

Hopewell ARP Midweek Sermon

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

Proverbs 1:1–7

1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:
2 To know wisdom and instruction,
 To perceive the words of understanding,
3 To receive the instruction of wisdom,
 Justice, judgment, and equity;
4 To give prudence to the simple,
 To the young man knowledge and discretion—
5 A wise man will hear and increase learning,
 And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,
6 To understand a proverb and an enigma,
 The words of the wise and their riddles.
7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
 But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

The Wisdom of God

Main idea: wisdom is found especially in a being, the triune God and especially in His Son, the Logos—Christ

Introduction: the book of wisdom, but what is it, who needs it, and where do we get it?

1. **The Wisdom that Is from God (v1)**
 1. Solomon’s request. God’s gift.
 2. Son of David, king of Israel. God’s anointed.
 3. The strength is not in the means of grace but in the God of grace
2. **What Wisdom Is (v2–3)**
 1. Training (“instruction,” v2a). Building skill at life.
 2. Discernment (“understanding,” v2b). Differentiating good from bad, better from good, and best from better.
 3. Prudence (“wisdom,” v3a)
 1. Justice. Uprightness.
 2. Judgment. Choices that reflect God’s law.
 3. Equity. Fairness.
3. **Who Needs Wisdom—Everyone!**
 1. The simple and the young (v4)
 1. Inexperienced, gullible.
 2. Young men. The specific target of the book. A demographic necessarily simple, yet likely to be greatly mistaken about themselves.
 2. The wise and understanding (v5)

1. The wiser you are, the more you wish to learn.
2. The more understanding you have, the more highly you value the counsel of the wise.

4. **The Wisdom that Is in God** (v6–7)

1. Whatever true wisdom the wisest men have is derived from God (v6).
Whatever is not genuinely from Him is not wise.
2. If you haven't got God rightly, you cannot get anything else rightly (v7).
Those who deny Him in their hearts despise true wisdom and instruction,
whatever else they may feel/think.

Conclusion: the only way to “get God rightly” is Christ, Who became for us wisdom from God (cf. 1Cor 1:18–2:16).

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Proverbs chapter 1 verses one through seven. These are God's words. The Proverbs of Solomon, the son of David. King of Ezreal. To know, wisdom and instruction. To perceive the words of understanding. To receive the instruction of wisdom.

Justice judgment. And Equity. To give Prudence to the simple to the young man. Knowledge and discretion. A wise man. Will hear and increase learning. And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel, To understand a proverb and an enigma. The words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge.

But fools. Despise wisdom. And instruction.

Amen, I'll send this reading of God's inspired and And Aaron tort thus Begins the Book of Proverbs. The book of wisdom. There are other books that Emphasize wisdom. Uh, particularly Ecclesiastes. And, of course, all of the scriptures are full of the wisdom of God for us. But within the scriptures, this is the book of wisdom.

But what is wisdom? And who needs it? And where do we get it? And those are the subject. Uh, those are the That is summarizes the content of the passage with which he opens. What is wisdom? He's going to answer that in verses 2 and 3. What is he conveying in this book?

And who needs it? Uh, one group that may not know it and one group that does, and between the two of them, everyone in verses four and five. And where do we get it? And the answer of course, is God Alone. But before we get to those things, we find that the first thing that this Introduction tells us about wisdom.

Is that it is from God and especially that it is in The Lord Jesus Christ. Says the Proverbs of Solomon, the son of David, king of Israel. Immediately, we know then That wisdom must come as the gift of God. For Solomon, who became Renowned for his wisdom so that even great royalty from far away.

Kingdoms would come just to hear his wisdom. He didn't begin that way. He began overwhelmed and intimidated by what he had to do in leading God's people in ruling God's people. And so, when the Lord offered him, Whatever he might ask for. He asked for wisdom. And now he is taking that gift as it were.

And he is giving that gift to the church. But he's not just giving that gift to the church. He is in this entire book. A type of the Lord Jesus Christ. For when we read, not just the Proverbs of Solomon. Which would need no further introduction or explanation. There's no one.

Who's going to read that at the beginning of the book and say Solomon who? But by calling him the son of David king of Israel. He's being identified as the first in a line. That must conclude in the Lord, Jesus Christ. He's being identified as. A promised one. Through whom we hope for the promised one.

Promised in second, Samuel chapter 7. That is to say the Christ, the anointed The great. So just as great, David has a greater son, the Lord Jesus. In his Zeal, forgot his love for God and for God's people. His Rule and protection, his defeat of enemies. The Lord Jesus excels, his father, David, and all of these.

Although David was the Supreme example apart from Christ, So also, The Lord Jesus excels Solomon in wisdom. Indeed, as we will hear a little bit when we get to verse 4, this is a book especially for the preparation of Kings. And it is a book, especially for the preparation of the king of kings.

We often as we study the Psalms and sing the Psalms and pray the, Psalms Marvel with the goodness of God. Not only that he would prepare such a book for his son, whom he would send into the world who needed to grow in wisdom and favor with God. And how much of that was done?

And the Holy Spirit had filled him Beyond without measure. Beyond measure applying the Psalms to him. But Christ the wisdom of God in his person, grew in wisdom. As a boy. And as a man learning how to be, The King of Kings. From his own word written by his own Spirit who carried Solomon along.

For the Lord, Jesus quickly came to an awareness even in his human mind. That he is the son of David. The king of Israel. So many of us have used this book, The Book of Proverbs to order Our Lives. Well, To serve God well and brother well and neighbor well by living.

According to the wisdom of God. But now that we think of it this way, this book becomes all the more precious to For it is a way by which we may have our minds and our lives. Conformed to the mind of Christ, the character of Christ. The discipline of Christ, the diligence of Christ.

The, the Economic wisdom. Of the Lord Jesus Christ, and so much more as we'll see as we go through the book.

So, what is? This wisdom. That is being conveyed here. That is designed for The King of Kings, and all of his Noble children. Well, it is training discernment and prudence. Uh, the word instruction in the first part of verse 2, might better be Uh, translate it as training. It is building skill at life, at living.

Wisdom itself is skill for living is a good way to summarize. What wisdom is and instruction, is the building up of that skill. The training of that skill, it's not just verbal. Uh, there is is, you may have noticed in the section, in Psalm 119 this week, Psalm verses 97 through 104, there are a

couple of places where he speaks of keeping God's precepts in order that we may have understanding.

There's a lab component as it were The science of life to the wisdom of God and so it is training. In the second place to perceive the words of understanding, says discernment. Those who are made in the image. Of the ever blessed infinitely. Glorious God ought not to be settling for second best let alone slouching into whatever we feel like at any given moment, know this discernment or understanding as it's translated in our English version before us.

This discernment is the skill. The ability to differentiate not just good from bad. It certainly is that But even to differentiate better from good and best from better. So that we love to grow in discernment. As we see things more and more Through The Eyes of God. It's wonderful.

Isn't it to know that? You have a God who always does what is best? Oh, May the spirit bless to us. The knowledge that God always does. What is best to quiet all grumbling and murmuring and complaining that might arise in our hearts. Our God always does? What is best And when he teaches his people wisdom, He gives them more and more to choose the better thing.

To choose the best thing. To exercise discernment. To not get caught up in. What am I permitted? So that we say, like the Corinthians had said, all things are lawful for me. But rather. Whether we eat or whether we drink or whatever, we do to do, all in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ to do all unto the glory of God.

Which certainly means exercising discernment, doesn't it? That if you have options between several things, you would choose. What is best? Because God has trained, you to imitate him in this And so wisdom is training and wisdom is discernment. And wisdom is prudence. The word that's translated wisdom in verse 3 is not the same word is not the common word for wisdom.

It is a word that Means something more along the lines of prudence. And the three words that follow, it are really expansions upon What this word Prudence means, Justice judgment inequity Justice uprightness. According to God's standard. And then judgment. Choices that reflect God's law. And so the uprightness of the person and in what he does, and then the component of the will the choice uh, of what to do.

Choices that are according to God's law and then Equity or fairness. Rightly responding to the fact that all men are made in the image of God. And therefore we are not respecters of persons trying to manipulate outcomes Doing more uprightly for the one than we do for the other.

There are Those whom God has placed in Greater proximity to us, Those whom the Lord has entrusted to our particular care. And so this is not equality of service or treatment, or even love. But it is a quality of Justice. That we would not treat anyone. Less uprightly than we treat.

Anyone else? And so that's what this wisdom is. Training. Building Skillet life. So that we exercise discernment in the mind and act with prudence And our Wills. Well, who needs this wisdom? The short answer is everyone. But there are some Who are greatly mistaken because they do not see how much they need wisdom.

These are especially the simple. And the young to give Prudence to the simple and then to the young man knowledge and discretion. The young man, the one who is skillful at walking and talking. And yet he is not yet the head of his own household. This could cover anyone from the age, four or five.

Usually perhaps, even up to the mid 20s, This young man, full of energy and strength and Youth and Zeal. Is full of all things. But he is still to a large extent. Empty of experience. Empty of wisdom. He's still simple. The word translated simple could be very Negative pejorative.

Um, meaning very foolish. But, Ordinarily. And at its core, it means inexperienced and gullible. Just not yet. Experienced at life. And by combining the the simple in the first part of verse four, where the young man In the second part of verse 4, the verses gently telling young men.

And in this case, especially as it's prepared for the son of a king, Uh, that even though he may be the prince, He is still an experienced. He's still gullible. Young men are the specific Target of the book. And because of their youth, they are necessarily simple. And yet, if you have met young men and I'm sure all of you have You may have discovered that, they're often greatly mistaken about how inexperienced they are and how incomplete their thoughts is and how gullible they are.

And, Solomon. Comes by the Holy Spirit and says This is this this book is especially for you young men. When I say simple. I mean, you. Young men. And what a blessing it is when young men gain the humility To recognize that here by God's word, they may have that, which answers their experience, which answers their being easily susceptible to the lies of the world and the lies of their own Hearts.

Is this not what God in his Providence. And given us to learn, even in the psalm, the section of the psalm that Providence combined with, for us this week that you can be wiser than your enemies. And you can have more understanding than your teachers, and you can even exceed the agent and your understanding if You are a meditator upon.

The words of God, if the words of God are always with you, If you are committed to keeping his presets that with God as your teacher, You may end up a young man. With greater wisdom than the agent. But if you do get that wisdom, that'll put you into verse 5 and you won't tell yourself.

Well, I have graduated from needing Proverbs. I've been a Christian for these 30, 40 years and I've heard all the sermons. I feel like I ever need to hear. I don't need to go and hear preaching. Whenever the preaching is available, I've got other things to do. I don't need to spend time reading and meditating upon God's word.

Over after all mastered the rudiments of reformed Theology and I'm doing well enough Godly enough to get into heaven. That's Folly. Those who are wise. What do they do? Verse 5? A wise man will hear and increase in learning. He's gonna want to listen to what's in this book.

He's going to keep coming back to this book. A man of understanding, what he what does he do? He obtains wise counsel, he is willing to lay out great cost. The understanding that God has given him doesn't say well. My Supply has increased and so did. My demand is low and and it's really not worth that much to me anymore.

No he he realizes the more. He he understands the more foolish he feels before. God the more valuable he sees the wisdom to be, the more effort, the more time, the more expense he is willing to put forth the gain it. And so in verses 4 and 5 describing who this book is for, if you don't think you need it, you really need it.

And if you have begun to have it, you'll be convinced all the more That you need it. This is of course, reflected in some of the great prayers of the Apostle, Paul and his Epistles. Praying that our love would be increased in knowledge, praying that we would be strengthened in the inner

man, so that we might have power from God's spirit to A height and length, and width and depth.

Of the love of God that is in Jesus Christ. Who needs this book and who needs this? Everyone Everyone. Finally, where do you get it? Well, you don't get it from aged men and they're riddles. If you assimilate this book, the spirit writes its truth on your heart, He blesses to you meditation.

Upon the word of God, especially in this book. You are going to understand The Proverbs. Of the agent but whenever they put forth these enigmas that are difficult to understand or these riddles, You know, those who Who by the way that they conceal, what they're trying to communicate and the worldly person, the Earthly person, hears things like that, and he's like, oh, that's so wise.

They know so much. But are infinitely wiser. God loves to tell us things plainly. And give us Vivid illustrations. Like this book is full of not hiding it in enigmas and riddles, but revealing it to us for our assimilation for our training for our And whatever wisdom. Aged men, had whatever was truly wise.

Truly useful. Truly Discerning. Truly. Effective. It is after all from God. God is the one who has built wisdom. His wisdom into the world that he has made and left enough of his image, even in Fallen man to understand much. But dear Christian. Do not be awed by the

At first blush impressive, wisdom of the unbeliever. Did the Greeks, understand many things about how the mind works. Yes, they did. Is there? Asian philosophy. Uh, and Understanding of, Various things in societies and Nations. Is there some truth there? Well, yes, there's some It's really polluted. By their false Theology.

Just as a lot of what the Greeks thought was really polluted. The Lord has given them. Much that they will answer for. Because not only did God, make the knowledge of him visible in the creation, he put the knowledge of himself in their hearts as we heard in Romans.

But you will surpass. You will surpass these very quickly. In fact, if you are a shorter catechism kid and I hope you're all shorter. Catechism kids. If you have assimilated question and answer one, You have now exceeded all of the ancient Greeks and all of the Millennia of the Asian wisdom that could ever be accumulated.

For, you know, that man's Chief end. Is to glorify God. And to enjoy him forever. You know, if you have Uh, an enigma if you have a That is all tied up and you're trying to figure out how to get it undone and you start to pull and you want to unravel it, you want to find the beginning.

That's not exactly what the word beginning means here. In verse 7, it's just an illustration. But for you, the start of understanding anything else. If you're going to get it all straightened out, The very first thing. Is that the Living God? Is from Everlasting to Everlasting. That he is Spirit.

He is not creature. Like all the rest of us, our creature, even when he says, even when the scripture teaches us that God is, He's not teaching us that God is a spirit the way angels or Spirits. Are that. God is the spirit. The way men have Spirits. As a way of when we say that theologically, we're communicating that he is entirely uncreated.

That he is like unlike anything for which, we might have a reference point. That he alone is Creator and everything else is creature. He alone has Holiness in himself. Anything else can only be holy and so much as it is consecrated to him by him. For himself. And so the fear of Yahweh, The God, Who is the God who made it?

All the God, who upholds, everything and is not upheld by or sustained by, or helped by anything or anyone. The fear of Yahweh. Is the beginning of knowledge. Whatever. True wisdom, the wisest men have is derived from God. And whatever is not genuinely from him is not wise. Because if you haven't got God, rightly, You cannot get anything else rightly.

If we are to know something not just accurately but rightly In right relationship to God placing it in its in its right. In all of reality, we must With the fear of Yahweh. And that there is such a thing as a fool. There is such a thing as the one who More than one Psalm.

Uh, describes as saying in his heart. There is no God. And those who deny God in their hearts. They despise true wisdom. And they despise true instruction. However, wise they feel or think of themselves. They are despising God and they are despising wisdom. Despising instruction. That's why The, the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ is The beginning of wisdom.

Because God who created us to know him and God who created us that we might fear Him has displayed himself finally and fully in his son. His son, whom he even calls the word, the logos, but not just the word the way you. And I think about words, But the word as the expression of God himself, the communication of the mind of God, A word who is a person?

Who was in the beginning? With God and who was in the beginning? God himself? This is why those who are wise in the world are great in the world, but have not Christ. They are utter fools compared to the even intellectually. Rather unable Christian. Who may not have mastered much in the way of what people would call Arts and Sciences.

But he knows his creator in God, the son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Now. Began for or no, as I was concluding preparing. This and started thinking about that and verse 7 and coming back to verse one and Christ being the ultimate display of the wisdom of God, and the wisdom of God to us and the fear of Yahweh being the beginning of knowledge, but the impossibility of knowing or fearing the Lord apart from Jesus.

I thought, oh, if only we had the time, To spend because if you go home and I hope you will at some point, maybe use the Lord's Day Afternoon, if, um, when we're all done here. If you don't have another time but to start thinking about the Book of Proverbs and the wisdom of God, in terms of the second half of First Corinthians 1 and the whole of First Corinthians 2.

And Christ being the wisdom of God for us. And the Christian, the one who knows Jesus as the Lord Of Glory. Being the truly spiritually wise. One, who is wiser than the whole world. Then I hope you will begin to see that the first part of wisdom. The first part of wisdom is not merely to fear Yahweh, but the fearing of Yahweh.

Is to know God in the Lord Jesus Christ. That this ultimately is how God has been pleased to display his glory. In the Lord Of Glory, who is crucified? And the Lord Of Glory who gathers himself the least impressive people in the world. And makes the most impressive thing.

That there will ever be in all of creation, his church, his bride, his City. His body. His people. And so, Christ. Indeed is unto us. The wisdom of God and we look forward and the rest of this book. To being conformed to his mind. That our lives may be conformed.

To his life. Amen,