

Proverbs I
Fairview Church of God
October 27, 2007

We've studied Ecclesiastes and found it full of real wisdom that Solomon had gained through his life and passed on to us in his writings.

He wrote the Proverbs most likely influenced by his father's Psalms. He was most likely also influenced by similar earlier writings in Egypt, Mesopotamia and other countries.

Solomon is credited with writing the second most OT books – behind Moses.

He most likely wrote Song of Solomon when he was young, Proverbs when he was older, spread over a number of years, and Ecclesiastes when he was much older yet. By then, he was wiser, more philosophical and more cynical.

The Proverbs were written around 950 BC. Some (maybe 25-29) were lost and found later, around 720 BC, by Hezekiah or some of his men.

The general theme of the truths found in the proverbs can be summarized as:

1. Wisdom is the most valuable asset
2. Wisdom is available to anyone, but the price is high
3. Wisdom originates in God, not self, and comes by attention to instruction
4. Wisdom and righteousness go together. It is good to be wise and it is wise to be good.
5. Evil men suffer the consequences of their evil deeds
6. The simple, the fool, the lazy, the ignorant, the proud, the profligate, the sinful are never to be admired

Proverbs are not always directly religious in nature, except from the extended perspective that wisdom and living peacefully is pleasing to God. This explains why many of the proverbs are held in high esteem by many who claim no religious connection.

Proverbs 1

- 1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:
 - Solomon opens by telling us why he is committing the proverbs to writing
- 2 To know wisdom (*skill*) and instruction (*discipline*), To perceive (*understand or discern*) the words of understanding,
 - NIV = for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight
 - The person who lives skillfully produces things of lasting value to God and to the community
- 3 To receive the instruction (*correction, chastisement, discipline*) of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity;
 - NIV = for acquiring a disciplined and prudent (*self-controlled*) life, doing what is right and just and fair
 - Discipline and self-control are a companion to wisdom
- 4 To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion-

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- 5 A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,
 - NIV = let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance
- 6 To understand a proverb and an enigma, The words of the wise and their riddles.
 - Proverbs, enigma (puzzles) and riddles = parables?
 - NIV = for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise
- 7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.
 - Isn't the fear of a final death the main reason most people are seeking God?
 - Fear = reverential submission to God's will – true worship
 - Not trembling dread that results in inaction
 - Not polite reverence
 - In between - awe
- 8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother;
- 9 For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck.
 - Parents, not the school, not the church are to be the main teachers of wisdom to children
- 10 My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent.
- 11 If they say, "Come with us, Let us lie in wait to shed blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause;
- 12 Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, And whole, like those who go down to the Pit;
- 13 We shall find all kinds of precious possessions, We shall fill our houses with spoil;
- 14 Cast in your lot among us, Let us all have one purse" -
- 15 My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path;
 - Be careful whose company you keep
- 16 For their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed blood.
- 17 Surely, in vain the net is spread In the sight of any bird;
 - Just like a fish net catches dolphins
 - A net set to catch the crooks, will catch those who are with them
- 18 But they lie in wait for their own blood, They lurk secretly for their own lives.
- 19 So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners.
 - **1 Timothy 6:10**
 - For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
- 20 Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares.

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- 21 She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city
She speaks her words:
- 22 "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in
their scorning, And fools hate knowledge.
- 23 Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my
words known to you.
- 24 Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no
one regarded,
- 25 Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke,
- 26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes,
- 27 When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a
whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you.
- 28 "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently,
but they will not find me.
- 29 Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD,
- 30 They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke.
- 31 Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full
with their own fancies.
- 32 For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of
fools will destroy them;
- 33 But whoever listens to me will dwell safely (*in peace and security*), And will
be secure (*at ease*), without fear of evil."

Proverbs 2

- 1 My son, **if** you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you,
- 2 So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding;
- 3 Yes, **if** you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding,
- 4 **If** you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures;
- 5 Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of
God.

BUT – it is up to the individual to seek God!!!!!!!!!! All you need is the Bible!!!