

Wisdom for Life

Summary: A seminar examining the theme of wisdom in the Bible, with a focus on the book of Proverbs and some of its key themes, including practical applications.

Part 1: Wisdom and Its Sources

Wisdom Defined

What wisdom does for you

Wisdom Grounds us... in reality, so we see things as they really are

Wisdom Guides us... to make the best decisions which lead to the best outcomes

Wisdom Guards us... from the harmful consequences of bad choices

You can get Wisdom!

Prov 4:7 "The beginning of wisdom is this: get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight"



Common Sense and Special Revelation

- General Revelation/Light of Nature
- Special Revelation
 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and understanding
 - Proverbs 1:7; 9:10
 - In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col 2:3)

Proverbs 2:1-11

James 1:5-8

The Book of Proverbs

- Proverbs 1:1-6
- Outline
 - 1-9 (call to wisdom and extended discourses on wisdom)
 - 10-22:16 & 25-29 (of Solomon)
 - 22:17 - 24 (others sayings of the wise)
 - 30 (Agur)
 - 31 (King Lemuel & poem to the virtuous woman)

Format of Proverbs

The Value of Studying Proverbs

- Gives glory to God as a wise Creator
- Makes sense of life.
- A draw for unbelievers. (Deuteronomy 4:5-8)
- For children and youth.
- For Christian discipleship.
- For decision making.

Key themes in Proverbs: A Study in Contrasts

Wisdom & foolishness

Fear of the Lord the beginning of wisdom

Righteousness & Wickedness

Knowledge & Ignorance

Integrity & Corruption

Wealth & Poverty

Listening & Scoffing

Discipline & Desire

Prudence & Recklessness

Diligence & Laziness

Humility & Pride

Part 2 - Wisdom Applied: Ten Lessons

1. Fear the Lord (Fear)

Pr 9:10 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*

Pr 1:7 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

2. Get Wisdom (Wisdom)

Prov 4:7 *The beginning of wisdom is this: get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight"*

Prov 16:16. *How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.*

3. Get Knowledge (Knowledge)

Prov 23:12 *Apply your heart to instruction and your ear to words of knowledge.*

Proverbs 18:15 *An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.*

Prov 10:14 *The wise lay up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool brings ruin near.*

4. Be Humble (Humility)

Proverbs 18:2. *A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion*

Proverbs 15:32 Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence

Prov 3:7 *Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.*

5. Slow down and think it through (Prudence)

Proverbs 14:15-16. *The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps. One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless.*

Proverbs 4:26. *Ponder the path of your feet..*

6. Choose your associations carefully

Prov 13:20. *Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*

Psalm 1:1 *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers...*

7. Watch your mouth (Guard your Mouth)

Proverbs 17:27-28. *Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips he is deemed intelligent.*

Prov 10:19 *When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.*

8. Do what is right (Integrity)

Proverbs 10:9. *Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.*

Proverbs 12:22. *Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight.*

Exodus 18:21. *Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.*

9. Bridle your passions (Self-Control)

Prov 25:27-28. *It is not good to eat much honey, nor is it glorious to seek one's own glory. A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.*

10. Work hard (Diligence)

Col 3:23-24 *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

Prov 10:4 *A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.*

Ecc. 9:10 *"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might..."*

Prov 22:29. *Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he*