

Overview of The Book of Proverbs

Introduction:

- The _____ does not tell us what to do in every situation – cp. **2 Peter 1:2-4**.
- Proverbs are opportunities to view how truth is applied for _____.
- The benefit of Proverbs is _____ on two things:
 - The _____ of the one who reads
 - The _____ of the Lord
- The proverbs serve us like _____ medicine – not merely to consult when in trouble.
- In this sense, they teach us how to _____ in a way that is wise
- The value in Proverbs is not to _____ one in exclusion of the rest, but to take them as a whole, each providing an aspect of applying wisdom.
- Again, the greatest _____ is to study the proverbs before I get into trouble, so I can learn to think in a way that keeps me out of trouble.

I. The Purpose of Proverbs

- A. Definition:
- B. _____ of Proverbs –
 1. They are not formulas or _____ – cp. **10:27; 22:6**.
 2. They are statements of _____ truth meant to guide us in the right direction.

II. The Priority in Proverbs

- A. The _____ of Proverbs is to teach us to live wisely – **1:2**.
- B. So what is wisdom? – It comes from a word in Hebrew that means “_____” and is applied to “smithing” or “smithery” – the skill in fabrication.
- C. The _____ of wisdom is the “Fear of the Lord” – cp. **9:10**.

III. The Paradigm of Proverbs

- A. Book 1 (Proverbs 1-9) – 12 foundational speeches that communicate the moral ethic needed to _____ for wisdom (not proverbs in the technical sense).
- B. Book 2 (Proverbs 10-31) – these are the Proverbs “_____” that direct the application of wisdom to life:

1. 10-22 – The Proverbs of Solomon
2. 22-24 – The Proverbs of Wise Men
3. 25-29 – The Proverbs of Solomon compiled by Hezekiah
4. 30-31 – The Proverbs of Agur and Lemuel.

IV. The Processing of Proverbs (Hermeneutics)

- A. They are communications of _____ *truth* and are therefore “terse.”
- B. They are truths that must be unpacked by using the remainder of _____ for understanding and application – that which is compressed must be decompressed through other Scriptures.
- C. Proverbs are part of the _____ section of Scripture and therefore employ poetic imagery and expression.
- D. Hebrew Poetry uses five general forms of _____ (rhyming of thoughts):
 1. _____ – Line 2 Repeats Line 1 – **16:18; 18:19**.
 2. Contrastive – Line 2 identifies distinctions or opposites from Line 1 – **10:4, 7**.
 3. _____ – Line 2 develops or advances Line 1 – **11:31**.
 4. _____ – Line 2 illustrates Line 1 with examples of pictures – **10:26**.
 5. Formal – 2 Lines joined by poetic metrics rather than logic – **16:8**.

V. The Prelude to Proverbs

- A. _____ (Solomon’s father) was famous for his wisdom – **1 Samuel 18:30; 2 Samuel 14:20**.
- B. David had been informed in the Davidic Covenant in 2 Samuel 7 that he would have a son who would _____ wisdom.
- C. Solomon _____ himself as David’s son – **1:1**; after he had asked for wisdom – **1 Kings 3:5-14**.
- D. However, it soon becomes _____ that while Solomon was the wisest man to ever live – 1 Kings 4:29-30, he is not the embodiment of wisdom – **1 Kings 11:3-4**.

VI. The Personification of Proverbs

- A. The Son of David who did _____ the prophecy of the embodiment of wisdom is Jesus Christ – **Isaiah 11:1-2; 1 Corinthians 1:24, 30; Colossians 2:3; 3:4**.
- B. Hence, what shines dimly in Proverbs shines _____ in Jesus, who Himself is wisdom.
- C. As we study Proverbs, we are meant to _____ on how these things give us a greater picture of Christ through the agency of God’s Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth – **John 14:17, 20**.