

### **Content**

Having completed the preamble to the book of Proverbs we now move on to the first of a series of poems given in Proverbs 1:8-9 motivating us to pursue the course of wisdom. This morning we are looking at Proverbs 1:8-19, where two voices, two paths, two ways are given in the words of a father to his son encouraging and motivating him to embrace the worldview and values of wisdom. The implied question given to us is who will you listen to? And which community will you belong to? And this is done by showing us two things. First, wisdom's beauty. This is drawn out for us in vv.8-9, where we will explore these powerful metaphors along with their implications for our lives and ministries. Then, secondly, vv.10-19 show us wisdom's warning. And here we note that the brutal realities of life are not shied away from. This wise, loving father does not sugarcoat anything for his son, but presents him with the harsh realities of life along with their consequences. Again we are being asked who will you listen to?

### **Gospel Connections**

And, of course, the secret is the gospel. While the enticement of the wicked is that they will lie in wait for your blood, I love how Ray Ortlund puts it in his commentary that "Jesus is not lying in wait for your blood. He gave His own at the cross." And so listening to the voice of wisdom through Christ, who is wisdom for us, not only gives us life but also gives us a true community. And community is something we all long for. And the only possible way to have true community is through Christ and the cross.

### **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. Look at Proverbs 1:8-9. What do the metaphors of "A graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck" mean? What does this teach us about wisdom's beauty? Now read Romans 13:14. How does putting on the Lord Jesus Christ give you wisdom's beauty? What do you need to do this week to put on the Lord Jesus Christ?

3. Think about this in light of the church's mission to be a light to the nations. How does the church typically grow today? What are some ways that we can pursue loving our neighbors through the beauty of the church?