



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

PROVERBS: *WISDOM LIVING FOR TODAY*

God's Foundation for Making a Life

Sunday, August 20, 2017

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TEXT: Proverbs 1:1–7

I. WHAT IS A PROVERB?

A. DEFINITION

“Proverb” basically means a *comparison*. It has come to mean: any profound pronouncement including maxims, observations or sermons. A proverb is usually a succinct statement that stands in place of a long explanation and expresses a truth about reality. It is a short pithy saying designed to communicate profound truth.

B. EXAMPLES:

1. "The faults of a son are often the result of the failures of the father."
2. "The teacher's doubt becomes the student's denial."
3. "The bitterest truth is better than the sweetest lies."
4. "Tell me who you walk with, I'll tell you who are."
5. "If you want to play, be ready to pay."

II. WHY STUDY PROVERBS?

A. BECAUSE OF THE NEEDED WISDOM THIS BOOK OFFERS

1. Proverbs Offers the Needed Wisdom, 1:1–4

The key words and their meaning:

Word	Verse	Meaning
Wisdom	2a	Skillfulness
Instruction	2a	Taught by discipline
Understanding	2b	Discernment
Righteousness	3b	Right behavior
Justice	3b	Correct decisions
Equity	3b	Moral integrity
Prudence	4a	Sensibility in practical matters
Discretion	4b	Thoughtfulness

2. The Key to Receiving the Needed Wisdom: the “*Fear of the Lord*”, 1:7

a. The “*fear of the LORD.*”

(1) The “fear of the Lord” includes not only a correct way of thinking about God but a correct relationship with Yahweh.

(a) In “the fear of the Lord,” one learns to trust, 14:26

(b) In “the fear of the Lord,” one learns what truly is important, 15:16

(2) The “fear of the Lord” is reverence that results in humility, 15:33; 22:4

(3) The “fear of the Lord” is a desire not to sin against Him due to His awful wrath and His awesome love, 8:13; 16:6

b. The “fear of the LORD” is the *beginning* of knowledge

“Beginning” is the controlling principle, the foundation, on which one must build a life of wisdom, i.e., *the fear of the LORD is the controlling principle of the foundation of knowledge*;

c. The “fear of the LORD” is the beginning of *knowledge*“

The “knowledge” spoken of here is based on experience. It is not theoretical but proven, practical knowledge. It depends on the author of that knowledge, 9:10.

B. BECAUSE OF THE EMPHASIS PLACED ON *MAKING A LIFE* INSTEAD OF *MAKING A LIVING*

“People with wisdom have the skill to face life honestly and courageously, and to manage it successfully so that God’s purposes are fulfilled in their lives”— Thomas L. Constable

C. BECAUSE OF THE WISDOM THAT PROVERBS OFFERS THE FAMILY

1. Husbands and Wives

a. Proverbs speaks of the shared responsibility husbands and wives have in training children with the “one voice” of parenting, 1:8; 6:20.

b. Proverbs speaks to husbands, not only to be loyal to their wives, but also to be ardent and ravished always with their love, 5:19; 2:17.

c. Proverbs speaks of the wives as the ones who “make” or “break” their husbands, Pro 18:22; 19:14; 12:4; 31:23.

d. Proverbs speaks to husbands who destroy their families by pursuing sexual sin and stepping outside their marriages.

(1) They squander their energy and time that God has designed and intended for the establishment of their family, 5:8–23.

(2) They ruin their reputations, 6:32-33.

(3) They flirt with physical danger, 6:34-35.

(4) They toy with death, 2:18.

2. Parents and Children

a. Proverbs praises the rod of discipline, 13:24; 19:18; 23:13-14; 29:15, 17.

b. Proverbs sees wise children as a crown to parents and grandparents, 10:1; 15:20; 17:6; 29:3.

CONCLUSION:

The wisdom that Proverbs offers in the matters of life is not something theoretical; rather, it is very practical and affects every area of life. The wisdom that Proverbs offer gives order and purpose to life; it gives discernment in making decisions; and it provides direction and fulfillment in life to the glory of God.

“Wisdom keeps us in harmony with the principles and purposes that the Lord has built into His world so that as we obey God, everything works for us and not against us. This doesn’t mean we don’t experience trials and difficulties, because trials and difficulties are a normal part of life. But it means we have the ability to deal with these adversities successfully so that we grow spiritually and the Lord is glorified.” *Warren W. Wiersbe*