

Series: Wisdom in an Age of Folly: Proverbs I

Text: Proverbs 1:1-33

HI: Only wisdom from the King can part a fool from his sin.

Title: *Street Smarts*

Hook: Book smarts vs. Street smarts

Date: 7.3.22

Purpose: To call the sinner to follow wisdom (Christ) and repent of foolishness (sin).

FCF: Like the original reader, we long for life and truth and justice and wisdom, though by nature we lack all these things. God's grace meets us here, as the true King promises to fill us with His Spirit and lead us on the path of life.

COR: By our experience in this world, we know the truth of cause-and-effect relationships. One we don't often want to admit is the connection of our natural tendencies to results that are more death than life. Wisdom from God meets us there, teaching us how we were created and what truly brings life.

Christ Trajectory [CT*]: The beginning of knowledge is right relationship with our creator (v. 7). Sinners by nature cannot get there on our own. The good news is that the Son of David bridges the gap. God's wisdom took on flesh, promised to fill us with His Spirit, died for our foolish sins, and was raised for our justification. The gateway to life runs through Jesus.

Apologetic: Proverbs is a world-famous book because it tells the truth. These are undeniable truisms, cause-and-effect relationships, logical, clear, and proven realities. By nature, humans don't live this way. Left to ourselves, we destroy ourselves. Thank God, we have not been left to ourselves.

Form: Hourglass (after movement 1; @ verse 7)

Outline:

I. Wisdom is available, but foolishness is natural. (1-7)

A. The word of the King gives knowledge. (1-6)

B. The fear of the Lord brings life. (7)

II. Wisdom is a necklace that replaces sin's noose. (8-19)

A. Wisdom delivers the goods. (8-9)

B. Foolishness craves the wicked. (10-16)

C. Sin leads to death. (17-19)

III. Wisdom saves the humble but haunts the simple. (20-33)

A. God calls us to listen and live. (20-23)

B. Sin tempts us to ignore and perish. (24-31)

C. Wisdom invites us to life and peace. (32-33)

Main Idea:

Subject: How is a fool saved from sin?

Complement: Wisdom from the King Solomon

Exegetical Idea: Wisdom from the King Solomon saves a fool from sin.

Theological Idea: Wisdom from the Son of David saves a fool from sin. (Bridge)

Homiletical Idea: Only wisdom from the King can part a fool from his sin.

Introduction:

READ Proverbs 1:1-7 The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: ² To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight,

³ to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity;

⁴ to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth--

⁵ Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance,

⁶ to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

I. Wisdom is available, but foolishness is natural. (1-7)

1) Practical guidance (2) (for how humanity and the world work)

2) Moral compass (3) (right and wrong)

3) Discernment framework (4) (the ability to judge rightly)

Fear of the Lord = right relationship with God (Yahweh, Creator)

He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. ⁴ For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. (1 Ki. 11:3-4)

Jesus said: "The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here." (Lk. 11:31)

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Bruce Waltke: 'the world says, Live and learn. God is saying, Learn and live.'

READ Proverbs 1:8-19

⁸ Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,
⁹ for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.

¹¹ If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason; ¹² like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; ¹³ we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; ¹⁴ throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse"--
¹⁵ my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths, ¹⁶ for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood.

¹⁷ For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird, ¹⁸ but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives.

¹⁹ Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.

II. Wisdom is a necklace that replaces sin's noose.

Wreath: sign of victory

Pendant: mark of prestige, beauty

Deuteronomy 10:18: He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.

Proverbs 15:25 The Lord tears down the house of the proud but maintains the widow's boundaries.

READ Proverbs 1:20-33

²⁰ Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; ²¹ at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: ²² "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?"

²³ If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.

²⁴ Because I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded, ²⁵ because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, ²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you, ²⁷ when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

²⁸ Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me.

²⁹ Because they hated knowledge and did not **choose the fear of the LORD,**

³⁰ would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof,

³¹ therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices.

³² For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them; ³³ but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster."

III. Wisdom saves the humble but haunts the simple.

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"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, 'Thy will be done.'" CS Lewis *The Great Divorce*)

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