

In Search of Wisdom

Proverbs: Wisdom for Life, Part 1

August 13th, 2017

Principles of wisdom God gave Solomon are so broad, they apply not only to followers of Jesus, but **ANYONE** who follows them will benefit

1 Kings 3:5 (NIV) "At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, 'Ask for whatever you want Me to give you.'"

1 Kings 3:10-13 (NIV) "The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, 'Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.'"

Welcome to Proverbs: The Who, What, and Why

Who: **SOLOMON**

Proverbs 1:1 (NIV) "The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:"

Like David, we've blown it and while God doesn't remove the consequences of our sin, if we respond to God in the right way, God remakes us into something **DIFFERENT** from what we were and gives us a new **LIFE**

What: A collection of **PROVERBS**

Proverbs 1:1 (NIV) "The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:"

A proverb is a short, pithy statement about how life **GENERALLY WORKS**

Proverbs are NOT **PROMISES**

(See Proverbs 3:1-4; Proverbs 10:3-4; Proverbs 22:6)

When reading Scripture ask, "What kind of **LITERATURE** is this?," "What is the **CONTEXT**?" "Is this passage **DESCRIPTIVE**" (telling one person's experience) or **PRESCRIPTIVE**?" (I should do this) **Why? To make us WISE**
(see Proverbs 1:2-7)

Wisdom is incredibly important if you want to **SUCCEED** in life

Most of what we know we learn through paying a "**DUMB TAX**." Are you going to pay your own dumb tax or let someone else pay it and **LEARN** from them?

How To Study & Read Proverbs

Since Proverbs has 31 chapters, a practical way to read Proverbs is to daily read the chapter that **CORRESPONDS** to the day of the month (today is Aug. 13 – read chapter 13) & **ANSWER** these questions *What applies to me **TODAY**? *Where have I seen this in **OTHERS**? *Where have I **EXPERIENCED** this?

How To Become Wise

1. **FEAR** the Lord

Proverbs 1:7 (NIV) “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
(also see Proverbs 9:10)

Only a **FOOL** messes with God. He is the creator of the **UNIVERSE**; an all-consuming fire of **RIGHTEOUSNESS** (you don’t want to be in His presence in your sinfulness)

Revelation 1:17 (NIV) “When I [John] saw Him [Christ], I fell as His feet as though dead. Then He placed His right hand on me and said, ‘Do not be afraid...’”

When we don’t fear God, we turn Him into a **CONSULTANT**, buddy, or friend with whom we can choose what to do or not do – **FORGETTING** He is God

Fear of God is not reverent **AWE** – the word in Scripture means to be **AFRAID**, be very afraid
Matthew 10:28 (NIV) “[Jesus said] Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

If I approach God with the idea I don’t fear Him, I won’t accept His grace and mercy, I will **PRESUME** upon it

2. **FOLLOW** the Lord

We are **FOOLISH** when God and I disagree to think I’m right and God is wrong, i.e. that I know **BEST** Fear of the Lord **LEADS TO** following the Lord

Not fearing God leads me to trusting **MY OWN** understanding and turning God into a cosmic consultant – remember, God **DOESN’T DO** consulting

Proverbs 3:5-7 (NIV) “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.”

The national religion of America is **SELF-RELIANCE**

Watch putting **YOURSELF** as the judge of the Bible rather than letting Bible be the judge of **YOU** (see Proverbs 1:20-33)

There is a time when it can be **TOO LATE** to heed and follow God’s wisdom (see Proverbs 4:18-19)

3. **Make wisdom a PRIORITY**

Proverbs 2:1-5 (NIV) “My son, if you accept My words and store up My commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding—indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.”

What makes silver and hidden treasure valuable is they aren’t found **EVERY DAY**; keep **LOOKING**

My Next Step Today Is:

- I agree God knows more & better than me. When He and I disagree, I will follow Him
- I will take the challenge and begin reading Proverbs each day & answer the 3 questions
- I am interested in being baptized this summer – either Aug 20th (Beach Baptism) or Sept 24th

Next week: Join us as we look at The Tortoise Principle: How to Succeed at Anything. Bring a friend!

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