



The Beginning of Wisdom | Pastor Craig Smith | 10.25.20

Ice Breaker: Who is the wisest person you have personally known and why?

A few thoughts as you read Proverbs...

- Proverbs are practical, not theoretical.
“If a man loudly blesses his neighbor early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse.” (Prov. 27:14)
- Proverbs are truisms, not promises.
- Proverbs are principles, not methods.

Were any of these thoughts new to you and how will it change the way you read the Proverbs?

The primary author...

The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: (Prov. 1:1)

The big idea in the book of Proverbs is wisdom...

“For attaining wisdom and discipline (instruction); for understanding words of insight; for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young – let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance – for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.” (Prov. 1:2-6)

As you read the passage above, you see several reasons given for reading the Proverbs. Which one of the phrases is most important for you today?

- *Knowledge is principles, wisdom is practice.*

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.” (James 3:13)

*“...We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.”
(1 Cor. 8:1)*

How do wisdom and knowledge differ? Which do you display most often?

- *Knowledge comes quickly, wisdom takes time.*

Describe a situation where you had much knowledge, but not much wisdom? (Ex. Marriage, parenting, career, relationships, finances, etc) How have you matured or changed in that area?

Where does wisdom start? The fear of the Lord...

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.” (Prov. 1:7)

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” (Prov. 9:10)

Discuss what “fear of the Lord” means.

Who do you fear most God or man?

Ultimately, to live wisely is to live like Jesus...

“but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” (1 Cor. 1:23-24)

My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Col. 2:2-3)

What would your daily life look like if you truly lived like Jesus? Describe what your words, actions, character, thoughts would be like.

Personal-What will you choose to do differently this week to look and live more like Him?