

'This book fills a long-awaited need. It makes the Proverbs accessible... a rich resource for every reader.' JOHN MACARTHUR

PRACTICING PROVERBS

WISE LIVING FOR FOOLISH TIMES



RICHARD MAYHUE

This book, *Practicing Proverbs*, will be a wonderful asset to pastors, counselors and Christians in their own personal lives or in their ministries to other people. The book of Proverbs has always been one of my favorite books of the Bible. I have read it and used it again and again in my own personal life, in my pastoral and counseling ministry and in my attempts to bring my children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. To this point, I have been helped greatly by Charles Bridge's commentary on Proverbs. Now, Richard Mayhue's book comes alongside the book by Bridges to provide valuable insights into the practicality of Proverbs and to arrange the Proverbs in a topical way that will make the book even more useful. I heartily encourage Christians to purchase the book, read it, heed it and put its truths into practice in their lives and ministries.

Dr. Wayne Mack
Professor of Biblical Counseling
The Master's College

Dr. Mayhue's book fills a long-awaited need. It makes the Proverbs accessible. This book becomes a catalog of proverbial principles and illustrations easily found. The opening chapters are a rich treatment of the nature of wisdom and the priority of fearing the Lord. The latter half of the book provides indexes by which the individual Proverbs can be accessed. This is a marvelous tool for the Bible student, as well as a rich resource for every reader.

Dr. John MacArthur, Pastor
Grace Community Church

What a delightful and refreshing spiritual treasury from the pen of Richard Mayhue! Proverbs is indeed the most practical book in the Bible, and I love it! I definitely fit the multi-audience to whom this volume is addressed: I love a good devotional book, especially when it offers a plan for discipleship that can be used in any setting; add to that counseling tips for the hurting people who cross my paths; I also love wisdom to enhance my grandparenting and illustrations for making my Bible teaching come alive, not to mention a resource for living the Christian life and affirming a biblical worldview. The volume is a must for my personal and classroom use and for yours!

Dr. Dorothy Kelley Patterson
Professor of Theology in Women's Studies
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Practicing Proverbs is one of the most practical books you will ever read! Why? Because of the manner in which author Richard Mayhue bases his thoughts and unique arrangement of materials on the Book of Proverbs — one of the most helpful books of the Bible.

I personally know that ever since Mayhue's conversion (which occurred while he was a U.S. Naval officer) he has incorporated these same principles into his daily life, and with tremendous effect. You too can experience the same great blessing in your life. I would strongly encourage everyone to read this book!

Dr. Tim LaHaye
Author, Minister, Educator

RICHARD MAYHUE

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CHRISTIAN FOCUS

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Contents

INTRODUCTION	7
1 WISDOM'S FINAL EXAM	13
2 WISDOM'S ONLY AUTHORIZED TEXTBOOK	29
3 WISDOM'S BEGINNING	41
4 WISDOM'S WINDS	53
5 WISDOM'S WAY IS BEST	65
6 SPIRITUAL WISDOM	79
7 PERSONAL WISDOM	115
8 FAMILY WISDOM	163
9 INTELLECTUAL WISDOM	181
10 MARKETPLACE WISDOM	199
11 SOCIETAL WISDOM	211
APPENDIX ONE – OLD TESTAMENT PROVERBS	
IN THE NEW TESTAMENT	219
DEVOTIONAL INDEX	220
LIFE-APPLICATION INDEX	222
PROVERBS INDEX	224
SUBJECT INDEX	236
THEMATIC INDEX	238
STRATEGY FOR SPIRITUAL SUCCESS WORKSHEET	239

INTRODUCTION

American and British literature contains thousands of proverbs. They represent a potpourri of time-tested, common-sense aphorisms, many of which have their origins in other countries and date even before the actual establishment of America as a sovereign nation. I remember reading about an elementary school teacher who, wanting to convey creatively some of these national and international proverbs to her students, decided to provide the first part of the proverb and then have her young learners fill in the remainder. One little girl received, "A bird in the hand...." The teacher expected to hear, "...is worth two in the bush.", but this youngster blurted out "...is sure to go to the bathroom!" While I am certain that there is truth in both versions, I want to write about the Jewish Proverbs of Scripture with a far more serious intent than comes from this humorous incident or even from helpful proverbs of mere human origin.

I first visited Russia (then the USSR) in February 1991, and have returned several times since (now a part of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]). It struck me then that here stands a prominent nation which desperately needs a completely new set of absolute ethical and moral principles, i.e. Proverbs, to guide both the government and the people as they transition through violently dramatic spiritual, economic, political, ethical, and social upheavals, caused partly by their many decades of government-imposed, national atheism.

The same need exists in my own country – the United States of America. If I had one message to give the CEOs, educators, political leaders, media pundits, and social scientists of our day, it would be the teaching of Proverbs, which majors on making one wise unto

This is a unique book on a unique part of Scripture. Mayhue introduces us to Solomon, the writer of Proverbs, and then gets to grips with the book itself and its message. He answers some of the most frequently asked questions about Proverbs and how the book has immediate and pressing relevance to Christians today.

Then, he re-organises the text of the entire book of Proverbs into six life applications - spiritual, personal, family, intellectual, market-place and societal each also having particular themes highlighted within them.

PRACTICING PROVERBS is one book with multiple uses; devotional, small group discipleship book, resource for the biblical counselor and for teaching Christian ethics and morality.

Most importantly of all, this is a book to help the reader develop a life that glorifies the source of all wisdom - God.

'I heartily encourage Christians to purchase the book, read it, heed it and put its truths into practice in their lives and ministries.'

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Professor of Biblical Counseling, The Master's College

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Dr. Tim LaHaye

Author, Minister, Educator

RICHARD MAYHUE is Executive Vice President of The Master's College and Seminary in the Los Angeles, California area.



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