THE PURPOSE, PERSON, AND PREMISE OF PROVERBS

**DATE: 7/20/14 pm -**

**TEXT: Proverbs 1:2-9**

**INTRODUCTION**

**vs. 2-9** outline the Purpose, Person, and Premise of the book of Proverbs

All of which have to do with Wisdom and Understanding

The Hebrew word translated *knowledge* in **v. 7** is a synonym for *wisdom*

This type of knowledge is not just possessing information;

But is the ability to apply that information in real life

Many people are what could be called *practical* fools

A practical fool might mentally acknowledge the presence of God,

But God plays no part in the way this person lives his or her life

A Wise Person will seek to understand Life's Problems from God's Point of view

Let’s pray and look at …

***“The Purpose, Person and Premise of Proverbs”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “PURPOSE” – vs. 2-4**

Is to Motivate and Equip us …

The 5-fold *Purpose* of Proverbs is set forth in **vs. 2-4**

**A. To ‘Obtain’ Wisdom**

**vs. 2a – *“To know wisdom and instruction;”***

The word ***“wisdom”*** is found 53 x’s in Proverbs

7 separate Hebrew words are translated as ***“wisdom”*** in our English Bible

The Hebrew word used here is the predominately used word throughout the book and means …

*Godly sense in all area of life*

The word ***“wise”***is also used over 60 x’s in the Proverbs and refers to …

*someone who has wisdom*

Thus, the First Purpose of the book of Proverbs is to

Obtain, Learn, and Know Wisdom

Prayer is involved in getting Wisdom

**James 1:5 – *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him”***

… As well as the *Experiences* of life

The aim of the book is to help us *acquire* and then *apply* God's Wisdom to the decisions and activities of daily life

The book of Proverbs is a Divinely Inspired Lesson Book about *Godly* Wisdom

The Right use of *Knowledge* comes from *Experience*

Knowledge - *general awareness or possession of information, facts, ideas, truths, or principles*

But Wisdom is using what we Know, in the right way

Experience is - *Knowledge remembered & applied*

Faith is - the Word of God Learned, Remembered and Applied

**To ‘Obtain’ Wisdom**

**B. To ‘Perceive’ Wisdom**

**v.2b – *“to perceive the words of understanding;”***

The word ***“perceive”*** means to *Comprehend*

Thus, the second Purpose of Proverbs is to …

*…* ***“perceive”*** the importance of *understanding*

Why is it important to understand?

The word ***“understand”*** or forms of it, are found almost as often as the word ***“wisdom”***

Throughout the book, the concepts of *wisdom* and

*understanding* are often used together

Though they are related, they are not synonymous

Wisdom *comes* from Understanding

The former is built upon the latter

Thus, the necessary connection to gaining Wisdom,

… is first obtaining understanding of the issues of life

**Proverbs 18:13 – *“He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him”***

**To ‘Obtain’ Wisdom**

**To ‘Perceive’ Wisdom**

**C. To ‘Apply’ Wisdom**

**v. 3 – *“To receive the instruction of wisdom…”***

***“instruction”*** – is the Teaching of a subject or a skill

***“receive”*** - is to Practice what is instructed

Application – is the use of information learned

The word ***“wisdom”*** here has the sense of acting *‘wisely’* or *‘prudently’*

We are to Practice …

***“…justice, and judgment, and equity;”***

The word ***“justice”*** is the Hebrew word for *righteousness*

Throughout the book of Proverbs,

… *wisdom* and *righteousness* are closely related

In fact, in this case, they are almost synonymous

*To do what is right, is wise, and to do wisely, is to do what is right*

Having Godly Wisdom results in right ***“judgment”* …**

Right Decision making

The words ***righteousness*** and ***judgment***are often found together in the Psalms and Proverbs

***Righteousness*** refers to righteous Principles or Practices

***Judgment*** refers to Right Decision making

Then there is ***“equity”***

The Book of Proverbs was given for the Purpose of …

… receiving the instruction of ***“equity”***

This word has the idea of *fairness*, *uprightness*, being *equitable …impartiality*

In other words, the thought is of making *just* and *fair* decisions

Particularly, as they pertain to others

Most people aren’t / can’t be impartial / they’re bias

Most People are Subjective – something based on their own point of view

Not Objective – something base on facts / truth

**To ‘Obtain’ Wisdom**

**To ‘Perceive’ Wisdom**

**To ‘Apply’ Wisdom**

**D. To Have ‘Discernment’**

**v. 4a – *“To give subtilty to the simple,”***

The word ***“subtilty”*** has the sense of someone being *savvy* or *prudent*

Savvy means *to be able to comprehend or understand what’s going on*

Prudent means *having good sense, careful to consider something, forward thinking*

The word ***“simple”*** has the general idea of being *naive*

Naive means *showing a lack of critical judgment, often as a result of youth and inexperience*

Thus, the Purpose of Proverbs in part is to give Discernment to those who may be naive

Such is usually the case of youth

This thought is made clear in our 5th Purpose

**To ‘Obtain’ Wisdom**

**To ‘Perceive’ Wisdom**

**To ‘Apply’ Wisdom**

**To Have ‘Discernment’**

**E. The ‘Value’ of Discernment**

**v. 4b - *“…to the young man knowledge and discretion”***

Youth are often led into sin (particularly immorality)

… Because of a lack of insight and discretion

Proverbs was written, in part, to instill Godly Wisdom

… This leads to Godly Morality

It is not a coincidence that this warning against immorality is found early and frequently

God has given us this Blessed Book so that our Children might learn basic issues of life without having to do so, the hard way

Whether you teach them or not; is up to you

Whether they Heed it, is up to them

**THE “PURPOSE”**

Next, we have -

**II. THE “PERSON” – vs. 5, 6**

In **vs. 5 & 6** we see to whom Proverbs was written

***“A wise man will hear…”***

Wise men will Listen

What is also clearly implied is that Fools will not listen to advice

**Proverbs 22:15a –** ***“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child;”***

**Psalm 14:1a- *“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God”*** (repeated in **53:1**)

But a Wise man will seek as much education as is possible

***“and will increase learning”***

Though, formal education, comes to an end

Learning should never end [Life-long Learners]

A Wise man will always be Listening and Learning

The second phrase ***“a man of understanding”*** is in reference to the **“*wise man”***

They are essentially one and the same

Thus, a Wise man will also seek the advice of Wise men

***“shall attain unto wise counsels:”***

***“Attain”*** means *to achieve a goal, to reach for*

Those who want to be Wise will seek out other Wise people

There is something godly and wise about seeking the counsel of those who have Wisdom and Understanding

**Proverbs 11:30b *– “…he that winneth souls is wise”***

Thus a Wise man will listen to advice, continually seek to learn, and will seek out wise counsel

**v. 6** – Here is the Point to Wisdom …

***“to understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings”***

Wise men will endeavor to Understand the Proverbs and their Meanings

He will seek out the Wisdom of others, for that which is difficult to understand

At times, learning and education becomes tedious and difficult

A Wise man will tough it out, Fools will quit

**THE “PURPOSE”**

**THE “PERSON”**

**III. THE “PREMISE” – vs. 7-9**

The Foundation for Godly Learning is now set forth

Wisdom and Knowledge -

**A. ‘Proceed’ from the Fear of the Lord**

**v.7 – *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction”***

Many have called this the Key verse in Proverbs

Only when someone knows God, and Fears the Power of His majesty, can True Education and Knowledge Develop

One of the follies of modern education is its evolutionary premises

Which leave the naive student without any knowledge of God, much less a fear of Him

Such education is built upon sand which has no foundation

Real education can never happen apart from a Fear of God

It’s not surprising then that people are ***“fool[ish]*** and***despise wisdom and instruction”***

Let’s look at the word ***“instruction”***

This ***“instruction”*** also has the sense of *discipline*

Discipline speaks of *Control, the ability to manage*

You can be sure; there is a direct correlation between Learning and Discipline

Someone who does not have control of themselves, or is unable to manage something, is going to struggle learning

The former always follows the latter

Discipline comes from *Training* (consistency, constant repeated actions, rote)

However, fools show contempt for both Wisdom and the Disciplining of one’s mind to learn

Parents will do their children a great favor by instilling into them the Disciplines of life

Education and Learning is not always fun or exciting

But a Disciplined *Will* …

(That part of a person that makes Decisions)

…enables someone to learn what must be learned

Wise men are Disciplined, the Foolish are not

In that regard, the sacred writer continues

Wisdom and Knowledge -

**B. Are ‘Promoted’ by Godly Parental Instruction**

**v. 8 - “*My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:”***

This is the first of 23 x’s we see Solomon writing to his son in the Proverbs

It’s clear that one purpose of his writing of the book (from a human perspective) was to give Godly Wisdom to his son

Which son is not named

It seems apparent that his eldest son did not pay much attention to the Godly advice of his father or of the book which he wrote for his benefit

Sadly, it may have been the backsliding of Solomon

later in life which had a profoundly negative influence upon Rehoboam – **I Kings 12**

Likewise, Solomon urged his son to pay heed to the principles taught to him by his mother

Contained herein is Profound Wisdom

That is, Wise children will pay attention to …

… the advice and rules set forth by their parents

It is therefore necessary for parents to instill discipline, obedience, and the principles of righteousness in their children at the earliest age

A child who despises such counsel is not well trained by his parents

Wisdom and Knowledge -

**C. ‘Produce’ a Bountiful, Rewarding Life**

**v.9 – *“For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck”***

The parents' desire is that their children obey what they have learned

Why? For they know that God's Truth will become a lovely ornament to beautify their lives

Like a crown on a king, or a necklace on a queen

**Titus 2:10 – [Be] *“adorn* [with] *the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things”***

Means to make the Bible beautiful to others by living a godly life

**I Peter 3:3, 4 – *“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;”***

***“But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price”***

Christian wives are exhorted to win their lost husbands by focusing on the imperishable beauty of Christian character rather than the artificial beauty of manmade glamour

I think this principle will work for all of us when it comes to winning the lost and wayward

**THE “PURPOSE”**

**THE “PERSON”**

**THE “PREMISE” OF PROVERBS**