

Douglas Jackson

WISDOM  
*from*  
PROVERBS  
*and*  
LIFE

**I n L o v i n g M e m o r y**



**D o u g l a s J a c k s o n**

**1 9 4 1 - 2 0 2 5**

# Douglas Jackson

For the last two years of his life, Douglas Jackson privately wrote down his testimony and spiritual wisdoms. Doug was physically fit for his age, and appeared to be in great health up until he passed – at which time he went peacefully in his sleep with a smile on his face. His last day was Father's Day. He spent that day with nothing but joy in his heart. His words and actions display that he was content and ready to meet his Heavenly Father. “Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.” **Genesis 5:24.** Doug’s wisdom was a clear product of him walking in Jesus’ purpose. Amidst his successes and failures, his only goal was to know Christ and to make Him known. He was not afraid to share that goal with anyone that he knew, and Doug knew a lot of people. After his passing, Doug Jackson’s writings were discovered beside his recliner, where he reads his Bible. He had shared his words with very few. The following words are Doug’s own, lightly edited for clarity by his grandson Reiley Jackson, with layout and design by his grandson Banner Jackson.



# Table of Contents

## Life & Testimony

Age 14 Testimony	1
Meeting my Future Wife	2
Age 33 Testimony	4
Propitiation for Sins	4
Affect of Salvation	5
Work-a-holic	6
How's Your Sleep?	7
Reading Proverbs & Hearing the Holy Spirit	8
Majoring in Minors	9
Flexibility	9
Your Reach Exceeds Your Grasp	10
Use of Our Resources (Doug's Short Proverbs)	11
Life Problems	14

## On Proverbs

READ PROVERBS !	15
Four Foundational Life Principles	17
Whom Did I Trust?	19
Lessons for Daily Life	27
See the Bigger Picture	28
Co-Signing for a Friend/Son-Daughter	29
Doug's Favorite Verses	30

# 1. Age 14 Testimony

Looking back shows me that leadership didn't have anything spiritual to promote.\* At the Methodist Church, I did not hear about Jesus being the world's savior or about the gospel. I was so unaware of my sin – in fact, I did not know what sin was – since I had no knowledge of God's commandments.

I didn't know what a sinner was, but I knew that I had done bad things, so I must be a sinner; I didn't need convincing of my bad nature, but I thought I wasn't "that bad." After all, I had not robbed a store or murdered someone. I had not understood I had any choice of how to live my life, I just thought that was the way life was.

\*Some of Doug's writing in the first section appears to have been erased, with an extra line that provides context found misplaced in the table of contents: "the elected President of the United Methodist youth group in Castleton, IN."

## 2. Meeting my Future Wife

The summer after college graduation, Bill Cap, my best friend in high school, was in Cleveland, Ohio studying electrical engineering. My parents Max A. Jackson and Rosemary Jackson had moved to Montgomery, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati. When I contacted Bill Cap in late July, we decided to try to meet in Columbus, Ohio (about halfway) for a weekend. Bill and his “fraternity brother” Gary would come to Columbus and we could stay in the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house near the Ohio State University campus.

Bill’s fraternity brother knew this girl at Ohio State who could “fix me up” with a date for the weekend. The girl Gary knew was Peggy Gregg, who was in a play at the University on Friday night when we arrived in Columbus. Bill, Gary, and I met at the play ‘Where’s Charley.’

We sat high up, so we really could not see the actors very well. After the play, the six of us – the 3 guys and 3 girls – loaded into Bill’s Corvette and my Corvette. That was really tight. I think Gary and one girl was in my car. We drove to a Polynesian restaurant for dinner. I sat across from Peggy with the attractive girl that she had asked to go with me. We ate and took the girls to their sororities.

The Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house was behind Peggy Gregg's girls rooming house. Bill and Gary were invited to Peggy Gregg's home for a picnic lunch in their backyard. Peggy claims I winked at her, but I don't remember. I began to recognize something was different with Peggy from other college girls that I had known. I had an additional date with another girl that weekend, but couldn't get Peggy out of my mind.

The following week back in Cincinnati, I called Peggy asking her for a date the following weekend at a sports car race, Mid-Ohio, north of Columbus. She said yes, to my surprise. After spending the entire next Saturday together out in the hot August sun, we sat on her parents' swing on the front porch of their home and Peggy's dorm. I was overwhelmed by thoughts of love for her. I can't explain even today the origination of that feeling, but today, 59+ years later and Jesus Christ in my heart, I understand it was the Holy Spirit prompting me. She was not like any girl that I had dated previously.

### 3. Age 33 Testimony

In 1974, Michigan Friends (Jack & Madge Bolt) gave me Hal Lindsey's book 'The Late Great Planet Earth.' NY Times called it the best seller of the 1970s. I was deep in sin just like we all are before trusting in Jesus to be my Savior. Belief in Jesus as my Lord came later. The book was fascinating to me – the apocalyptic revelation got my attention. I had never heard anything like this. After reading this book, I wanted more, so I purchased the next book by the author Hal Lindsey, 'Satan is Alive and Well on Planet Earth.'

### 4. Propitiation for Sins

As I read how Jesus was/is God and how He became the **propitiation** for my sin, I understood that I was bad, sinful, and had no hope of changing my behavior myself, i.e., Jesus took my sinful place before God, even though Jesus had no sin of His own. He carried my past sins, current sins, and future sins. This Holy Spirit experience changed my life completely. At the time, I was reading outside in our Pompano Beach, Florida home. I spontaneously cried like I never had previously. The Holy Spirit opened my eyes to the saving grace of Jesus Christ. He had died for my sins so that I might be free of the bondages in my life that I had lived without God. I now understood Jesus was the **propitiation** for my sins with the Father God.

## 5. Affect of Salvation

My spirit became alive. I accepted Jesus as my Savior but not as Lord. Almost immediately I had an inward desire to read the Bible. I didn't own a Bible. Soon a real estate client, Larry and his brother Don, who were Christians, offered to point me to the best Bible to begin. Don seemed more sold out to Jesus and willing to disciple me. He suggested New American Standard translation for accuracy and most language was easily understood. Don agreed to come to our home and speak with our kids about Jesus, Rick (age 5) and Nicole (age 9). Don described the sin we all had using his billfold representing sin and how Jesus came to take our sin. He then led both of them in a sinner's prayer. I was thrilled that both of them seemed sincere in saying the prayer to accept Jesus. For me, Don suggested reading one chapter of Proverbs each day that corresponds with the day of the month, i.e., 1st chapter on 1st of month, tomorrow 2nd chapter on the 2nd etc. When I missed a day or so, I'd skip to the chapter that corresponds with the day I was on. Then I repeat the reading the next month. The Holy Spirit would bring to my memory each time I read a chapter. The next month with the same chapter, the Spirit would bring to mind something different so reading it month after month was getting the Word of God deeper within my mind and heart.

If you miss a day or two, don't worry, just pick up the date where you are when you start back. My Proverbs reading has continued, but changing to other books of the Bible also since about 1995 up to this day. I try to hear the Holy Spirit on what I should be reading nearly every day.

## 6. Work-a-holic

First I need to say that I was a work-a-holic **addict**, no different than any other type of addict, just my drug of choice was pouring myself into my work. After becoming a Christian believer I rationalized that I was doing the work “as unto the Lord.” As I remember back, I was concerned about being responsible for my new lovely wife (Married 2/21/1964), Peggy. Being married caused me to earn enough money to support both of us, while she was getting her BA and Master of Social Work. My work became an idol (a god) supplanting the real Father God. Meaning I worked day and night while away even after I slept, see below. I only realized this recently, but it is a sin to be a work-a-holic as it is to be addicted to any god other than God the Father. That was an idol that I put before my God. So today I consider myself a recovering work-a-holic. I need to watch myself or I can fall back into the need to work harder, longer, and “better” than anyone else, even to this day. Being a work-a-holic is a sin, replacing God with the idol of work. I was putting my “work” before Jesus.

## 7. How's Your Sleep?

Sleeping at night is almost always an easy thing for me. It has proved to be a real blessing to this day. But long before I read ‘Satan is Alive and Well on Planet Earth,’ I was sometimes awakened with a business solution to a problem or potential problem I had not thought or worried about. This occurs to this day of writing. I would realize I missed an insurance premium payment, an unknown employee problem, a potential situation that I could speak into to change from a problem into an asset. I had no idea what was causing this phenomenon, but I learned to rely on it, more and more. Sometime after accepting Jesus as my savior, I began to realize this must be the Holy Spirit’s way of breaking into my life. This breaking into my life has increased as time has gone on. I now think most things are connected spiritually that happen to Jesus.

## 8. Reading Proverbs & Hearing the Holy Spirit

As I read the Proverbs chapter of the day, I noticed that a word or a phrase would stand out of the Proverb for that day. At first, I thought that was weird, but Don told me it was the Holy Spirit speaking to me through the scripture. When the HS (Holy Spirit) impressed me with a verse, I would mark it in my Bible with the date, read, and meditate, pondering on the verse as long as HS was speaking to me. I started writing in pencil, then ink, and now highlight in the ESV on my Logos mobile app. By the way, the Logos Software is transferable to heirs – someone interested can call Faith Life (current owner of Logos). Over the years, I changed translation versions. I started with American Standard Version, International Version for a short while, and then to English Standard Version. I also use the New Living Translation because my friend Wade Nye, retired pastor, told me that NLT was a good translation. These are some of the proverbs the Holy Spirit impressed upon my dead fleshly mind.\* They may not be in any particular order, if I have time I'll try to organize them by some category that makes sense to me.

\*See Page 15

## 9. Majoring in Minors

When discussing a topic, especially emotionally charged, it is best to remember what the big picture goal should be... leave the other person feeling loved. This is difficult to do when you have an emotional goal needing to be fulfilled. Sticking to the important big picture – not trivial, small, petty objectives. I sometimes enlarge (blow up) a minor problem or discussion to an entire other level.

## 10. Flexibility

Since we want to be open for what path God has for us (before Jesus I just thought it a wise thing to be flexible).

Flexibility is very important. We should always keep options open as long as possible so God may direct us in the best path for us. Flexibility can be demonstrated by the educational path we choose, jobs we experience, and people with whom we associate.

Always try to keep the largest number of options available for future, e. g., in geometric terms, 180 degrees vs. 45 degrees keeps more choices possible.

Debt creates restriction and limits options. Without debt, one has the freedom to follow what God has for me with minimal restrictions. I learned this lesson in 1974, while living with the world's standards for right and wrong, when the macro (big picture) economy (1973-74 Oil crises) caused us to lose a 32-unit apartment building in Boca Raton, Florida. A prime location near FL Atlantic University. After this expensive loss/lesson – mostly in terms of my effort and time (as well as money) – we have tried to maintain an emergency savings account and took on no additional debt (except a reverse mortgage on our home, which requires no payments and gives us the ability to walk away at any time.)

## 11. Your Reach Exceeds Your Grasp

(A practical way of “getting over your skis.”)

“Your reach may exceed your grasp” saying can relate to business, education, organizational infrastructure and personal relationships. A person believes he/she theoretically can do more than is practical, e.g., you have reached for something but you may not be able to grasp or hold on to it. After my experience in 1974 with the apartment building where we lost our investments, I had the funds to purchase and refurbish completely, but did not have ability to rent the “like new” building in a bad economic market, “oil crisis.” The buyers sold it as condos to a Canadian market that I had no knowledge of. We were low on financial reserves, short on world and national economics.

## 12. Use of Our Resources

### (Doug's Short Proverbs)

In many situations “time” can be substituted for money (or other resources) and vice versa. This seems true from my experience even with food vs. sleep. I first noticed this at the University of Illinois when studying for tests, e.g., a little food could be substituted for sleep and vice versa. When I really needed to study but was falling asleep, a brief food break could allow for rejuvenation so I could study longer without the sleep that I had felt was necessary.

You may substitute resources such as time, effort, and focus for money, i.e, an increase in time can substitute for money and vice versa. Extra effort could substitute for additional time or money.

### Example of Substituting Resources Time for Money:

When accomplishing repairs on a building you may take your time and find the low-skilled bidder for a lower cost, or you can use the internet to find someone who may be easy to locate but expensive due to their business model, e.g., high cost salesmen, using subcontractors instead of using employees, etc. Example of changing a name of a leased motel from Thorncrest to Retreat: After a guest was murdered at the Thorncrest, I thought it prudent to change the name. I didn't like it anyway and probably would have eventually changed it. We didn't have much money, so first

I got sign vendor prices for a new sign with Retreat Motel. The prices were so high that I went directly to a sign manufacturer in Hollywood, FL and got prices 80% less just for the plastic letters. But the sign manufacturer would only sell to sign installation companies. So, I started a sign installation company with a letterhead and business cards, and bought the letters and installed them myself with an employee's help.

## **Understand Thoroughly What You Spend Your Resources**

**Do not invest money (your resources: time, efforts, abilities) in anything you don't understand.** I learned the hard way attempting to "day trade" options, futures, and stocks, while losing a lot of money – as well as time – spent on unproductive endeavors. Finally coming to my senses, I realized I had to stop. This was wasteful of money and time and effort. That decision came at a difficult time to admit I had failed (humility is humbling), again like the prior 32-unit apartment building investment, but I made that difficult step. When I told Peggy, my wife, it was difficult.

## **If you think Education is Expensive, try Experience.**

Tuition, books, living expenses, time, and effort expended can be costly, but it's less costly to learn from other's mistakes than experience it yourself.

## Income taxes:

Charles Considine, CPA & Tax Attorney taught in the 1970s: FIRST, you must decide whether you want to “sleep well or eat well.” The tax attorney and CPA taught income taxes related to real estate. The education has been valuable for the last 50 years. But Mr. Considine must have decided on eating well due to his conviction of tax evasion.

## IMPORTANT to Recognize this Principle:

“Tax what you don’t want and subsidize what you want.”

It was more famously said by Ronald Reagan, “If you want more of something just subsidize it, if you want less tax it.” Examples of this principle are in the news every day. And it doesn’t just mean income taxes or real estate taxes either. Taxing is a term meaning “reducing” the influence or effect of something, e.g., \_\_\_\_\_\*

When copying a document or data, always copy from the most original source you have available, so that errors are less likely. Copying errors are common so copy with “care.”

\*Left incomplete

**“You can not push on a string.”**

. When you are unable with reasonable effort to accomplish the desired result, I usually say something like **“You can not push on a string.”** Meaning there are many situations which require prayer only. A work-a-holic will try to manipulate the circumstances to accomplish whatever the goal. I would feel disappointed in results — that was telling me that I needed to be in control. Control is an unrealized goal of mine. Father God is in control, and “never” me.

## 13. Life Problems

**“Look Vertical Not Horizontal”**

Circumstances beyond my control cause pain, fear, anxiety; realizing I can't control the world around me, I turn to Jesus. God our Father is in control. I have used this phrase to begin a spiritual discussion with strangers. It usually seems to the other person as “not controversial.” Younger culture is spiritual-minded just not as Jesus-minded.

**Colossians 3:2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

**There must be a better way, we've tried all the rest.**

Define crazy: Doing the same thing over and over that has given the same results but thinking, “the next time it will work.” Socialism is an example.

## Marriage Building Intimacy

1. Is there anything that I need to apologize for? Have I done anything this past week to hurt you?
2. Is there anything you need from me that you are not getting?
3. How can I be a better spouse?

On Proverbs Strong Recommendation:

## 14. READ PROVERBS !

Read just one chapter a day, corresponding to the day of the month you are reading. Of course read more as you are prompted. Do this until you “want to read each day.”

### Proverbs 1:1-7 | Proverbs Theme:

**Verse 7.** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

This is the foundation for relationship with God, the Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit and the theme of Proverbs.

### Four Foundational Life Principles from verses 1-7:

Wisdom, Justice, Judgment, & Equity.

## Proverbs 1:2-7

- 2 To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight,**
- 3 To receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity;**
- 4 To give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—**
- 5 Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance,**
- 6 To understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.**
- 7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

# Four Foundational Life Principles

**1. Wisdom** World View: which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. - **Colossians 2:3**

Also, **Colossians 2:8**

See to it that **no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit**, according to **human tradition**, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

**Proverbs 2:6-7**

6 For the Lord gives wisdom;

from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;

he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,

**2. Justice**

**Proverbs 2:8-10**

8 guarding the paths of justice

and watching (preserving) over the way of his saints.

9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice  
and equity, every good path;  
10 for wisdom will come into your heart,  
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

### **3. Judgment**

#### **Proverbs 2:11-12**

11 discretion will watch over you,  
understanding will guard you,  
12 delivering you from the way of evil,  
from men of perverted speech,

### **4. Equity = Fairness (Psalms 96:10, 98:9, 99:4)**

#### **Proverbs 1:22**

“How long, O simple (naive) ones, will you love being simple?

How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing  
and fools hate knowledge?

## Proverbs 1:23

If you turn at my reproof,  
behold, I will pour out my spirit to you;  
I will make my words known to you.

**Only two options for life: Wisdom or folly**  
(simple, naive ones)

Simple or naive ones: it refers to the untutored and inexperienced, not those lacking intellectual powers. **Wisdom is a matter of practical godliness.** Another synonym for simple could be “open minded,” “easily enticed,” or even “woke” (Those who know the fleshly truth and won’t consider or tolerate any other information.)

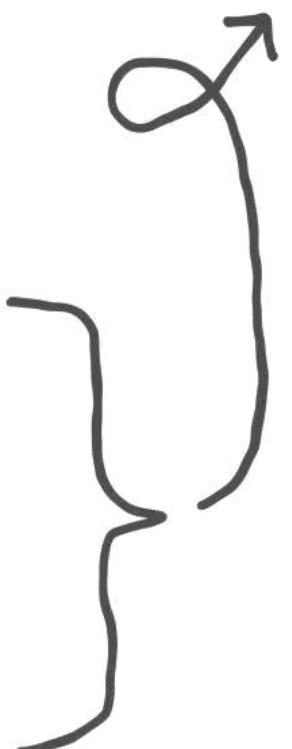
Integrity is tested daily for me, e.g., travel miles and their purpose-business (IRS deductible), personal, medical. It would be easy to rationalize a personal trip to have been really for business.

## Whom Did I Trust ?

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.



## *Two of my favorite Verses:*

Trusting on my own understanding has got me in much trouble (sin), worry, anxiety, & pain. Acknowledge God in all your ways, let's not be like Nebuchadnezzar who stated he had accomplished the building of Babylon and Hanging Gardens himself, failing to acknowledge God in "his" work. As a result God cause him to eat grass for 7 years until God mercifully restored his sanity. **"Be not wise in your own eyes;" Proverbs 3:7**

I need to keep "trusting" in Jesus, for I forget to trust and begin to lean on my own understanding and become wise in my own eyes. I was a work-a-holic for many years devoting time, money, and resources to "providing" for the family in my understanding, but I was avoiding time with Nicole and Rick when I spent so much time at work. I rationalized that it was needed to "provide for the family," but many times I was avoiding relationship with Peggy and kids. I regret those decisions, and repent of my evil intent work to really avoid working on relationships.

## Proverbs 3:7-12

7 Be not wise in your own eyes;

hear the Lord, and turn away from evil.

8 It will be healing to your flesh

and refreshment to your bones.

9 Honor the Lord with your wealth [this is a way to acknowledge God in doing your work]

and with the first fruits of all your produce; [Where your money and time are spent, your heart will be there also.]

10 then your barns will be filled with plenty,

and your vats will be bursting with wine.

11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline

or be weary of his reproof,

12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves,

as a father the son in whom he delights.

*Comment.:*

In 1974, as a new believer, ignorant of God's ways, while expanding real estate through a limited partnership, the oil embargo by Saudi Arabia put a stop to "my" expansion. I was not asking God "what He wanted to do" in those days. I was wise in my own eyes. Even with that, God saved me from bankruptcy. I think that may have been the time I started reading Proverbs daily. Up to that point I had not had a loss in real estate. I was "wise in my own eyes."



### Proverbs 3:18 Tree of Life

She (**wisdom**) is a **tree of life** to those who lay hold of her;  
those who hold her fast are called **blessed**.

*Comment*

I must have had some good Bible teaching by the time I read this, since I must have known of the Genesis and Revelation accounts of the tree of Life. Wisdom is a tree of life.

## Proverbs 3:24-25

24 If you lie down, you will not be afraid;  
when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

25 Do not be afraid of sudden terror  
or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes,

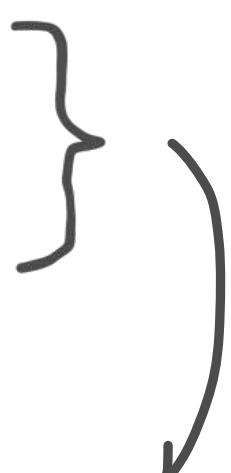


### *Comment*

God has blessed me with good restful sleep usually. I thank you regularly for that sleep. At my age, sleeping through the entire night is a “real” blessing. When I could not sleep or woke up worried about some business or personal details, I got up and read the Bible (Proverbs when I was younger usually) until I became tired. That has been another blessing; after reading until tired, I usually slept well with no cares.

## Proverbs 3:27

27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,  
when it is in your power to do it.



### *Comment*

This, the Holy Spirit has applied to wages to employees and payment to contractors who had done work.

I have always tried to pay promptly those who have done work for our companies or me personally. I have driven across town during rush hour to pay contractors because I felt they needed the money promptly, many times meeting the contractor after work hours to get them what I owed.

### Proverbs 4:1-3

1 My children, listen when your father corrects you.

Pay attention and learn good judgment,

2 for I am giving you good guidance.

Don't turn away from my instructions.

3 For I, too, was once my father's son,

tenderly loved as my mother's only child.

### *Comment*

My Father, Max Albert Jackson was not preachy or heavy into formal teaching when I was young. But he taught mostly by example. Dad worked in various jobs such as bakery delivery & sales, electrolux door-to-door sweeper sales, and he owned & operated with Mom a restaurant in Indianapolis, Indiana. He was a hard working man; after a full day on a job he came home and worked on my Grandmother's farm where we all lived. Dad would work in the fields ploughing, cultivating, planting the crops.

He never sat still, always doing something productive. That's where I learned what became my ethic – hard work resulted in benefits. He helped me when I started farming at age 12. My Grandmother asked me to do a joint venture (JV) in the summer of my 12th year. If I would plough the ground, plant the corn and soybean seeds, and cultivate the plants on two fields of 16 acres, my Grandmother would provide the seeds, fertilizer, tractor, equipment like plough, planter, and cultivator, including gasoline for tractor, then we would split the profits, which came to \$350 approximately. Over that spring and summer I did my part, but did not realize that when the soybeans and corn got too tall, I would have to go into the field and pull weeds in the humidity, with no wind, under the hot summer sun. It was miserable pulling those milkweeds, ragweed and thistles. That's when I decided right there I didn't want to be a farmer.

Reminds me of **Matthew 13:24-30**

### **The Parable of the Weeds**

24 He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, 25 but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. 27 And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ 28 He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’

29 But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’

### *Comment*

As I look back, the weeds were mixed with the seed before my Grandmother even bought them. They could have been cleaned and made pure before planting. Theologically, the weeds of our lives come from Adam’s first sin initially, but now I realize I contributed through our worldly desires of my mind and body. (**1 John 2:15-17**). While I walked over those 10 acres of soybeans looking for and pulling the weeds in the hot, scorching sun, the weeds were easier to spot since they had matured and mostly had grown larger than the soybeans.

# Lessons for Daily Life

## Proverbs 6:1-5\*

1 My child, if you have put up security for a friend's debt  
or agreed to guarantee the debt of a stranger—

2 if you have trapped yourself by your agreement  
and are caught by what you said—

3 follow my advice and save yourself,  
for you have placed yourself at your friend's mercy.

Now swallow your pride;  
go and beg to have your name erased.

4 Don't put it off; do it now!

Don't rest until you do.

5 Save yourself like a gazelle escaping from a hunter,  
like a bird fleeing from a net.

\*Repeated on Page 29 in a different translation, with commentary.

# See the Bigger Picture

## Ecclesiastes 2:11

When I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

"Solomon was a king and the son of a king. He had expanded on the successes of his father, David, and presided over a very affluent time in Jerusalem. Earlier in the chapter, he detailed all the things he had done in his search for meaning and happiness. In verse 10, he said, "I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure." Yet, here he is, an old man, admitting all of it was nothing more than "chasing after the wind" and he had gained nothing of lasting value. Solomon realized living with a predominately "here and now" perspective was not the key to fulfillment. Don't misunderstand: The Bible doesn't condemn having worthwhile goals and working to achieve them. Instead, it cautions us to see the bigger picture. It advises us to invest the short time we have on this earth in things that will have eternal significance in our lives and the lives of others."

- *Pastor Mark Jackson*

# Co-Signing for a Friend/Son-Daughter

## Proverbs 6:1-5

To “co-sign” (6:1) means to take responsibility for another person’s loan; so if the borrower defaults, the cosigner has to pay the obligation. It creates what is called in financial circles a contingent liability. If borrower defaults at any time, the co-signed must pay.

- 1 My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor,  
have given your pledge for a stranger,
- 2 if you are snared in the words of your mouth,  
caught in the words of your mouth,
- 3 then do this, my son, and save yourself,  
for you have come into the hand of your neighbor:  
go, hasten, and plead urgently with your neighbor.
- 4 Give your eyes no sleep  
and your eyelids no slumber;
- 5 save yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter,  
like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

# Doug's Favorite Verses

*"Two of my favorite verses"*

## Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

## Isaiah 5:20

## Amos 8:11-12

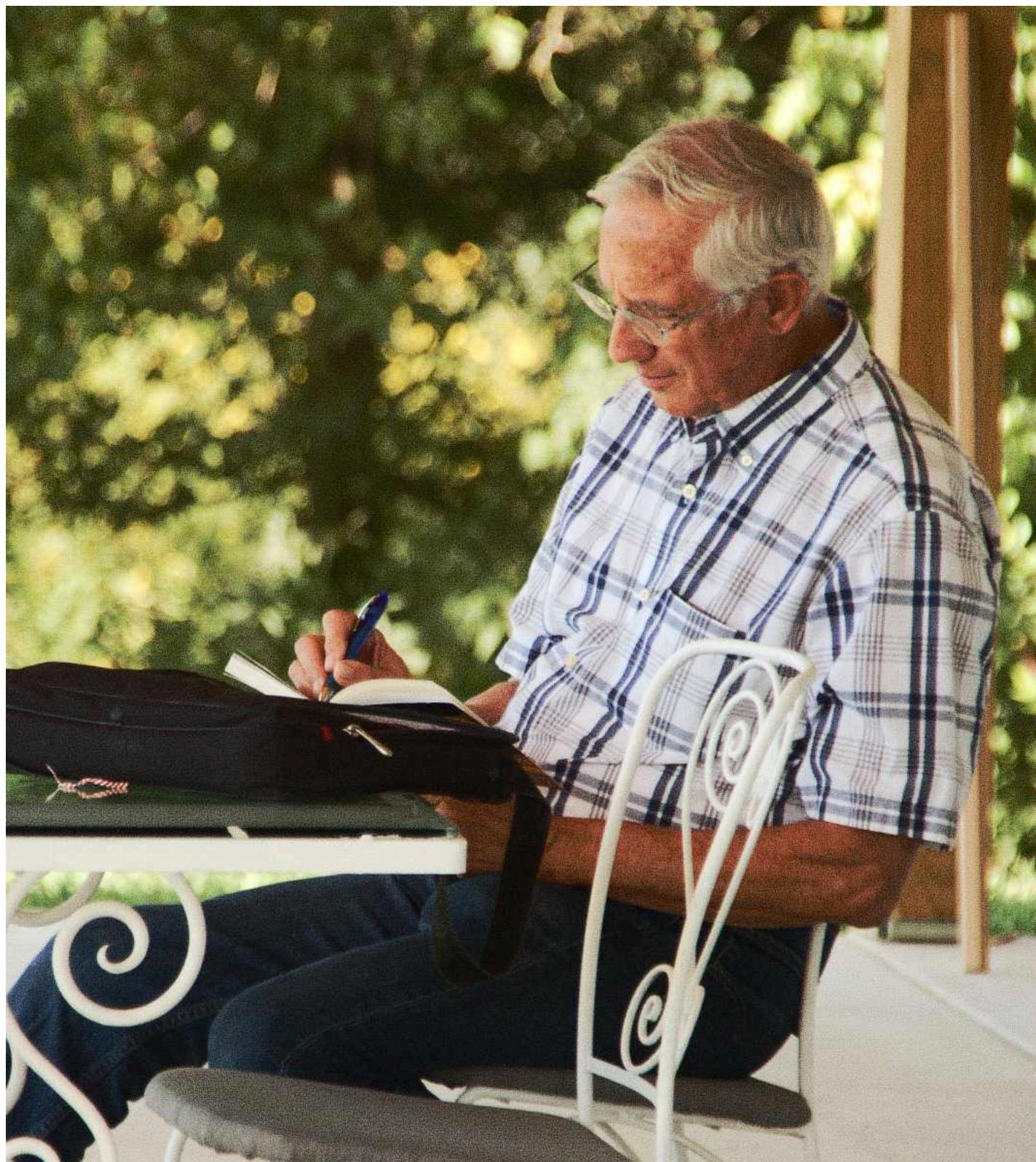
## 2 Timothy 3:16-17

## 1 John 2:15-16

*"Death"*

## Psalms 116:15

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.



**'Wisdom from Proverbs and Life'** is a glance into a wise businessman's life, written during his last few years serving Jesus Christ on this earth. Equal parts testimony, financial advice, and guided reading of the early chapters of Proverbs, **Douglas Jackson** imparts humbling words of wisdom gained through spiritual growth and life experience in this compilation of writings and notes.