

ould haue, if they would suffer God to rule them.  
y accomplished in the kingdom of Christ, when  
or iust causes execute Gods iudgements against  
nd it giueth no libertie to any to reuenge their  
s. f Not onely the people, but the Kinges that  
nies, should be destroyed. g Hereby God bin-  
s and mindes of all his to enterprise no further  
nteth.

God, hee maketh mention of those instrume  
Gods commaundement were appointed in the  
vnder Christ the vse thereof is abolished  
d Hee sheweth that all the order of nature is  
duetic, and much more Gods children, wh  
to cease to praise him, till they be gathered  
dome, which hee hath prepared for his, wher  
euerlasting praise.

## The\* Prouerbes of Salomon.

### THE ARGUMENT.

**T**He wonderfull loue of God toward his Church is declared in this booke: forasmuch as the  
summe and essence of the whole Scriptures is here set forth in these brieue sentences, which  
partly containe doctrine, and partly maners, and also exhortation to both. Whereof the nine  
first Chapters are full of profitable sentences, and the rest are full of allure the hearts  
of men to the diligent reading of the same, the following which are left as a most precious  
jewel to the Church, of these three thousand parables, maxims, and sayings, and were ga-  
thered and committed to writing by Salomons seruants, and indited by him.

### CHAP. I.

1 The power & vse of the word of God. 7 Of the  
feare of God and knowledge of his worde. 10 VVee  
may not consent to the intisings of sinners. 20 VVise-  
dome complaineth that she is contemned. 24 The  
punishment of them that contemne her.

**T**he Parables of Salomon the  
sonne of Dauid king of Israel,  
2 To know wisdome, and  
instruction, to understande the  
wordes of knowledge,

3 To receiue instruction to  
doe wisely, by 4 iustice and iudgement and  
equitie,

4 To giue vnto the simple sharpnesse  
of witte, and to the childe knowledge, and  
discretion.

6 To vnderstand a parable, and the in-  
terpretation, the wordes of the wise, and  
their darke sayings.

7 ¶ The feare of the Lord is the begin-  
ning of knowledge: but fooles despise wise-  
dome and instruction.

8 My sonne, heare thy fathers in-  
struction, and forsake not thy mothers  
teaching.

9 For they shalbe a comely ornament  
vnto thine head, & as chaines for thy necke.

10 My sonne, if sinners doe intise thee,  
consent thou not.

11 If they say, Come with vs, wee will  
lay waite for blood, and lie in wait for the  
innocent without a cause:

12 We will swallow them by a liye like

## A Christian Growth Class for Crossgate Church

by David Story

## Schedule

Lesson One:	<i>Beginning</i>	Proverbs 1:1-7
Lesson Two:	<i>Desiring</i>	Proverbs 1:8-19
Lesson Three:	<i>Ignoring</i>	Proverbs 1:20-33
Lesson Four:	<i>Searching</i>	Proverbs 2
Lesson Five:	<i>Finding</i>	Proverbs 3
Lesson Six:	<i>Gaining</i>	Proverbs 4
Lesson Seven:	<i>Keeping</i>	Proverbs 5
Lesson Eight:	<i>Training</i>	Proverbs 6
Lesson Nine:	<i>Tempting</i>	Proverbs 7
Lesson Ten:	<i>Evaluating</i>	Proverbs 8
Lesson Eleven:	<i>Choosing</i>	Proverbs 9
Lesson 12:	<i>Speaking</i>	Selections 10-31 on Words
Lesson 13:	<i>Spending</i>	Selections 10-31 on Wealth
Lesson 14:	<i>Ruling</i>	Selections 10-31 on Leadership

## Lesson 1: Beginning

### A Prayer for how to Approach the book of Proverbs

- 1 Kings 3:5-15 (note also 4:29-34) – ask boldly for wisdom which we do not have
- Prayer of Dependence on God for Help to Do Right (not only for selves but others)
- Proverbs humbles my arrogance and helps my ignorance (not elitist or exalting)

### A Division in the book of Proverbs

- Collection primarily of Shorter Succinct Sayings in Chapters 10-31
  - not thematically organized but hit rapidly in succession all together, as life does
  - need wisdom and rumination to apply right truths at right time in the right way
- Connected Extended Sections provide the foundation in Chapters 1-9
  - serves as a guide for understanding the later material
  - develops the important themes of the book

Christian Growth Class mainly on 1-9, then a few Major Themes collected from 10-31

### A Beginning for Wisdom in Proverbs

We are intentionally introduced to the book, given the purpose and theme in 1:1-7

1. What is Wisdom? a Practical Skill for living well in every choice of any circumstance
  - Distinct from Current and Ancient cultural views of Wisdom (though similarities)
  - Definition – “ability to live well”
    - not abstract or theoretical, but practical and lived
    - “knowledge puffs up but love builds up” – 1 Corinthians 8:1
2. Wisdom and “the Good Life”
  - What is the good life we want? More than Lavish self-Indulgence
  - Proverbs teaches how to find Fullness of Life, despite circumstances
3. Wisdom as inherently Ethical and Relational
  - “wise dealing ... righteousness, justice, equity”
  - not individual internal intellectual achievement (contemplative monk in seclusion)
  - difficulty of treating people well in complexities of broken world (“gray areas”)
  - reflecting God’s character righteousness/justice – David as man after God’s own heart
4. Wisdom as a Learning Process
  - meets you wherever on the spectrum and develops you further
    - not merely for the “already wise” or smart enough
    - for the “simple/naïve/gullible” and “youth/inexperienced”
    - also for “wise [to] hear and increase in learning” (always more to offer)

requires the admission of lack and need for learning

always humbling to learn new skill, doesn't make arrogant

5. Wisdom in the Bible – not simply better morality of good ideas – Relation to God

Within Wisdom Literature

Job – insufficiency of human wisdom (and often applied poorly)

Psalms – wisdom looks to God from every circumstance (thanks/complaint/etc)

Ecclesiastes – even if you get it all right, you still can't make it all right – vanity!

Christ-centered fullness of New Testament

2 Tim 3:15 – “to make you wise from salvation through faith in Christ Jesus”

Conversion and Christian Life viewed as “made wise” focus in Christ/Word

1 Cor 1:30 – “Christ Jesus, who God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.”

Foolishness and Wisdom Reversed, Fullness in Christ

Colossians 2:3 – “Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”

Proverbs, like all of Scripture (note Luke 24) always pointing us to Jesus

6. Wisdom and the “Fear of the LORD”

Covenant name emphasizes necessity of Relationship with God

Two sides to Fear, Dread and Awe (Devotion)

both are instructive and essential

“The fear of God is but the reflex in our consciousness of the transcendent perfection which alone could warrant and demand the totality of our commitment in love and devotion.” – John Murray

“Is he quite safe?” said Susan ... “I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion.”

“Safe?” said Mr. Beaver, “Course he isn't safe, but he's good.” – C.S. Lewis

Fear of the Lord seen most fully in Christ on the Cross

The penalty of condemnation for sin that we deserve! – fear of dread

The extent of God's love, compassion to redeem us! – fear of awe/love/devotion

7. Wisdom and Fools

Danger of Dismissing – Beauty of Wisdom doesn't Leave us Arrogant

Beginning is to turn away from trust in self and toward our need for God's help in everything

Lesson 2: Desiring (part one)  
*saying no when we want to say yes*

Proverbs 1:8-33 - What We Want and Don't

Does the good life consist in getting what we want, avoiding what we don't?

Sometimes do we desire things that are Unhealthy, and dislike what is Beneficial for us?

How are we to handle conflicting desires? Rom 7:15ff; Gal 5:17 (Rom 13:14, Eph 4:22, Heb 5:14)

We often make decisions in life based on what feels good/right

Two Important Concepts in the first Two Verses (8-9) for Overall Applications

1. "Advice" – authoritative, inspired advice

different genre from commands/doctrine/history of other Scripture

divinely given – not "take it or leave it" or "if it seems good to you" advice

develops genuine maturity - recognizes decision making as important

informs (of both sides) AND persuades (where it leads /consequences)

importance of seeing for your self

"parental persona" knows you well and wants what is best for you

does need to be applied to circumstances correctly (Prov 26:4 or Prov 26:5)

not always absolutely true, but trains to see how/when/why true, esp 10-31

2. Audience – distinguish between "expressed" audience and "intended" audience

Expressed – Young Adolescent Male – "My Son"

early teenage boys not known for their discernment – stereotypically foolish

high school, college age guys typical inclinations ...

ignores rules, above warnings, disregards advice, denies consequences

inexperienced, needs guidance, easily seduced/manipulated

also capable and becoming responsible adult on his own

Intended Audience – all humanity, especially Believers

1 Peter 1:12; 1 Cor 10:11; Heb 12:5 "exhortation addresses YOU as SONS"

Privileged position of SON applies to all who will receive advice

Old and Young, Male and Female, Rich and Poor, etc.

Invited to learn from Vantage Point of this proverbial "son"

How might the obvious tendencies of a young male reveals our hearts too?

vividly portrays sin and temptation that are often more subtle or hidden



Wisdom and Interpretation – learning how to respond to different voices

Father/parental voice informs that there will be other voices, vying for attention

Wisdom involves discerning which voice to follow (note Gen 3:1,13)

### A Voice that Offers What We Want (10-19)

Warned about an Invitation that we will find Appealing

Structurally v10 encapsulates the whole and v19 summarizes the point

Verses 11-14 develops “if sinners entice you” to inform more about the invitation

Verses 15-18 develops “do not consent” persuading by explaining consequences

Likely response, “Come on, Dad, I’m not going to rob/kill someone, even if friends ask me to!”

as if we don’t need the warning ... but how does a young male respond to warnings?

Alice in Wonderland, “I give myself very good advice, but I very seldom follow it.”

reveals that the appealing invitation describes us more than we would like to admit

#### 1. Sin IS Seductive; Evil IS Enticing; We WANT Wickedness

We wish that if we knew something was horribly wrong and ugly, we wouldn’t want it

Pretending we aren’t attracted to atrocious behavior is a horrible lie and unhealthy

If it wasn’t appealing, we wouldn’t need to be warned

“Do Not Consent” because we WILL WANT to, even though feels good, fits desires

Explanation exposes how evil AND how enticing at the same time

we usually hide how wrong it is, if we admit we want it;

or, if we admit it is despicable, we hide how desirable it is us

Wisdom trains us not to trust our desires

#### 2. Social Conformity; Peer Pressure;

Invitation includes an opportunity for belonging ... to be one of the gang/group

strong appeal especially for young male on his own: gang, club, fraternity, etc.

still true when more sophisticated – groupthink, echo chambers, societal sins

Solomon Asch Conformity Experiment – agree with group when obviously off

Easier and more fun to Sin Together – join hands in evil, “everyone is doing it”

feels powerful and profitable but playing role of Hell/”Sheol” joining with Satan

Takes wisdom not to join and reflect sins of society around you (often blind to it!)

Especially when benefits “us” and we collectively ignore value of “them”

Examples especially of past slavery/racism and presently \_\_\_\_\_?

Remember how difficult, even dangerous, to be Rejected by Group/Society

most young men also inclined to foolish behavior, so where to be accepted?

society of sinners - “if sinners entice” – “ALL have sinned and fallen short...”

so not obvious “bad people”, also “good people” doing bad things

also not to avoid all people, but to avoid all sinning together

happens within churches, Christian groups, marriages, families (acceptable sins)  
Wisdom's Warning to Avoid What We Want is a Hard Ask – need to see consequences

Two Reasons Not to Consent because of the Consequences:

1. Wrong! “feet run to evil”
2. also Stupid! “make haste to shed blood ... lie in wait for their own blood”

sin is always stupid, always caught by our own cravings

The Whole Lesson is Generalized as Greed in verse 19 ... so ALL of us

Reminiscent of Jesus' Expositions in Sermon on the Mount

Desires are the Difficulty (note James 1:14-15)

Longing for More and Discontentment lead to devaluing others and destroying self  
“greed takes away the life of those who possess it”

Picked up in New Testament, Pointing to our Need for Christ

Proverbs 1:16 quoted in Isaiah 59:7 and Romans 3:15 – “no one right... all have sinned...”

Christ is the righteousness of God through faith for all who believe

“the innocent,” “ambushed,” his “blood shed,” went “down to the pit” FOR US  
though we consented to the allurements of sin, yet by faith in Christ forgiven  
share in his resurrection for new life and wisdom

Christ is our wisdom





Lesson 3: Desiring (part two)  
*saying yes when we want to say no*

A Voice that Offers What We Don't Want (20-33)

The other side of desire is being Uninterested in what Is Important  
the way a young male might ignore schoolwork/chores to play video games  
the way an immature youth turns up his nose at spinach, broccoli, healthy vegetables  
we have a tendency to ignore wisdom – so wisdom warns us even about that

Wisdom as a Woman (developed more in chapters 3, 8, and 9)

Personification fits with young male son – Provides corrective counterpart, “helpmeet”  
Personifies the very character of God whose Presence we Need  
but foolish youths have a tendency to look right past the good girl

Wisdom Calls to All

Out Loud, Marketplace, Busy Street Corner, Main Entrance  
open and public, can't get more obvious,  
parallels the Free Offer of the Gospel

Wisdom is NOT hard to find, secret or hidden, NOT only for most enlightened seeker  
“all the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him.” - Come Ye Sinners  
so Why isn't Everyone Wise? (note Psa 19, Rom 1:19-20)

Wisdom Isn't Loved

Virtue as “rightly order loves” according to Augustine  
James K A Smith develops the idea in *You Are What You Love*  
“How Long?” will loves be disordered and even reversed  
Bored with Truth – fad diets/workouts vs. moderate balanced diet regular exercise  
Not Interested in Normal – Namaan 2 Kings 5:11-12; 1 Thess 4:11  
wisdom gets in the way of what we want

Wisdom's Spirit

Inward loves are only flipped right and rightly ordered by inward change  
Incredible promise – wisdom herself entering, filling, redirecting life toward what is good!  
Messianic focus – Isaiah 11:1-5 (61:1) – branch of Jesse, spirit of Wisdom  
Promise of Pentecost – Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:38 (new life in Christ)  
Spirit and the Word – Eph5:18 + Col 3:1  
Can be received freely ... through Correction (repentance), which we hate

## Wisdom's Laugh

Ebenezer Scrooge sort of Experience – glimpse of future to motivate present change  
not fatalistic but opportunity for future

Wil E Coyote is not the Character to Identify with – know what's coming

Offer of Repentance will not Remain Open forever – coming calamity

Last Laugh, whose mocking / refusing to answer? (note change from “you” to “they”)

## Consequences of Choice

Calamity is not natural disaster but natural consequence of choices

“fruit of their own way ... fill of their own devices”

like v18 “setting an ambush for their own lives”

Calamity includes temporal consequences, and points to ultimate disaster, Hell.

we would always rather not think about it, but we are healthier when we remember  
wisdom always has us consider where our choices lead

C.S. Lewis - “There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, “Thy will be done,” and those to whom God says, in the end, “Thy will be done.” All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell.”

ultimately you get what you want ... so consider what you want and don't

## Reflections to Heed Wisdom Warnings

Connection between Desires and Listening

what captures your attention?

Lures and Fish(ing)

So many types developed for different situations ... what will get them (us) to bite?

Old Fish to the Young Fish

Brushing Teeth and Boring Truth ... but if you ignore, then bad consequences

Two Proverbial Quotes:

“All that glitters is not gold” – Aesop?

saying no when you want to say yes

“All that is gold does not glitter” – Tolkein

saying yes when you want to say no

Jeremiah 31:33 “For this is the covenant that I will make ... I will put my law **within** them, and I will write it **on their hearts**. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”