

PROVERBS

1. Introduction

A) The Purpose of the Proverbs (Proverbs 1:1-7)

B) The Value of Wisdom (Proverbs 2:1-4; 3:13-18; 7:1; 8:10-11)

C) The Way of Wisdom is Personified

> Wisdom – Proverbs 8:1-9

Her path leads to blessing and life

> Folly – Proverbs 9:13-18

Her pathway leads to destruction and death

Folly is a seductress (Proverbs 7)

NOTE: Biblical wisdom is more than practical tidbits meant to make our life easier

Wisdom has ethical overtones to it that change the way we view and live life

Wisdom addresses the attitudes of the heart (Proverbs 4:23)

In the New Testament the book of James is often likened to Proverbs (James 3:13-18)

2. The path of wisdom begins just beyond a gateway called “the fear of the Lord”

John Calvin: All wickedness flows from a disregard of God . . . since the fear of God is the bridle by which our wickedness is held in check, its removal frees us to indulge in every kind of licentious (without moral restraint) conduct.

A) The Foundational Nature of the Fear of the Lord (Proverbs 1:7; 3:7-8; 8:13; 14:2, 26-27; 15:16, 33; 16:6; 23:17-18; 31:30-31)

> What is the fear of the Lord?

John Murray: The fear of God is the fear which constrains (compels or powerfully produces) adoration and love. It is the fear which consists in awe, reverence, honor, and worship, and all of these on the highest level of exercise. It is the reflex in our consciousness of the transcendent majesty and holiness of God. It is the essence of impiety not to be afraid of God when there is reason to be afraid . . . yet the Scripture throughout prescribes the necessity of this fear of God under all the circumstances in which our sinful situation makes us liable to God’s righteous judgment.

3. We aren't born with the fear of God and the wisdom of God

A) Fallen mankind is prone toward folly

> Folly, or the way of the fool, is a part of the Fall (Romans 12:2)

B) Children must be taught the fear of the Lord which is the beginning to wisdom and knowledge

> This teaching involves instruction (Proverbs 1:8-9; 2:1; 3:1; 4:1; 6:20-23)

> This teaching involve discipline (Proverbs 13:24; 15:5; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13)

* This path of wisdom is being neglected by many parents today

What you sow you will reap (Proverbs 15:20; 17:21, 25; 19:26)

4. Significant Themes Found Throughout the Proverbs

A) How we speak

> First, make a point – our mouths / our words are very important (Matthew 12:33-37)

> The path of wisdom (Proverbs 13:2-3; 15:4, 23; 16:24; 18:4, 20; 28:23)

> The path of folly (Proverbs 11:9-13; 12:22; 16:28; 17:4; 18:8; 19:9; 20:19; 25:18)

B) How we view / handle money

> The path of wisdom (Proverbs 11:4, 24-26; 13:11; 14:23; 16:8; 19:17; 22:9; 28:19; 30:7-9)

> The path of folly (Proverbs 6:6-11; 15:27; 20:14; 21:13; 23:4-5; 24:33-34; 28:11, 22)

C) How we handle conflict

> The path of wisdom (Proverbs 14:29; 15:1, 18; 16:32; 19:11)

> The path of folly (Proverbs 6:16-19; 19:19; 22:24; 26:21; 29:11)