone's advice or wished you had some counsel before you got into that situation.
2. What is one piece of advice you would give to a younger person that you wish someone would have given to you?
3. Discuss the phrases: "Experience is the best teacher." "You learn from your mistakes." What is true or untrue about them? (For example, Do people always learn from their mistakes?). What would be a wiser choice than to follow these "proverbial" sayings?
4. Explain what Paul meant when he said that God gave people over to a "depraved mind." How does that work?
5. Information (and even wisdom) are available today, perhaps more than ever before. Why is it that society is not wise? Why don't people pay closer attention to wisdom?
6. How beneficial is the best advice if it is not followed?