

True wisdom comes from God | Proverbs 1:1-19 | 4/3/16

- Introduction
 - What is a Proverb?
 - **A proverb is usually a very concise and brief saying, that teaches a fundamental truth of godly wisdom.**
 - They speak a lot of truth in such short sayings that make you really think and ponder on their meanings.
 - They are to how a picture is worth a thousand words, because you can take one and expand upon it indefinitely. Whole sermons can be preached on their foundation.
 - The Book of Proverbs is God's book of wisdom that He inspired through King Solomon to give to the world.
 - It is full of Godly wisdom and advice for all aspects of life.
 - But perhaps most importantly this wisdom is not just advice on how to live a good or fruitful life, **but how to live a Christian life in the eyes of God.**
 - By obeying these teachings of God we will become wise with Godly wisdom.
 - Psalms 19:7
 - "The instruction of the LORD is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy, **making the inexperienced wise.**"
 - We will be wise because the instruction of the Lord is PERFECT.
 - Unlike the advice of man there is NO error in God's wisdom. It is always perfect.
 - **And God's wisdom does not change in time or with the culture. It is never changing and it is always true.**
 - Does the wisdom and advice from the world change with culture?
 - **Proverbs contrasts godly wisdom with that of a unbelieving fool throughout.**
 - Authorship
 - The majority of the book of Proverbs was written by King Solomon.
 - Proverbs 1 – 22:16
 - Proverbs 25-29 – Written by Solomon but compiled by the "men of Hezekiah"
 - The remaining chapters however were written by other individuals.
 - Sayings of the wise – Proverbs 22:17-24:34
 - The identity of these men are unknown, but it may have been that Solomon copied their works or perhaps added by someone else.
 - Agur and King Lemuel – Proverbs 30-31
 - Not much is known of their identities.
 - King Solomon
 - Solomon was the son of King David
 - Proverbs 1:1
 - "The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:"
 - Solomon's wisdom was greater than anyone else who has ever lived.
 - 1 Kings 4:29-31
 - "God gave Solomon wisdom, very great insight, and understanding as vast as the sand on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than anyone—wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, sons of Mahol. His reputation extended to all the surrounding nations."

- His wisdom was given to him by God because of the condition of his heart.
 - 1 Kings 3:7-15
 - Solomon was unique, God will never bestow this level of wisdom to anyone ever again.
- Solomon composed 3000 proverbs and 512 of them have been recorded for us.
 - 1 Kings 4:32
 - “Solomon composed 3,000 proverbs, and his songs numbered 1,005”
- Solomon also authored the Songs of Songs and Ecclesiastes
- **For what reasons do you turn to the Book of Proverbs in your Bible reading?**
- **What are your favorites?**
- The purpose of Proverbs | Proverbs 1:1-7
 - ***Read Proverbs 1:1-7***
 - To know wisdom and instruction
 - Wisdom is not the same thing as knowledge.
 - **Why is that? What is the difference?**
 - One can be very intelligent and have lots of knowledge, but be very unwise.
 - **This is because wisdom has to do with the application or discernment of knowledge.**
 - In the Biblical sense wisdom is living a life and making decisions that are godly.
 - Deuteronomy 4:5-6b
 - “Look, I have taught you statutes and ordinances as the LORD my God has commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to possess. Carefully follow them, for this will show your wisdom and understanding in the eyes of the peoples...”
 - **Godly wisdom is obediently applying the knowledge and instruction that God has given us.**
 - A person with godly wisdom will apply His truths of moral and ethical principals to all aspects of their life. Always seeking God’s will.
 - Instruction
 - Proverbs will give us instruction into the moral and intellectual discipline of God.
 - Instruction is the learning of wisdom.
 - Insight or discernment
 - When we learn God’s truths and we mentally apply them in obedience to His teachings, we are showing spiritual discernment.
 - This is different than worldly or fleshly discernment as the world is self focused on the individual while spiritual discernment focuses on the will of God.
 - Spiritual discernment is seeking God’s will in all of our decisions and choices.
 - Wise dealings or instruction
 - Refers to discrete council and not wisdom.
 - One can now see the difference between godly and worldly council or advice.
 - When one does not rely on God it is easy to fall into worldly advice, but when one has Godly wisdom one can see the difference between the council of a Christian who is applying God’s truths.
 - To receive instruction in righteousness, justice and equity or integrity.
 - These are all traits that one will be able to live out in a Godly way by learning and applying the truths of God taught in Proverbs.
 - To see the will and standards of God, His view of what is right and what is wrong.

- To see God's version of justice and how that differs from the world.
 - It is how we can be upright with God, to live a life of integrity before Him.
 - Prudence to the simple or youth.
 - To use our spiritual discernment that God has given us to help those that are lacking the knowledge and wisdom to make Godly decisions.
 - As in our children as they are growing up they are not yet capable of spiritual discernment, so it is our duty to help them.
 - We are called to guide even the lost in the world to the truths of God.
 - Increase in wisdom and obtain guidance.
 - Godly wisdom should always be something we seek. We should always desire to grow in Godly wisdom and knowledge.
 - In this process of growing spiritually and in God's wisdom we should always seek proper guidance.
 - To understand the proverbs
 - By our study of the Book of Proverbs and applying God's truths we will grow in wisdom and will have a greater understanding of their meanings.
 - **Knowing the purpose of Proverbs, do you think that its contents are critical for us to study and to understand as Christians?**
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge | Proverbs 1:7
 - **Read Proverbs 1:7**
 - In perhaps one of the most profound verses in all of Scripture we see that the beginning of knowledge is the fear of the Lord.
 - This statement presented to a worldly philosopher who denies God would seem absolutely absurd.
 - In their eyes knowledge comes from man's own ability to discover the world in which we live, to find truth based on man's insights.
 - But even to the Christian who believes in God this statement can cause one to pause at its meaning.
 - How can fearing God be the beginning of knowledge?
 - The answer to this lies in what it means to fear the Lord.
 - **To fear the Lord is to live one's life in love, worship and obedience to God. To respect God because of who He is.**
 - **If we fear Him, we will obey Him.**
 - Fearing God is not that of a child who is scared of the dark, but of a Christian who desires to be obedient to the commands of God and to seek His will.
 - One cannot properly learn anything if we do not start at the right place.
 - One cannot learn how to be a brain surgeon if they do not learn the fundamentals of how the human body works.
 - One cannot become a supreme court justice if they have never practiced law in a court room.
 - One cannot properly learn and understand the knowledge of God if we do not begin studying His truths with our hearts and minds in the right place.
 - If we do not love, worship or obey God how can we see learn His perfect and pure knowledge?
 - **This is why to fear the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, because once we have done this then all of God's wisdom can be received and understood.**
 - God's truths are revealed to one who has their heart in the right place.
 - Job understood that wisdom cannot be found without the fear of God.

- Job 28:20-28
- In contrast to having wisdom and being wise we have the fool.
 - The word “fool” is used over 300 times in the Bible to describe one is ungodly and unwise.
 - This is the opposite of one who has godly wisdom.
 - This “fool” could be an intellect and highly educated, but if that person does not fear God then they are a fool who reject true knowledge and wisdom provided by God.
- **Can you relate to the contrasting differences between one who fears God and has wisdom as opposed to one who rejects God and is a fool? Have you been the fool?**
- Embrace the wisdom of God and do not be persuaded by sin | Proverbs 1:8-19
 - **Read Proverbs 1:8-19**
 - This section is addressed to his son as great fatherly advice on staying away from sin and instead to embrace the wisdom of God.
 - Listen to the teaching of your parents | Proverbs 1:8-9
 - Solomon opens by portraying the rewards of being obedient.
 - While he describes tangible and physical rewards, we as Christians are rewarded for our obedience to God.
 - When we are obedient to God and we apply all of His truths to our lives we will be blessed. Not that we should expect money to fall in our lap when we do but our lives will certainly be more rewarding if we do.
 - God’s plans’ for our lives to revolve around our obedience. If we constantly disobey Him how can His plan of our life be fully realized?
 - The temptation of sin
 - To sin is very tempting and its common for our “friends” to entice us to sin along with them because it can certainly be fun for a season and even seem to have its rewards.
 - In the example that Solomon gives is of sinners who seek to get rich by finding victims to murder and then to steal all that they have.
 - While it may seem unlikely that a group of teenagers would come up with a weekend plan such as this there are many numerous activities that entice people to sin against God.
 - **Sin (like obedience) promises a reward, but the reward of sin is a thin veil over destruction.**
 - We see that Solomon offered a reward for the obedience of his son, and we also see in contrast a reward for disobedience by sinning.
 - Obedience is rewarded with a gold chain while disobedience is rewarded with plunder and valuable property.
 - On the surface sin looks to offer a bigger reward than obedience.
 - The plunder and valuables in earthly value may be of more worth than the chain of obedience.
 - This is the power of the temptation, that the reward for sin is great.
 - That its rewards on the surface seem far greater.
 - **But sin’s reward is a thin veil over destruction because what you think is a reward actually leads you pain and suffering.**
 - How often has the rewards of sin turned sour and caused one pain and suffering that was not worth the perceived reward of the sin.
 - **What are some examples of this? What sin offers a thinly veiled reward that leads to suffering?**
 - Drinking, pornography, stealing, lying theft.

- The foolish who deny God's wisdom seek to destroy themselves.
 - The Godly wisdom of Solomon tell us that those who seek the rewards of sin set an ambush to kill themselves.
 - Instead of bringing themselves joy and making their lives better they are actually setting their own trap to bring about their own demise.
 - 1 Timothy 6:9
 - "But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction."
 - When we take the path of sin and reject God we are digging our own grave in the process.
 - Especially the lost who does not have faith in Christ they are putting themselves on a path that leads to eternal destruction.
 - The Christian cannot lose their soul but they can certainly fall out of the will and grace of God. They will cause many self-inflicted wounds and cause unnecessary harm to themselves and those around them.
 - Sinners will rush to their own ruin.
 - As Solomon stated that one would not spread a net in full view of the bird they wish to trap because that would be absolutely foolish.
 - That is exactly what sinners who rush into the temptation of sin do, they foolishly run to their own ruin.