

Making One Wise: The Heart of Proverbs

Sunday, January 02, 2011

Proverbs 1:1-7 (ESV)

1 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.

As this new year launches, we find ourselves in a new mindset, a new way of thinking about certain things. It is this new thinking that creates in us new habits and for some, these habits will pitter out in about two weeks while others will continue to make permanent changes.

Throughout December we have taken a look at KNOWING how to Recognize Christ and went deep into an understanding of His person, character and nature as well as His purpose and pleasure. This year, as we embark on a quest for "KNOWLEDGE and WISDOM" through the Proverbs, we must ask ourselves if we exude and "DISPLAY" the Wisdom of God who is JESUS CHRIST and do we display HIS HEART of Holiness, His Heart of Humility, His Heart of Heaviness and His Heart of Heaven.

It requires WISDOM, this is knowing how to RIGHTLY APPLY and use KNOWLEDGE in one's own life. If we are not WISE then we are FOOLS who make a mess of all that we know and in the end, "making ourselves to be wise, we become fools."

Verse 7 of this passage states, "The FEAR of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Think really hard about this verse. ALL OF US are either desiring to be WISE in the knowledge we have in CHRIST or we are fools. There is no middle ground. I would like for us to take a look into our hearts today and ask, "Do I Fear the Lord?" and "Do I seek His Wisdom?"

For 2010, the Elder's have challenged you to take seriously the BATHING, BATTLING and BREATHING out the Word of God in your life. For 2011, we continually hold that challenge in front of you, for the KNOWING GOD and being WISE IN HIM only comes from His Word.

I have asked several people throughout the next few weeks to share a brief word with us on "HOW GOD has used His Word in their lives." I would now ask Meghan Gadd to please come share.

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The SCRIPTURE is full of different types of literature, different genres of writing that produce the meaning of the text. Without understanding the type of writing, one can easily be pulled into a misunderstanding of the meaning and in turn create a wild array of theological mistruths.

Proverbs was written by the wisest human being who ever lived. Scriptures teach us that Solomon asked God for wisdom and rec'd it so he knew how to rightly make use and application of knowledge and he wrote these Proverbs so that this wisdom could be known to his son.

The first 9 chapters of proverbs are done in poems that entirely deal with seeking wisdom and fearing the Lord as the beginning of true wisdom. So, our journey through these proverbs will be precisely the intent of the writer, to give the reader wisdom in God alone.

An amazing virtue of the Proverb Poetry is that the meaning is clear in most cases and is derived in just a few words or phrases. This morning, we will look that the purpose of proverbs in the life of our church.

I think it is fitting we start with verse 7 and work and then revamp verses 2 through 6 as a whole.

Fools Despise Wisdom

This mind or attitude is one who knows the right way and does not desire to learn or hear of another. This is the mind of the indignant child who walks around haughty and esteemed as the bearer of all good thought.

Fools Despise Instruction

This mind or attitude is one who rejects being told anything because 1) they already know it, 2) they feel insulted when you tell them, 3) they feel as though further learning is a waste of time and unmerited, or 4) they regard themselves as one who doesn't "need" to learn.

True Knowledge is only Through Fearing God

The PURPOSE of God's Word is so that His people might KNOW Wisdom

In a Practical Way

2 To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight,

In an Intellectual Way

3 to receive instruction in wise dealing,

In a Moral Way

3b in righteousness, justice, and equity;

God's Wisdom is for ALL PEOPLE and is ESSENTIAL to life.

The Simple, Young, Inexperienced and Ignorant

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

The Complex, Older, Experienced and Wise

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

obtain guidance,

God's Wisdom is for LEARNING and UNDERSTANDING, not to be left alone but for ALL PEOPLE who belong to Him

In a CONTINUAL and ONGOING Venture and Process (Increase in learning and obtain guidance)

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

True Knowledge is only given through Scripture

We see and understand as God's children that ALL scripture is ESSENTIAL knowledge to LIFE and WORSHIP.

Any teaching that is opposition or extension of God's word is not wise but foolish.

God's word is BREATHED OUT BY HIM and is USEFUL for all things:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Romans 15:4 (ESV)

4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Scripture Teaches the Rightness of God and Teaches to REVERE Him

Psalms 111:10 (ESV)

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Proverbs 9:10 (ESV)

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

So then..

FEAR of the Lord is the BEGINNING of Knowledge/Wisdom:

This means that all knowledge outside of fear of the Lord is foolishness because one takes it into account of their own making, their own intelligence, their own abilities.

SO - The knowledge outside the realm of right worship and understanding in the Lord is just a fool's knowledge. A waste of good brain, a waste of good memory and waste of air and ability.

Knowledge without God is nothing and wisdom only comes from God and all these things in right understanding of who God is (theology that comes from scripture) is yields TRUE WORSHIP...

Spirit and Truth- John 5

Knowledge is KNOWING THE RIGHT THING ABOUT GOD and life and

Wisdom is KNOWING HOW TO RIGHTLY APPLY and LIVE according to that Knowledge.

FEARING GOD MEANS KNOWING GOD, which is eternal life...

John 17:3 (ESV)

3 And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

2 Peter 1:2-9 (ESV)

2 May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,

6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,

7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

KNOWING GOD understands WHO HE IS

God is HOLY and He hates sin and WILL CONDEMN it forever.

(Over the next month or so, we will look at the fear of God and the heart of God's holiness in depth.)

God is HOLY and He has given us HIS SON that we might KNOW HIM, that we might SEE HIM and that we might CHERISH HIM as the ONLY TREASURE, the only KINGDOM, the only JOY, the only PEACE that causes the wisdom and knowledge and THINGS of this WORLD to be CAST AWAY from our eyes and hands and hearts.

Who He is REQUIRES WISDOM to know WHAT HE CAN DO and SHOULD DO

Acts 5:5 (ESV)

5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.

He can cast both body and soul into hell.

Wisdom in FEARING God knows not to live in horrid fear, but honorable adoration.

1 John 4:18-19 (ESV)

18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

19 We love because he first loved us.

Christ is the LOVE OF GOD for His people. God loves because we cannot.

Do you have a heart for Christ?

Do you have an affection for the holiness of God and for His son and for

His word?

Is Christ your everything or are you just glad you have Him when you need Him?

If you have Christ for when you "need" Him, when you need Him most, He won't be there.

Matthew 7:21-27 (ESV)

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

IT is FOOLISH to ignore the wonders of God's GRACE and MERCY and Great Love!

Become WISE, Fear the Lord.