

The Way of Wisdom – Proverbs: Wisdom for Life.

Proverbs 1:1-7

Sunday: 09/01/24 – Pastor Lenard Tavernelli

Fear the Lord to receive and grow in wisdom.

Overview

This week, Pastor Lenard opened up the series "Proverbs: Wisdom for Life." This week's message covered verses 1 through 7 and served as an introduction and guide for learning the wisdom provided for us in the book of Proverbs. Proverbs contains the words of Solomon and others; this collection is inspired canon. As we approach this book, we were reminded to be mindful of the context of the literary genre of a proverb. We are to remember that proverbs are brief teachings that convey truth and do not function as promises. We must not take a generalized statement that was meant to teach a life lesson as a hard fact that occurs 100% of the time. We must avoid misusing the proverbs so that we can read and apply them within the purpose they were designed for. The design of this collection of words is that we would daily grow in the Lord's wisdom. We are called to seek the Lord's wisdom and apply it. Solomon tells us in verse 7 that the beginning of wisdom and knowledge is the fear of the Lord. Pastor Lenard reminded us that this fear is not meant for us to dread our God or respond in some kind of moralism. We are to stand in awe of our God's wisdom and works, and our right response is to cast off our own wisdom and submit ourselves to Him.

Passage Outline

1. The Preliminaries (v1):
 - I. How to understand the proverbs:
 - The Context of Proverbs
2. The Purpose (v2-6):
 - I. For you to live wisely in God's World (v2-3)
 - II. For beginners to start living wisely (v4)
 - III. For experts to grow in living wisely (v5): Luke 2:52, Hebrews 5:8, James 1:2-4
 - IV. For all to learn in community (v6):
3. The Path (v7): Colossians 2:3, 6

Discussion Questions

- I. *How do you* describe the difference between biblical knowledge and wisdom?
 - a. How does not being connected to a Christian community hinder your growth?
- II. Pastor Lenard described the "wisdom" of our day as *Secularism*. This is a naturalistic worldview that leads to what he defined as a moral relativism where people decide for themselves what is right and wrong?
 - a. How does a worldview based on moral relativism show a rejection of God?
 - b. What does the fear of the Lord mean?
- III. Pastor Lenard laid out the purpose of Proverbs for both beginners and experts.
 - a. What is encouraging about the proverbs being for both young and old?
 - b. Has this introductory message to the book of Proverbs changed your view on the book? What steps will you take to increase your dependence on this wisdom book?
- IV. Did anything else stand out to you in the sermon?