

The Wisdom of God

- 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.

Reading: Proverbs 1: 1-7

Theme: Wisdom and Instruction

Introduction

The subject of the Book of Proverbs is wisdom and instruction. The book offers practical, moral and spiritual truths in proverb form. There are 560 proverbs in total. Apart from chapters 30 and 31 all were written by Solomon in about 1,000 B.C. in Judah. The Hebrew title for this book is, “the Proverbs of Solomon.” Wisdom is the key word in this biblical book. Wisdom is the ability to live a godly life in an ungodly world. Another word for a proverb is a “saying.” The Book of Proverbs contains short pithy sayings. The Oxford English Dictionary defines the word proverb as a saying in general use held to embody a truth. Proverbs is doctrine and instruction to the wise and prudent.

Verses 1-4

Solomon begins by telling us the purpose of the Book of Proverbs. He writes in verse 2, “to know wisdom and instruction.” We are not only to know wisdom but we are to understand wisdom. This is made possible through the Holy Spirit that dwells in believers to teach and convict. To receive such wisdom means to pay attention to what God has written in his Holy Word. It is clear to see in the first few verses that Christians ought to have high moral standards and live in accordance. A wise person will allow God’s truths to rule in their heart.

Those who follow God’s wisdom find peace and contentment in life, the foolish on the other hand disregard God’s wisdom and ought pay the price.

Questions to consider

1. When has God’s wisdom been a blessing to you?
2. Has there been a time when you have not paid attention to God’s wisdom and suffered in some way as a result?

3. Why do you think many reject God's wisdom when there is so much blessings to be found in following them?

Verses 5-7

Solomon tells us that a wise person will increase learning and grow in understanding. The ability to increase knowledge by listening to instruction is very important in our Christian life. In Romans the Apostle Paul tells us, "be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).

As God's people we ought to fear him and show the correct reverence towards the Lord. This is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom. To reject the fear of the Lord is to act foolishly.

Questions to consider

1. How do we increase spiritual learning?
2. How do we grow in understanding?