

The Beginning of Wisdom

Proverbs 1:1-7

Synopsis

This first sermon in our Proverbs series serves as a bit of a setup for the entire series. As we explore the opening verses of Proverbs we'll gain a sense for what biblical wisdom is all about. Biblical wisdom is fundamentally distinct from the wisdom of the world. In fact, Proverbs 1:7 will go so far as to say that “the fear of God is the beginning of knowledge” (knowledge being a synonym for wisdom in this verse). In other words, unless a person comes through Christ, and enters into a relationship of grace with the one true and living God, they cannot every truly gain wisdom.

Sermon Outline

Main Idea: *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge*

1. The Context of Proverbs
 - a. What are Proverbs?
 - b. Who wrote Proverbs?
2. The Content of Proverbs
 - a. What is wisdom?
 - b. How do we receive wisdom?
3. The Conviction of Proverbs: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

Reflection & Discussion Questions

1. **Observing the Text:** First, make sure to have your group spend time looking at the text, and observing the text without reflecting on the sermon. You want the group to get familiar with the text, and the words, and the flow of thought. Keep making observations until you feel the group has a solid grasp of the entire text.
2. Discuss verse 7, which functions as the foundational verse of the entire, “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*” What is the significance of this verse theologically? What questions does this verse bring to mind in terms of engagement with the world?
3. Share with your group some of the questions in your life from the last year that have required wisdom. This is a good opportunity to be vulnerable with the group, and at the same time build a sense of why the study of Proverbs is so important.

4. When you need wise counsel, who are the two or three people in your life that you have historically turned to? Why have you gone to them? What qualities have they exemplified that have been so helpful for you?
5. Share an example of unwise advice that you have received before? What was the situation and who gave you the advice? If you took the advice and acted upon it, what were the consequences.

For Family Discipleship

Discuss the idea of “wisdom” with your children. After explaining “wisdom”, ask them what is situation in their life they need wisdom in (a situation in school, with a friend, or a sibling perhaps). Explain to them what the heart of wisdom is and how they can find it if they follow Christ.