Growing in Wisdom

Mike Moriarty

INTRODUCTION

- We don't just read the Bible to read, we read it to grow and apply and change.
- I thought it might be helpful to understand more about the book of Proverbs so that for the remainder of the year it'll be more meaningful and help us all to grow in wisdom.
- You need to understand what it is you're reading and what it is it's trying to teach you, and you can do that better if it's in smaller chunks.

1 Wisdom Literature: Job, Ecclesiastes and Proverbs

- Proverbs along with Job and Ecclesiastes is considered wisdom literature.
- Wisdom literature teaches us that man must be concerned with the common everyday relationships between man and God, man and man, and man and his environment.
- All of these dark themes are really meant to portray a much brighter message, which is be content with the blessings God has given you and put your trust in God.
- These themes in Ecclesiastes could cause someone to wonder, is God Himself wise and just? And the book of Job answers that question.

2 Hebrew Poetry and Parallelism

Psalm 24:1; Proverbs 15:1

- Parallelism is defined as two or more lines of Hebrew poetry that are in some way related to one another.
- Synonymous parallelism is defined as two lines which say the same thing but in different words.
- The earth is the Lord's and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.
- Antithetic parallelism is defined as the second line teaches the same truth as the first by making a contrast.
- A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

3 Metaphorical and Didactical Proverbs

Proverbs 1:1

- The Proverbs of Solomon, son of David, King of Israel.
- A mashal is the most common type of proverb, being a brief saying of keen discernment, making a point on practical experience.
- Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs rather than a fool in his folly.
- These are proverbs dealing with all phases of human life and behavior as well as man's relation to God.

- It's really to cultivate personal morality and practical wisdom, to regulate life and all its conditions in order to achieve the good life.

4 Universalism and the Wise, the Simple and the Foolish

Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 19:25; Proverbs 21:11

- This is written to mankind in general.
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.
- Proverbs really talks to three different classes of people the wise, the simple, and the foolish.
- There is hope for the simple. Proverbs teaches that they can be reclaimed through discipline.
- A fool or wicked person has no desire to do right in the sight of God.

5 The Practicality and Strict View of Retribution

Proverbs 14:4; Proverbs 22:4

- Its main concern is how to become wise and not become foolish.
- To be wise, you have to develop positive attitudes such as patience, generosity, modesty, trustworthiness, benevolence to the poor, and avoid pitfalls such as laziness, drunkenness, and loose women.
- Health, wealth, and honor, and long life are seen as visible evidence of divine approval.
- The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor, and life.

THE CHALLENGE

Do you pray for wisdom? We all should. Every one of us should be praying for wisdom.

MY NOTES