

**Content**

How do you choose a career? Or who to marry? Or whether you should get married? Or, if you are a parent, how do you determine whether you should home school or send your children to private or public school? Are there black and white rules to follow which will tell us in every situation exactly what to do? Or how do we live as a representative of Christ in our pluralistic society which can't even agree on issues of right and wrong? What do we need to navigate in such a world as this? In a word, wisdom. And the Book of Proverbs was written to give us authoritative guidance in wisdom for practical living. As such, it is a book of application. It is a very practical book. We begin this morning a series of sermons on the book of Proverbs. We will be exploring this book for the next several months. And this morning we will be introducing this book with an overview that will explore the goal of attaining wisdom under three headings. (1) The Necessity of Wisdom. Here we will explore the importance of wisdom and look at the primary of the book, King Solomon. (2) The Definition of Wisdom. We will explore the structure of the book and what wisdom is. (3) The Foundation of Wisdom, which is found in v.7 the motto for the entire book. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

**Gospel Connections**

Where is wisdom to be found? In 1 Cor. 1:30 Paul says, He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. And in Psalm 130:3-4 we read, "If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared." How do we obtain wisdom? Proverbs answer is the fear of the Lord. And how do we grow in the fear of the Lord? The answer of the Bible is the gospel. The good news that Jesus took upon Himself our foolishness, wickedness, rebellion and ignorance. So we are to humble ourselves and grow in the fear of the Lord that we may cultivate wisdom in our lives.

**Application and Discussion Questions**

1. What did you learn from this sermon? Specifically
  - a. What insights did you learn?
  - b. What questions do you have? Are there any areas you don't understand?
  - c. What areas of your life (be specific) do you sense God wants to change as a result of this passage of Scripture?

2. Source for this discussion question: Bruce K. Waltke, *An Old Testament Theology*

Rudyard Kipling wrote, "I keep six honest serving men (They taught me all I knew); Their names are WHAT and WHY and WHEN and HOW and WHERE and WHO." Applying these six little "men," answer these questions: What is wisdom? Why should I gain wisdom? How do I gain wisdom? Where can wisdom be found? Who am I: a simpleton, or wise?