

## I. Proverbs: The Way of Wisdom

### A. Introduction to Proverbs

#### 1. The Way of Wisdom

- a. Theme: The wisdom books of the Old Testament teach us how to shape our souls so that we acquire the skill to lean and live successfully in this fallen world.
- b. Text: Proverbs 1:1-7
- c. Reading: Psalm 1

#### 2. The Gate to the Way of Wisdom: The Fear of the Lord

- a. Theme: The gate to the way of wisdom is the fear of the Lord – a proper reverence and awe for our great God.
- b. Text: Proverbs 1:7
- c. Reading: Proverbs 2:1-8

#### 3. Two Women, Two Ways, Two Destinies

- a. Theme: Woman Wisdom and Woman Folly call out to us, and we must choose which we will embrace – to our own blessing or destruction.
- b. Text: Proverbs 9:1-18
- c. Reading: Proverbs 3:13-18

#### 4. Christ the Wisdom of God (Seeing Christ in Proverbs)

- a. Theme: Jesus is the Wisdom of God Incarnate, fulfilling and exceeding the metaphors for wisdom in Proverbs.
- b. Text: 1 Corinthians 1:30
- c. Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

### B. The Character of the Wise

#### 1. The Heart of the Wise – Shaping Our Soul for Character

- a. Theme: The key to godly character is carefully guarding our hearts because the state of the heart determines character.
- b. Text: Proverbs 4:20-23
- c. Reading: Luke 6:43-45

#### 2. The Sexual Life of the Wise

- a. Theme: The wise person will avoid all sexual immorality, but will enjoy a passionate sexual relationship with their spouse.
- b. Text: Proverbs 5:1-23 (& Song of Solomon)
- c. Reading: Galatians 5:16-25

### 3. The Humility of the Wise

- a. Theme: The wise person will reject pride and embrace the humility that flows from recognizing our own unworthiness before God.
- b. Text: Proverbs 11:2
- c. Reading: Luke 18:9-14

### 4. The Teachable Heart of the Wise

- a. Theme: The wise have teachable hearts that hunger for instruction and even correction so that they may become even wiser.
- b. Text: Proverbs 13:1
- c. Reading: Psalm 119:33-40

### 5. The Self-Control of the Wise

- a. Theme: The wise cultivate self-control, building helpful traits and restricting harmful desires.
- b. Text: Proverbs 25:28
- c. Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

### 6. The Tongue of the Wise

- a. Theme: The wise realize the power of the tongue, and carefully guard and use it to bring blessing rather than curse.
- b. Text: Proverbs 18:20-21
- c. Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

### 7. The Integrity of the Wise

- a. Theme: The wise are called to lives of integrity – speaking truthfully, acting honestly, behaving reliably.
- b. Text: Proverbs 13:6
- c. Reading: Luke 1:46-55

### 8. The Path of Blessing, The Path of Trouble

- a. Theme: In general, those walking the path of wisdom will be blessed in every area, while those walking the path of the fool will find their lives filled with trouble.
- b. Text: Proverbs 14:11
- c. Reading: Psalm 112

## **II. The Limits of Wisdom – The Message of Job and Ecclesiastes**

### **A. Job – Part 1 – His Story**

1. Theme: Those who fear God and follow His ways can still face great suffering in this life.
2. Text: Job 1-2 (James 5:11)
3. Reading: James 5:7-11

### **B. Job – Part 2 – Wisdom on Suffering**

1. Theme: True wisdom is humble, knowing its own limits, and trusting in the limitless wisdom of God.
2. Text: Job 3-42 (1 Peter 4:19)
3. Reading: Romans 11:33-36

### **C. Ecclesiastes – The Conclusion of Wisdom**

1. Theme: True wisdom lives in light of eternity, fearing and obeying God, knowing that each of us will give an account to God.
2. Text: Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; 12:13-14
3. Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-23

Walking the Way of Wisdom: Shaping Our Soul to  
Fear God

Proverbs, Song of Solomon, Job, and Ecclesiastes