

Proverbs 1 – Thursday, August 22nd, 2019

- By way of introduction to the book of Proverbs, I think it would be good to revisit four sections that comprise the Old Testament.

#1. The Pentateuch - 5 books - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

#2. Historical Books - 12 books - Joshua, Judges, Ruth, First Samuel, Second Samuel, First Kings, Second Kings, First Chronicles, Second Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.

#3. Poetic books - 5 books - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

#4. Prophetic books- 17 books –

- Major Prophets - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

- Minor Prophets - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

- Please know I spent a significant amount of time seeking the Lord concerning how it is that He would have me teach this book.

- This because it could be taught in a topical manner in that you could organize it and teach by topics of which there are many.

- While there is certainly merit to that, I sensed the Lord would have me teach it simply chapter-by-chapter and verse-by-verse.

1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: 2 To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding, 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; 4 To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion— 5 A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel, 6 To understand a proverb and an enigma, The words of the wise and their riddles. 7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- The first seven verses are essentially a preface of sorts in the sense that they summarize the purpose of the book of Proverbs.

- Namely, that of attaining wisdom, understanding and discernment concerning how it is that we are to live our lives in this world.

- I like how one so aptly put it, knowledge is just information, but wisdom on the other hand is the application of that information.

8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; 9 For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck. 10 My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. 11 If they say, “Come with us, Let us lie in wait to shed blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; 12 Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, And whole, like those who go down to the Pit; 13 We shall find all kinds of precious possessions, We shall fill our houses with spoil; 14 Cast in your lot among us, Let us all have one purse”— 15 My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path; 16 For their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed blood. 17 Surely, in vain the net is spread In the sight of any bird; 18 But they lie in wait for their own blood, They lurk secretly for their own lives. 19 So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners.

- Here, Solomon writes as a father to a son warning him about the dangers of going with the crowd, and the ways of the world.

- Sadly, many youth has paid a high price early in their lives and in so doing suffered the consequences for the rest of their lives.

- While there are the consequences of sin there's forgiveness for sin and God is able to restore the years the locusts have eaten.

20 Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. 21 She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: 22 “How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. 23 Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. 24 Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, 25 Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, 26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, 27 When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. 28 “Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. 29 Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, 30 They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke. 31 Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies. 32 For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them; 33 But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil.”

- Here, Solomon personifies wisdom in a powerful and poignant way as it relates to her raising her voice and calling the naïve.

- It's interesting to note that her warnings go unheeded and as a result, calamity and destruction ensue, as they will always do.

- However, in the last verse of this first chapter, there's hope for the one who does hear and heed living safely without fear of evil.