

The Wisdom of Proverbs

Introduction:

Today we begin a new series

Proverbs 1:1-7

What we will learn today:

- What is wisdom?
- How can I get it?
- How, specifically from Proverbs?
- Safety Briefing

What is Wisdom?

Wisdom: Skillful living in God's Reality

Hebrew word for wisdom: Chokmah. Usually translated wisdom, also means the skill of a craftsman as in **Exodus 31:1-3**.

We are familiar with wisdom because we are offered it every day, through our phones. Online we are offered wisdom about: fitness, money, home improvement, etc.

God's wisdom is both practical ***and*** moral:

God's wisdom calls for practical effectiveness

Proverbs 10:8:

"The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin."

Proverbs 29:11:

"Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end."

Proverbs 14:16:

"The wise fear the LORD and shun evil, but a fool is hotheaded and yet feels secure."

And moral righteousness

Proverbs 3:33:

"The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous."

Proverbs 10:24:

"What the wicked dread will overtake them; what the righteous desire will be granted."

Jesus reflects this call in **Matthew 10:16**: - ¹⁶“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents **and** innocent as doves. (emphasis added)

Ephesians 5:15-17

15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

How do we get wisdom?

Proverbs 1:7 ESV

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

There are two ways to get wisdom ultimately from God:

1. God's Discipline

Proverbs 3:11-12 ESV

My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

2. God's Instruction

- a. Proverbs 2:1, 5

- b. *My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you...*

*then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.*

How do I get wisdom from Proverbs?

Proverbs is like a map. It is created from the tried and tested experience of God's people walking with Him in the past. We can use the lessons they learned to gain wisdom.

Getting wisdom from Proverbs:

1. Hear it.

Proverbs 2:1a ESV

My son, if you receive my words

2. Memorize it.

Proverbs 2:1b

and treasure up my commandments with you,

3. Watch for it.

Proverbs 2:2 ESV

making your ear attentive to wisdom

and inclining your heart to understanding;

4. Ask for help.

Proverbs 2:3 ESV

yes, if you call out for insight

and raise your voice for understanding,

5. Check for gold.

Proverbs 2:4 ESV

4 if you seek it like silver

and search for it as for hidden treasures,

Staying safe in Proverbs

- Applying Proverbs requires wisdom.

Proverbs 26:4-5 ESV

*4 Answer not a fool according to his folly,
lest you be like him yourself.*

*5 Answer a fool according to his folly,
lest he be wise in his own eyes.*

So do we answer the fool? When in doubt:

Proverbs 17:28 ESV

*Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise;
when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.*

- Proverbs are principles not promises.

Proverbs 10:27 ESV

*The fear of the Lord prolongs life,
but the years of the wicked will be short.*

Proverbs 22:6 ESV

*Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

- We can relax, Jesus is our perfect wisdom.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Pastor's Challenge:

Pick a Proverb to

- Hear.
- Memorize.
- Watch for.
- Ask for Help.
- Check for gold.

Proverbs 11:25 (ESV):

"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."

Proverbs 12:15 (ESV):

"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice."

Proverbs 14:29 (ESV):

"Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly."

Proverbs 17:22 (ESV):

"A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."

Proverbs 18:13 (ESV):

"If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame."