

Proverbs: Intro and 8-33, Monday, June 10, 2024

Review:

1:4 “gullible” or “simple”

Comment on “shrewdness or prudence, sound judgement based on experience. Matthew 10:16

Healthy distrust of people. “Trust but verify.” -Ronald Regan

1:5 “increase in learning” growth mindset and forward movement

Wisdom is the skill of learning from the mistakes of others instead of having to only learn the hard way. It certainly does not exclude LEARNING the hard way but the truly wise do the former more than the latter. One of our Pope family values is ‘FORWARD MOVEMENT. Growth and increase is in line with the Kingship of Jesus and the KOG.

1:7 is the key verse to the entire book. Fearing God as a result of His holiness is the BEGINNING. Modern evangelicalism has fallen into the cultural liberalism of acceptance above everything and believes that God is LOVE, LOVE, LOVE. The scripture says he is HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Isaiah 6). The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. There is no other starting point.

Structure of the rest of chapter 1:

8-19 The Enticement of Sinners

20-33 The Call of Wisdom

Commands in verses 8(2x), 10, 15(2x):

- Hear and do not abandon parent’s instruction (v8).
- Do not be willing to go with sinners (v10).
- Do not walk with them, withhold your feet from their path (v15).

General counsel is that you become like those you associate with. See also Psalm 1. This is primarily a warning against being with sinful people. In this case, they murder (v11) for the sake of wealth (v13)

The irony is that they are the ones who will lose their lives (v18-19). They will, as Jesus says, lose their souls (Matt. 16:26).

Chapter 2

Verses 1-5 are an “if, then” sentence. To “receive’ is to “treasure.” Listening and hearing and delighting are connected. Notice the verbs: make your ear pay attention (v2a) incline your heart (v2b), call out (3a), give your voice for (3b), seek (4a), search (4b)... then (and only then) will you understand the FEAR OF THE LORD. Remember 1:7 that the FOTL is the beginning of knowledge. Here the conditions of understanding the FOTL are dependent on the pupil seeking wisdom fervently, and passionately. He must not get distracted or dismayed. He must be diligent and unwavering, curbing and directing his passions rightly.

The reason for this is that true wisdom is not found in the world as one might expect. Even though, it is at the gates and city streets (1:20-21), it is not ultimately found there. True wisdom comes from YHWH (v6).

Notice the benefits listed starting in v7-12, then v20-22. Verses 13-19 are subordinate to v12 “the way of evil and the man who speaks perverse things.” It adds the strange and foreign woman in v16-19.

Concerning the benefits, wisdom is a shield (7b). It guards the path of justice (8a), God keeps the way of the Holy (8b). Understanding righteousness and justice, equity -every good track! (9) Pleasantness (10b).

V10b... Wisdom will be attractive. It will be tasteful to the man of understanding. It’s fruit is sweet and it’s root is deep (v21). Our prayer needs to be that our affections, our desires, be directed. “Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.” -Come Thou Fount. Jonathan Edwards wrote a treatise concerning true conversion and its marks as opposed to false conversion. The work is called “Religious Affections.” In it he talks about the true believer’s desires:

By affections, Edwards is speaking about the will’s own inclinations and dispositions to either approve or disapprove – to either affirm or loathe – stimulus as it is presented to an individual. The most fundamental concern in Edwards’s mind is to show how the Christian’s converted soul inclines toward the things of God (His holiness, loveliness, righteousness, personal piety etc.) while the soul of the unbeliever is primarily inclined to the self.¹

Again, remember that all of this is the result of seeking earnestly after wisdom with a view to understand the FOTL.

More benefits: discretion, discernment and deliverance (v11-12).

V13-15 is a description of the evil man. Let’s focus on v14... He is *glad* to do evil and *rejoices* in it. Again, you see the writer highlighting the desires.

V16-19 talk about the wayward wife and her seduction unto death. Again, I remind you what the text says and what the Bible repeats multiple times about sin. It ALWAYS PAYS... IN DEATH. It over promises and under delivers. It disguises itself as attractive, but it is an odorous stench. It will produce decay and putrid rot. The late pastor Adrian Rogers pointed out, "*Sin will take you farther*

¹ <https://edwardsstudies.com/2016/03/23/book-review-brief-the-religious-affections/#:~:text=It%20is%20helpful%20to%20clarify,love%20or%20hate%2C%20to%20affirm>

than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay and cost you more than you want to pay!" It always pays in death.

V20 picks up where 12b left off, namely with the benefits of wisdom. Let's focus on v21-22 concerning the land. Pay attention to the outcome of these two paths. One is established. One is secure. One thrives and has a legacy. One is perpetual. The other is temporary, exiled, banished and uprooted. Choose wisely men.

Closing Prayer

Father, You are good. Your mercy never fails. Your word is truth. Teach us to love wisdom and understanding. Show us the path of righteousness and justice. Let our hearts be inclined to treasure Your word. Let it be like honey to our soul. Shape us and mold us into the image of Your Son. By the Spirit, make us to love what is good and hate evil. Let it be said of us, that we are men of insight and faith. For Your sake, and in Jesus' name. Amen.