

WORDS TO LIVE BY! A STUDY OF THE PROVERBS

- * THEOLOGY -- _____
- * DOCTRINE – What you _____

→ What is the limitation of these concepts?

The need for Proverbs!

As we observe the behavior of Christians (attitudes, speech, actions), we sometimes sense a “disconnect” between *belief* and *practice*! This shouldn't be! I don't believe this disconnect is always intentional. In fact, sometimes theology and doctrine seem heady and difficult to comprehend. Thus, our lives don't always reflect what we say we believe (though, sometimes, we can chalk it up to pure rebellion!).

Enter the Proverbs.

God has spoken his PRACTICAL wisdom into our lives through this remarkable book. Let's explore how we can embrace and see the fruit of this wisdom in our personal lives!

A summary of the ***purpose*** of Proverbs (from the NIV Study Bible):

Proverbs provides instruction on how to live wisely and successfully in the “fear of the LORD” (1:7; 9:10) within the theocratic arrangement. The fear of the Lord includes reverence for, trust in and commitment to the Lord and His will as disclosed in His creation and as revealed in His Word. Wisdom in this context, then, is basically following the benevolent King's design for human HAPPINESS within the creation order – resulting in quality of MIND (1:2) and quality of LIFE (1:3).

Intro to the Proverbs

* Most were written by SOLOMON. Other writers: The Wise Men (22:17 – 24:34), Agur (30), Lemuel (31)

- > What makes a person wise?
- > How did Solomon acquire his great wisdom? (1 Kings 3:5-15)
- > How do we obtain our wisdom? (James 1:5-8; 3:13-18)
- > Solomon TURNED FROM GOD. Is it possible to have wisdom and not use it?
{No ... one can have knowledge and not use it, but wisdom is the action we take!}

- * What is a proverb? (Heb. Word "*maschal*" – also translated as "*oracle*," "*taunt*" and "*parable*."
 - > A statement of TRUTH in light of LIFE'S EXPERIENCES.
 - > PRACTICAL wisdom imparted by God.
 - > Not a LAW (see 10:27; 10:3; 13:25), but a GENERAL truth.

What do we get from Proverbs?

Read 1:1-6. What is the stated purpose for the Proverbs?

1. Attaining WISDOM
2. Understanding INSIGHT
3. Acquiring a DISCIPLINED & PRUDENT Life
4. Doing what is RIGHT & FAIR
5. Giving PRUDENCE to the SIMPLE
6. Giving KNOWLEDGE & DISCRETION to the YOUNG
7. Adding to the LEARNING of the WISE
8. Giving GUIDANCE to the DISCERNING
9. Understanding PROVERBS & PARABLES & SAYINGS of the wise

Read 1:7. Where does wisdom and knowledge begin? FEARING THE LORD.

Q: What does this phrase mean?

Q: Can a person be wise without it?

→ When reading Proverbs it sounds like the authors are RAISING A CHILD!

Ex: 25:17

- > When we raise our children with such practical advice, what is our goal?
- > What can we say about God's goal for us in giving us the book of Proverbs?