

Scripture Text

Proverbs 1-2

Context

The book of Proverbs gives 21st century Christians wisdom for their lives. It is part of God's plan to redeem man by providing the "skill in the art of godly living". The book of Proverbs is the pinnacle of the bible's wisdom literature. It assumes and builds upon the law and prophets, but goes beyond them in training the reader to live wisely in a very practical 'how to' way. The first 9 chapters of proverbs are ten speeches from a parent to a child for the purpose of training them for a successful life.

Observation and Meaning

Let's read Proverbs 1:1-7

- List out the objectives the book of Proverbs has for its readers? v2-6
- What is the first step one must do to attain knowledge? v7? What is the fear of the Lord? v7
- What do fools do when they do not fear the Lord? v7

Let's read Proverbs 1:8-19

- What is the fruit for those who fear the Lord? v8-9
- What are the two warnings Solomon makes for 'his son'? v10; v15-16
- What are the 'sinners' doing in verses 10-14, and what is the consequences of their actions? v17-19

Let's read Proverbs 1:20-28

- What is Wisdom doing amidst the busyness of everyday life? v20-21 and what is wisdom pleading for? v22-23
- What is the promise given in v23, and how does this promise show us that in order to become wise we have to receive instruction from the outside?

Let's read Proverbs 1:29-33

- What happened to those who did not fear the Lord? v29-32
- What happened to those who feared the Lord? v33

Let's read Proverbs 2:1-15

- What must one do to understand the fear of the Lord and find Godly knowledge? v1-5
- What does God do to those who seek this understanding?

Big Idea

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. For those who decide to rightly relate to the living God, they will receive wisdom, understanding and enjoy security and peace. For those who disregard this gracious offer, they will receive the fruit of their man-centered living - death and calamity. Wisdom's offer and active pursuit of man is God's gift of grace to undeserving sinners.

Connecting to Bible Storyline

The history of salvation generally deals with the overarching story of God's work in calling, preserving, and shaping a people for himself, through whom he will bring blessing to the whole world. Proverbs shows how God's covenant people are to live rightly before him to display the wisdom of God to a watching world.

Getting to Christ

Wisdom is an attribute of God, and so we can not rightly know wisdom without knowing God Himself. Therefore, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. As written by the Apostle Paul to the Corinthian church, Jesus Christ is the manifestation of God's wisdom. (1 Corinthians 1:24) Although the world sees the gospel as foolish, Paul declares that the foolishness of God is wiser than man. And for those who worship Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, God's wisdom from above is given to them. This is a gift of grace from God.

Sermon Outline

1. What wisdom is (1v1-7)
2. Why wisdom is so important (1v8-33)
3. How to get wisdom (2v1-15)

Applications

- Personal application:
 - How has this study changed your view of what wisdom is?
 - What is preventing me from fearing the Lord? How does meditating upon the cross of Christ produce in you the right amount of both reverence towards and love for God?
 - If wisdom is more about a heart attitude towards God rather than intellectual smarts, how will you go about seeking wisdom?
 - What area of my life is most in need of the application of biblical wisdom? How will my life look different if I depended more in God's wisdom instead of my own?
 - What personal, private practices can you do in 2018 to cultivate godly wisdom?
- Community application:
 - How can you help someone else in RHC grow in biblical wisdom this year?
 - How can you rely on the community at RHC to help you grow in godly wisdom?
 - What specific area of your life can you ask someone at RHC to help you grow in godly wisdom?