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# Instructions: Proverbs 1-9

## Lesson 5: Christ, Our Wisdom for Living

[http://www.clearcreekchapel.org/Ministries/Education\\_ABE.htm](http://www.clearcreekchapel.org/Ministries/Education_ABE.htm)

### The Proverbs of Solomon

The study of proverbs is called Paremiology and students of proverbs are called Paremiologists.

The book of Proverbs is a course of study designed to foster wisdom using literary-rhetorical devices (juxtaposition and metaphor).

### Proverbs

A proverb or masal:

A shorthand for **situations** in life that recur often enough that people feel the need to have a name for them.

A saying that stimulates **thought** and provides **insight**.

A saying that connects with the human capacity to think in terms of **comparisons**.

A saying that provides a model of **reality**, or better, a model for reality – using **analogy** to connect the saying with the actual life situation of the audience.

A **prophetic** saying that is designed to provoke a **response** in those who hear them and relate them to life.



## **Proverbs 1:1-7 – The Prologue**

The prologue shows us that Proverbs has an educational purpose.

Proverbs teaches us the skill of wisdom or right understanding

The theme of Proverbs is summed up as “the fear of the Lord.”

The prologue explains Proverbs threefold purpose:

To teach wisdom

To form character

To encourage an obedient relationship with the covenanting Lord

## **Highlights of the prologue**

The purpose of this collection is:

To know wisdom

To know instruction or discipline

To understand words of insight

To receive instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, equity

To give prudence

To give knowledge

To give discretion

To increase in learning

To obtain guidance

To understand the words of the wise

## **Words of Wisdom**

Instruction – includes the idea of some kind of formal education.

Discipline means ordered thinking.

Insight is the ability to see what is not openly obvious in meanings and relationships.

Prudence means shrewdness of thinking.

Discretion is the ability to make the right decision.

## **The fear of the Lord**

Fear of the Lord:

must be distinguished from any idea of terror.

is a phrase used constantly throughout Scripture to describe the appropriate response of human beings to the self-revelation of the God who has created and redeemed his people

is rational: it involves an objective revelation that can be taught and memorized.

is nonrational: it carries the notion of reverent awe, love, and submissive faith.

is an encounter with the covenanting and redeeming Lord God of Israel.



places Proverbs squarely within the covenant faith of Israel.

## **The beginning of knowledge**

Beginning of knowledge:

means the starting point

means what God reveals in his word is the only real basis for understanding what life is about.

## **Fools despise wisdom**

Fools, in Proverbs, are marked by:

Morally deficient character

Irrational behavior/stupidity

## **Testimony to Christ**

Solomon:

was the epitome and the climax of Israel's wisdom movement.

is a type of Christ as Israel's highest sage, or wise man.

was not only the son of David, but also the representative son of God.

is at the center of God's purposes to save his people.

Christ:

was the ultimate climax and fulfillment of Israel's wisdom movement.

is Israel's and humanity's ultimate sage, or wise man.

is not only the son of David, but also the Son of God.

is at the center of God's purposes to save his people.

### **The Gospel and Wisdom**

Israel's wisdom showed that the revelation of God's word needed to be assimilated into the whole of life.

The gospel shows us that the revelation of The Word as Christ Jesus needs to be assimilated into the whole of life.

The saving work of Jesus is about the restoration of our humanity in him.

The saving work of Jesus is about the redemption of the created order from its bondage to futility and decay due to human sin.

As Christians:

we must learn to live in a fallen world that is in the process of being redeemed.

we must learn what makes for the good, productive, God-honoring life.