

## A Study Of Proverbs

Proverbs 1:1-7

### Proverbs

#### Great need for wisdom.

- The walk of a Christian is to be the walk of wisdom. Ephesians 5:15-17
  - Value of time.
- The word of God equips man unto every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### Proverbs

- The book begins by identifying Solomon, the son of David, King of Israel, as the author (971-931 BC, long before Plato, Aristotle, and other "wise men").
- Copied by men of Hezekiah (715-686 BC)  
Proverbs 25:1-29:27
- Granted wisdom by God. 1 Kings 3:5-14
- Became famous for his wisdom, and wrote over 3,000 proverbs. 1 Kings 4:29-34. Wrote Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon.
- Book also contains wisdom from:
  - Agur son of Jakeh to Ithiel and Ucal. Proverbs 30:1-33
  - The words of King Lemuel, taught him by his mother. Proverbs 31:1-31

### What Is A Proverb?

- Note: Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings with no particular arrangement or outline. A lot like life itself. It is a book about life.
- Note: A Proverb is not intended as an absolute.
  - Proverbs 22:6, "*Train up a child in the way he should go, And even when he is old he will not depart from it.*"
  - Proverbs 3:1-2 "*My son, forget not my law; But let thy heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and years of life, And peace, will they add to thee.*"
  - Proverbs 10:4, "*He becometh poor that worketh with a slack hand; But the hand of the diligent maketh rich.*"
  - Proverbs 13:9, "*The light of the righteous rejoiceth; But the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.*"

### Outline of Proverbs

- The fatherly instructor teaches his son wisdom and urges him to seek after wisdom. Chapters 1-9
- The proverbs of Solomon. Chapters 10-24
- The proverbs of Solomon, copied by the men of King Hezekiah. Chapters 25-29
- The words of Agur the son of Jakeh; the oracle. Chapter 30
- The words of King Lemuel; the oracle which his mother taught him. Chapter 31

### THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

#### Proverbs 1:1-7

1. "*To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding*"
2. "*To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity*"
3. To give to the ...
  - a. Simple (naive) – "*prudence*"
  - b. Young man – "*knowledge and discretion*"
  - c. Wise man – "*increased learning*"
  - d. Man of understanding – "*wise counsel*"

### THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

#### Proverbs 1:1-7

4. To receive instruction in the **whys** and **wherefores** of righteousness, justice, and integrity.  
 – The person who is guided by the proverbs will do these things, not by external constraint, or by custom, but by understanding the underlying principles of right and wrong.

Proverbs 14:12, "*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death.*"

### THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

#### Proverbs 1:1-7

5. That the wise man may hear and increase in learning, and that the man of understanding, the one who is willing to be informed, the intelligent person, may gain sound rules of conduct or management.  
 – A proverb can help one who is already wise and give him the ability to plan and direct both his own affairs and the affairs of others wisely.

### THE BOOK IS DESIGNED ...

1. To make a person wise! cf. James 1:5-8
2. To learn how to:
  - a. Act wisely and righteously.
  - b. Treat others with fairness.
3. To give ...
  - a. The ignorant, common sense.
  - b. The young, sound advice.
  - c. The wise, even more wisdom.
4. Takes effort. cf. Proverbs 2:1-6

Micah 6:8, "*He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God?*"

### DEFINING WISDOM ...

- "Wisdom ... may be defined as a realistic approach to the problems of life ..." – 20th Century Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge
- "Ability to judge correctly and follow the best course of action, based on knowledge and understanding." Nelson Bible Dictionary.
- The Book of Proverbs is a good example of practical wisdom; it encourages the pursuit of wisdom and the practice of strict discipline, hard work, and high moral standards as the way to happiness and success. (Ibid)
- A proverb is "a short sentence based on a long experience."

### Illustrations Of These General Truths

- Proverbs 14:1ff
- Proverbs 15:1, "*A soft answer turneth away wrath; But a grievous word stirreth up anger.*"
- Proverbs 22:6, "*Train up a child in the way he should go, And even when he is old he will not depart from it.*"

### VALUE OF WISDOM ...

1. The first nine chapters of Proverbs are discourses extolling the value of wisdom.
  - Fatherly instruction. Proverbs 1:7-9
  - A series of exhortations, beginning with "**My Son.**"
2. The virtue of wisdom is seen in the prosperous life it can produce. Proverbs 3:13-18
3. Its value is also found in guarding us against many pitfalls. Proverbs 3:21-26

### VALUE OF WISDOM ...

4. Some "pitfalls" frequently warned against in The Book of Proverbs:
- The immoral woman. Proverbs 5:1-14; 6:24; 7:5ff
  - Evil companionship. Proverbs 1:10-19
  - Laziness. Proverbs 6:6-11

### VALUE OF WISDOM ...

5. Chapter 8
- Wisdom is the source of true wealth; It is better than rubies. Verse 11
  - Wisdom dwells with prudence. Verse 12
  - It leads in the way of righteousness. Verse 20
  - Whoso finds wisdom finds life and obtains favor of the Lord. Verse 35
  - For one to sin against wisdom is to wrong "*his own soul.*" Verse 36

### WISDOM COMES FROM TWO SOURCES ...

1. Trial and error (personal experience). Galatians 6:7; Proverbs 13:15
  - Younger should listen to the older. Ephesians 6:2; 1 Peter 5:5; 1 Kings 12:8
2. Counsel from others (proven experience).
  - Uninspired people who have had greater experience in certain fields. Proverbs 12:15
    - Fool will not listen. Proverbs 29:19
  - Inspired teachers. 2 Timothy 3:15ff.
    - This is counsel from God. Declares "*the end from the beginning!*" Isaiah 46:10