



Pearls in Proverbs

Lesson #1

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Our Approach For Each Class

- We will cover (3) chapters
 - We will review (3) chapters in each class going consecutively through the book.
- We will cover (2) topical threads
 - We will trace a topic through the book trying to glean as much of the writer's thoughts as we can on one topic.

Homework

- Read a chapter of proverbs per day using the day of the month as the chapter to read.
- Come prepared to comment on, or ask questions about the proverbs that will be covered in that class.

Credits

- The faithful, daily teaching of the Holy Spirit
- Proverbs commentary – Charles Bridges
- Proverbs commentary – Derek Kidner
- Zondervan's NIV Study Bible
- Pastor Jim Schambach's 'Uncommon Sense' notes
- All of my teachers of the past 30 years who have placed things in my mind that are too numerous to recall.

Proverbs Introduction

- It is one of the 'wisdom' books along with Job, and Ecclesiastes.
- It was written by Solomon and others and compiled in the 10th century B.C. during a time of spiritual revival under Hezekiah. There was relative peace in Israel and time for reflection.
- Many of the ancient cultures had collections of their own proverbs, but these were given to us by God.

Proverbs Introduction

- David lived a life of *turmoil and trouble* and out of his experiences comes the great book of *devotion*, The Psalms.
- Solomon lived a life of *relative peace and quiet* and out his experiences comes the great book of *instruction*, The Proverbs.

Proverbs' Stated Purposes from verses 1:1-3

- 'To know wisdom and instruction'
- 'To perceive the words of understanding'
- 'To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity.'

Proverbs' Stated Purposes from verses 1:4-5

- To give 'prudence to the simple'.
- To give 'knowledge and discretion to the young'.
- To make the wise, wiser.
- Bottom line This is not to be a passive piece.

Proverbs' Practical Purposes

- It is a commentary on human behavior in general.
- It is a commentary on the value of having a moral compass that does not change.
- It is a book of advice on how to succeed in this life.

Proverbs Generalities

- We must be careful not to over apply the wisdom of this book and see promises and guarantees where there are none.
 - Train up a child is generally true, but we all know of exceptions.
 - A long life is generally the reward of righteousness, but there have been very spiritual saints who have died at a young age.
 - A soft answer usually turns away anger, but not always.

Working Definitions of some Key Words

- Wisdom –
 - Looking at *life* from God's point of view
 - *What* to do in life.
- Knowledge –
 - Facts and information about *life*
 - *How* to do what I ought to do.
- Understanding –
 - To be able to sort out the issues of *life*
 - *Why* I should do what I ought to.

Proverbs Chapter One

- Prov 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.
- Prov 10:24 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
- What is the fear of the Lord?
 - Affectionate, child-like, reverence
 - Not to be confused or associated with a terror of someone
 - A key distinction of those who fear the Lord is that they prefer God's ways over their own ways. (heart attitude)

Proverbs 1:10-19

Sin's Lure

- What does sin promise in these verses?
- In the midst of these (10) verses is the key for the godly person to resisting sin's lure, what is it?
 - Stay away from that crowd.
 - 1 Cor 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." NKJV
 - There is a time to 'hang' with the wrong crowd and we call that ministry.

Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom Personified

- There is an urgency to wisdom's call in these verses that parallels the urgency of the Lord's call to salvation.
- The call went out to all, but not all replied.
- There comes a time when the call is no longer sounded out, and then there are consequences for not heeding the call.
 - Which verses point to negative consequences?
- Compare verse #33 to Romans 10:13.

OT and NT Truth

- Proverbs 1:33 – but **whoever listens** to me **will** live in **safety** and be at ease, without fear of harm."
- Romans 10:13 - for, "**Everyone** who **calls** on the name of the Lord **will** be **saved**."

Proverbs 2:1-9

We are to seek wisdom.

- We are here instructed to ...
 - To receive
 - To treasure
 - To cry out for
 - To seek
 - To search
- Verse #1 is the key Will we just believe God?
- Perhaps if we sought God's wisdom with the same level of energy that we seek after earthly treasure we would know what it is to be truly rich.

Proverbs 2:10-22

A Wise Process

- When verses 10 and 11 are true of us, we are prepared for all of the things that verses 12-22 bring our way.
- When we embrace God's way and honestly prefer it, sin is so much less attractive.
- As verses 10 and 11 suggest, this is a matter of the heart and soul. Therefore, maybe a wise prayer is often 'God cause me to love righteousness and hate sin'.

Proverbs 3

A chapter of favorable outcomes.

- Some of the outcomes that we see are
 - A long life
 - Favor in the sight of God and man
 - Filled barns
 - Gains greater than gold
 - Happiness
 - Confidence
 - Grace

Proverbs 3:1-10

An Inward Matter

- Verse #1 ... keeping His commands is a matter of the heart. We are measured more by our 'want to' than we are by our performance.
- And, in the same way, our performance (works) are determined by our 'want to'.
- These verses are dominated by words of personal commitment.
 - Love
 - Faithfulness
 - Trust
 - Honor

Proverbs 3:5-6

The Heart of the Matter

- Throughout the scriptures we are called to faith. Here the call is for a wholehearted faith and trust in Him.
- We are cautioned against our natural inclination to lean on our own understanding. (why is this such a battle for us?)
- God is to be a part of our entire life (all our ways) and when He is, He will direct us.

Proverbs 3:9

Giving is an act of honor.

- Why is it that a God who has everything, and has the ability to produce anything more that He may need or want, calls on us to give to Him?
 - Which is more, a tithe or a sacrificial gift?
- How do we 'honor' God with our wealth?
 - If we are rich we, _____
 - If we are poor we, _____

I Samuel 2:30

- *Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, (NKJV)*

Proverbs 3:11-12

How much like Hebrews 12:5-6?

- There is a certain amount of peace, assurance, and serenity when God corrects us because it serves to prove that we are His.
- His chastening is never a good time, else it wouldn't serve His purpose, but it is always good for us.
- Like the child who is spanked for running into the street, so our God spans us when we break His rules. We do not spank our neighbor's kids, we only spank our own.

Proverbs 3:13-18

Treasure to be Gained

- Wisdom offers ...
 - Better profits than silver
 - Gains greater than gold
 - Something more precious than rubies
 - Riches with honor
- There is a certain sureness about the value of wisdom. Silver, gold, and rubies have never been considered anything but valuable and wisdom is more valuable because it yields profits that will never drop in value and cannot be stolen away.

Proverbs 3:19-35

Quiet Confidence

- Go your way in safety ...
 - Your foot will not stumble ...
 - You will not be afraid ...
 - Your sleep will be sweet ...
 - Have no fear of sudden disaster
 - The Lord will be your confidence ...
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- The key here is to trust the Lord, put no confidence in the flesh, and to be looking for that city whose builder and maker is God.

Abomination

- **6:16** These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:
- **6:17** A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, **6:18** An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,
- **6:19** A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.
- **11:1** A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.
- **15:8** The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.
- **26:25** When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart
- **28:9** He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.
- **29:27** An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked.

Adultery

- **5:3**For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:
- **5:4**But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.
- **5:5**Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.
- **5:6**Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them.
- **5:7**Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth
- **5:8**Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:
- **5:9**Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:
- **5:10**Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger;
- **5:11**And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed,
- **5:12**And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;
- **5:13**And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!
- **5:14**I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly.
- **5:15**Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.
- **5:16**Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets.**5:17**Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.
- **5:18**Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth
- **5:19**Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

Adultery

- **5:19** And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?
- **5:21**For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.
- **5:22**His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.
- **5:23**He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.
- **6:23**For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:**6:24**To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.
- **6:25**Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.
- **6:26**For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life
- **6:27**Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?
- **6:28**Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?**6:29**So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.
- **6:30**Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;**6:31**But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.**6:32**But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.**6:33**A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.
- **6:34**For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.**6:35**He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.**30:20**Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.

Questions / Comments