

# WISDOM

**PROVERBS 1 & 2**  
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# Solomon's Wisdom



- “...understanding to discern what is right...” (1 Kings 3:11)
- Traditional view: Solomon's writing (1:1, 10:1, 25:1)
  - Agur (30:1) and Lemuel (31:1) were pseudonyms of Solomon
- “one or another of the sayings are Solomon's' and one or another of the quite small collections go back to Solomon” Otto Eissfeldt
- **Age of Solomon:** national consolidations, organization and development of the temple staff, and the collection of traditional literary works, including wisdom sayings.

# From Last Week



- Read Proverbs 1 and 2
- Questions, based on this text:
  - What is the value of wisdom?
  - What is the Fear of the Lord?
  - How are we to respond to the requests of sinners?
  - How does wisdom respond to those who ignore her call?

# The Beginning of Knowledge



- Part of God's Salvation Story through the Davidic Line
- Purpose of Proverbs (vv 2-6) is to develop:
  - Moral Skill & Mental Acumen
- (v2) The Christian ought:
  - To crave learning
  - Actively engage in the process of growing in spirit, body, and **mind**
- (v3) "The wisdom offered here is practical" Allen P. Ross

# Righteousness, Justice, and Equity



- What does God give to grow the simple?
  - Prudence
- (hb: *ormah*) Discretion, subtlety, and wit. In Jos. 9:4, Foreign kings tricked Joshua into making a treaty.
- The prudence of Wisdom from God:
  - *sedeq*: Righteousness – based upon a standard (Deut. 16:18)
  - *mispāt*: Justice – fitting and proper decision
  - *mesarim*: Equity – that which is pleasing, that which is fair
- The disciple of the Book of Proverbs will acquire discipline that will produce a prudent life, and that life will be demonstrated by “doing what is right and just and fair.”
- Every effort of man to accomplish them falls woefully inadequate.

# Purposive Knowledge



- What does God give to grow the young?
  - Knowledge & Discretion
- *Knowledge (da'at)*
- Discretion (*mezimmah*) refers to devising plans or perceiving the best course of action for gaining a goal
- Combined they form a hendiadys that can be translated as “purposive knowledge” meaning the perceptive ability to make workable plans.

# The Enticement of Sinners



- Your responses
- What is Sheol?
- Our enemy seeks to destroy us, so he lures us to “join him” and in doing so, departing God.
- “Were it not for the Lord” (Psalm 124)
  - You cannot serve two masters (Matt. 6:24)
  - Either for me or against me (Lk. 11:23)
  - To be friends with the world is to be enemies of God (Jas. 4:4)
- (vv 17-19) it is watching your own trap being set... worse, it is setting it yourself.
- This is the danger of remaining simple. Don't do it!

# The Motto



- The Fear of the Lord
- What is it?
- Ultimately expresses reverential submission to the Lord's will and characterizes the true worshipper. A. P. Ross

# Proverbs 2



- Six Part Poem
- An admonition to receive wisdom
- The Consequences:
  - Knowledge of God and His protection
  - Discernment for living
  - Protection from evil men
  - Protection from the evil woman
  - Enablement for righteous living

# For Next Week



- Read Proverbs 3-9
- Questions:
  - With what does Proverbs 3 tell us that we are to honor God?
  - What does it feel like to “trust in God” rather than “leaning on your own understanding?”
  - What are we to do when caught in a lie?