

Proverbs 1:1-7 The Way of Wisdom

The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

2 To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding,

3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity;

4 To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion—

5 A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,

6 To understand a proverb and an enigma, The words of the wise and their riddles.

7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

What is a proverb?

A) Our modern day idea of a proverb is a short saying that is easy to remember that offers some practical truth.

B) Examples:

- Look before you leap
- A chain is only as strong as its weakest link
- Actions speak louder than words
- Two wrongs don't make a right

C) What then is a Biblical proverb?

1) The Hebrew noun "proverb" is related to a verb that means "to represent, or to be like."

D) Biblical proverbs give us insight into the mind and heart of God!

E) Now Most of the Proverbs were written by King Solomon

What is the major theme of the Book of Proverbs?

A) One word answers the question: wisdom.

B) In Proverbs, the words wise and wisdom are used at least 125 times,

1) because the aim of the book is to help us acquire and apply God's wisdom to the decisions and activities of daily life.

C) In the book of Ephesians 5:15 Paul the apostle declared that God wants His children today to

"walk circumspectly [carefully], not as fools but as wise"

D) The Book of Proverbs can help us do that.

E) In Proverbs 4:5 we are instructed to "Get wisdom, get insight,"

1) Proverbs 3:13 declares "Happy is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gets understanding."

The Book of Proverbs presents a contrast between a life of wisdom and a life of folly personified in two women calling out to us.

A) Lady Folly and Lady Wisdom

B) Lady Folly is seen as a seductress calling out to lost people –

1) and offering immediate satisfaction but long term doom.

Proverbs 9:13-18

¹³ The woman Folly is loud; she is seductive and knows nothing. ¹⁴ She sits at the door of her house; she takes a seat on the highest places of the town, ¹⁵ calling to those who pass by, who are going straight on their way, ¹⁶ "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" Lurking, trolling And to him who lacks sense she says, ¹⁷ "Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant." ¹⁸ But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

Notice the description of Lady Folly: She is loud, she is a seductress, she sits calling out – Come Dine....

A) V.14 Interesting she targets those who are going straight – those trying to walk on the straight path.

B) There are some people that she doesn't need to call out to – they just run to her.

1) But she targets those who are on the straight path – those wanting to do what is right

C) She is a seductress – V.13b – She knows nothing

1) In other words she is all looks but no substance Like cotton candy

2) Seen women like this – Kardashians –

She is seductive because sin is seductive!

A)The Bible says that sin is pleasurable for a season!

B)How many of you have had fun SINNING?

1)Pleasure in Sinning – (Can I admit that in church)

C)The Bible says that there is pleasure in sin for a season but the end of it is death!

Lady Folly is seductive

A)But this woman folly promises things that her table can never deliver

B)Money can't satisfy – Rockefeller how many millions – 1 more

C)A husband or wife will not complete you

D)Your job is not going to give you the sense of purpose or identity that you are looking for

E)Sex doesn't produce love

But Lady - Folly yells out to us on a daily basis – Come eat at my table

A)But lady folly doesn't really want to you to dine with you her –

B)She wants to dine on you - - you are the main course – She wants to devour you

C)She calls out and those passing by saying – I have what is sweet, pleasant

V.18 But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

D)Under her table are corpses – Like one of those freaky movies – dead bodies in every room – coming out of closets

1)Basement full of corpses

Jesus said this about Satan – He is a thief and robbery who comes to kill to rob and to destroy- that is LADY FOLLY

A)Satan is not your friend

B)But Jesus said I have come that you might have life and that more abundantly!

C)The other lady that calls out to us is Lady Folly

Now I think we understand why Folly is personified as a woman – she is a seductress – evil

A)But why is Wisdom also personified as a woman – that seems odd?

B)Lady scientist who was studying the human brain

1)Brain Factory – selling brains

C)Female brain \$1,000 / male \$2,000 – she questioned that – seemed odd – the male brain is hardly used

Wisdom is also personified as a woman – because it is the picture of a loving caring mom

A)Grandma – who wants to take care of you.

B)Ultimate Hostess – Sandy O – my mom

1)Baking

C)Lady Folly is like Satan – kill Rob and destroy –

D)Lady wisdom is like Jesus – Give life and that more abundantly

Notice the description of Lady wisdom: Proverbs 8

Listen, for I will speak of excellent things,
And from the opening of my lips **will come right things;**

7 For my mouth will **speak truth;** Wickedness *is* an abomination to my lips.

8 All the words of my mouth *are* with righteousness;
Nothing crooked or perverse *is* in them.

9 They *are* all plain to him who understands, And right to those who find knowledge.

10 Receive my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold;

11 For wisdom *is* better than rubies,
And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.

12 “I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge *and* discretion.

13 The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil;
Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

14 **Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding, I have strength.**
15 By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice.
16 By me princes rule, and nobles, All the judges of the earth.- **Authority**
17 I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.

18 **Riches and honor** are with me, Enduring riches and righteousness.
19 My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, And my revenue than choice silver.
20 I traverse (Walk in) the way of **righteousness**, In the midst of the paths of **justice**,
21 That I may cause those who love me **to inherit** wealth,
That I may fill their treasuries.

She offers that which is of Value!

Lady Wisdom:

- Life instead of death
- Insight and understanding
- Counsel and strength
- Value and authority
- Riches and honor
- Righteousness and justice
- An inheritance

Lady Folly – wants TO TAKE FROM YOU

A)Lady Folly wants to devour you and destroy you

Is there really a choice?

B)And yet people choose lady follow every day!

C)Turn back to Chapter 1

Our text lays out the Purpose that God has for us in the book of proverbs –

A)It is summed up in these three sentences

- To Know Wisdom and Instruction
- To Perceive the words of understanding
- To give prudence to the simple

B)To Know instruction and Wisdom

C)What is meant by “wisdom”? Wisdom is more than brains.

1)We could memorize the whole Bible, and mean it from the heart, without wisdom.

D)We’re living in the ‘information age,’ but we certainly aren’t living in the ‘age of wisdom.’

E)Many people who are wizards with their computers

1)seem to be amateurs when it comes to making a success out of their lives.”

It is helpful to remember the difference between wisdom and knowledge.

A)One may have knowledge without wisdom.

B)Knowledge is the collection of facts; But wisdom is the right use of what we know for daily living.

C)Knowledge can tell one how financial systems work;

1)wisdom manages a budget properly.

D)Wisdom is the RIGHT application of knowledge!

Note: Wisdom comes through instruction- that word here for instruction is discipline or correction

A)LEARNING FROM OUR MISTAKES

B)So as to not make the same mistakes over and over again

C)Note v.3 Instruction – correction or discipline **has to be received for it to take.**

1)Think – constructive criticism

D)What is interesting about constructive Criticism is you have to be willing to receive it.

The Problem with some people is they don’t like to receive criticism – too prideful

A)My 3.5 yr old grandson can be this way – Josiah let me help you – show you – No – myself – OK

B)THEN he starts to struggle – or he hurts himself - help me poppy –

C)Some of us can act that way with God and with the people that God has placed in our lives

1)Our pride that leads to foolishness we don’t receive or learn from instruction

So First Purpose to Know Wisdom and instruction

A) 2nd **To perceive** the words of understanding

B) *Understanding* means the ability to grasp a truth with insight and discernment

C) To not just know what it says – but why it says it that way and what it is for.

3rd Purpose - 4 To give prudence to the simple,

A) *Prudence* now that sounds so Victorian pride and prejudice – MR. Darcy

B) Today we would call it forethought, practicality and pragmatism

C) It is the kind of intelligence that sees the reasons behind things.

1) People with prudence can think their way through complex matters and see what lies behind them,

D) They are problem solvers!

Notice how the NLT describes V.2-6

2 **Their purpose** is to teach people wisdom and discipline,

to help them understand the insights of the wise.

3 **Their purpose** is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives,

to help them do what is right, just, and fair.

4 These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young.

5 Let the wise **listen** to these proverbs and become even wiser.

Let those with understanding **receive** guidance

6 **by exploring** the meaning in these proverbs and parables,

the words of the wise and their riddles. NLT

True Wisdom is connected to knowing Jesus

A) Jesus is referred to as “the wisdom of God” (Colossians 1:30)

B) and the One “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3).

“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the

fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD...” — Isaiah 11:1-3

C) Isaiah was speaking of Jesus – 700 years prior to the birth of Christ

we read of Jesus in John 1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The wise person believes that Jesus is the creator, sustainer and ruler of all things,

A) The invitation to come and receive wisdom is really an invitation to come and receive Jesus.

²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon **you and learn** from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.” Matt 11:28-30

B) Yoke is easy – well fitting – the wise person is one who realizes he was made to live in a relationship with Jesus

C) Cross – died – forgiveness

D) The invitation – Wisdom ? Life ? Purpose it is not going to be found in pursuing _____

E) It is found in relationship with me – Come to me

Final thought V.7 gives us the entry point into Wisdom: -

A) Next week we will begin a deep dive into this

The fear of the Lord is the beginning [chief part] of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

This statement is amplified in 9:10—“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy [Holy One] is understanding

B)What is the fear of the Lord? –

C)Your definition of the fear of the Lord is going to be connected to your view of Jesus

If you reject Jesus – there is a fear of Judgment

A)Fear of hell – fear of being caught – fear of not knowing what happens when we die?

B)#1 Fear is the fear of death

C)But if you embrace Jesus – **You realize – Jesus was judged in your place –**

1)took the punishment you deserved

For a Child of God – the fear of the Lord is not a dread that if I step out of line God will whack me

A)Not a fear that if I am not measuring up – I am going to get in a car accident – flat tire

B)That is how the godfather operates not the God who is our father

C)The fear of the Lord is a Reverence and a Respect of God – Being in Awe of who He is

The fear of the Lord – when we realize that He is God and we are not!

A)The fear of the Lord is when we realize that I am not the measure of all things –

B)But I am being measured by a God who is the measure of all things

C)Which means It is death to our narcissistic egos and self-assured opinions

The fear of the Lord involves an understanding that God can absolutely crush me.

A)But instead he loves me!

B)In Jesus He accepts me – that blows me away

C)It motivates me to want to live to please him

1)Not doing anything that would cause him grief

D)**Motivates me to walk in Holiness** – because He is altogether holy and I want to be like Him

As we close today:

Let's remember that the Living God spoke this world into existence by His word

Who sustains the Cosmos by the word of His mouth

The earth spinning in space at a speed of about 67K mph around the sun – Travels 1.2 million miles a day

God is holding it all together by His Word – In the Span of his hand

Angels bow – Demons are afraid

He is with you – for you – loves you

Let's bask in that – Rejoice in that