

## Introduction To Proverbs

Proverbs 1:1-7

- 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

- The book begins by identifying Solomon, the son of David, King of Israel as the author. (971-931 B.C. Long before Plato, Aristotle, and other "wise men")
- Copied by men of Hezekiah (715-686 B.C.) Proverbs 25:1-29:27)
- Granted wisdom by God. 1 Kings 3:5-14
- Became famous for his wisdom, and wrote over 3000 proverbs. 1 Kings 4:29-34. Wrote Eccl. & 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

### Outline of the book...

- Note: Proverbs is a collection of sayings with no particular arrangement or outline. A lot like life itself. It is a book about life.

### 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 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

## 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.
- A proverb is "a short sentence based on a long experience."

## Illustrations Of These General Truths

- Proverbs 10:4 "He becometh poor that worketh with a slack hand; But the hand of the diligent maketh rich."
- 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.
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 12:10-19
  - 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...

- 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
- 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

## “Who Is A Wise Man?” James 3:13

One who refrains his lips and listens.

Proverbs 10:19; 17:28; 29:11; James 1:19

1. *“The tongue of the righteous is as choice silver” (Proverbs 10:20).*
2. David prayed, *“Set a watch, O Jehovah, before my mouth; Keep the door of my lips” (Psalms 141:3).*
3. *“Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles” (Proverbs 21:23).*
4. *“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in network of silver” (Proverbs 25:11).*

## “Who Is A Wise Man?” James 3:13

5. *“He that guardeth his mouth keepeth his life; but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction” (Proverbs 13:3).*
6. *“Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him” (Proverbs 29:20).*

Let us especially be slow to speak when we are angry.

*“Death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Proverbs 18:21).*

## “Who Is A Wise Man?” James 3:13

- He develops a healthy fear of God.  
Proverbs 1:7; 9:10
- He heeds the instructions of parents.  
Proverbs 1:8-9; 4:1-4; 13:1
- He accepts instruction from others.  
Proverbs 9:8-9; 12:15; 10:14
- He accepts reproof.  
Proverbs 12:1

## “Who Is A Wise Man?” James 3:13

One who hears and obeys the Lord. Matthew 7:24-27

- Submission to authority. Matthew 21:23-27; cf. Hebrews 1:1; Matthew 17:5
- Obedience necessary. Romans 6:16-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:9

One who is prepared NOW.

- The lowly ants prepare for the future.  
Proverbs 30:25
  - One who hears and does not obey is deceiving himself. James 1:22-25
- Even until the end. Revelation 2:10

## Conclusion

- Colossians 2:1-3 *“For I would have you know how greatly I strive for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; that their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, that they may know the mystery of God, (even) Christ, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden.”*