"A STUDY OF THE PROVERBS"

INTRODUCTION:

Def. of "proverb" - a short and easily remembered saying taken from every day life designed to be applied to a specific life situation for successful living.

Generally, a proverb is a comparison or contrast of two ideas.

The purpose of Proverbs is basically to give wisdom - which is "the art of skillful living."

Three ideas are included in the word "wisdom" -

1) "Skill" - Exod. 28:3, 35:31 (Working Ability)

2) "Insight (perception)" - Prov. 1:2-5 (Knowing Ability)

3) "Applied knowledge" - the thrust of Proverbs (Living Ability)

Wisdom is needed! - SEE: Eph. 5:15-17
Cp. I Kings 3:5-12, 4:29-34

I. WHO GIVES WISDOM? (The Source of Wisdom)

Prov. 2:6 -

Cp. I Ki. 3:12 - to Solomon

Dan. 2:23 - to Daniel

Ja. 1:5 - to those in trials

II. HOW DO I GAIN WISDOM? (The Key to Wisdom)

1. A Fear of God (1:7; 9:10; Job 28:28)

How does a fear of God give wisdom?

Fearing God keeps you from those people and circumstances that will keep you from gaining wisdom.

Three robbers of wisdom:

1) Bad Company - (1:8-19) (listening to the wrong advice)

A fear of God will keep you from such company

2) Immorality - 2:1-22 (being preoccupied with the wrong thoughts)

3) Pride - 3:7 (thinking you know better than God)

Three types of unwise people described in Proverbs (none of which fear God):

1) The "Fool" - hates (despises) wisdom
(cp. 14:16; 17:10, 16)

2) The "Scorner" - mocks (ridicules) wisdom
(9:7-9; 15:12)

3) The "Simple One" - neglects (ignores) wisdom
(7:6-23; 9:4; 14:15; 27:12)

2) A Love for Truth
(4:5-8; 8:10-11, 17, 33-36)

III. WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF WISDOM? (The Fruits of Wisdom)

SEE: James 3:17-18

You will:

1) Avoid bad company (1:18-19; 4:10-19)

2) Avoid sexual promiscuity (2:1-22; 5:1-23)

3) Trust and honor God (3:1-12)

4) Be honest, righteous and hard-working

5) Acquire good friendships

6) Earn and manage your money profitably

7) Conquer sins of the flesh - evil tongue, laziness, gluttony, lust, etc.

8) Make the most of your life and time

9) Produce Godly children

10) Have a contented home

IV. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF WISDOM? (The Advantages of Wisdom)

SEE: Proverbs 3:1-4, 13ff

1) A Long life (v. 2a; cp. v. 16)

2) A peaceful life (v. 2b)

3) A God-pleasing life (v. 4)

4) A respected life (v. 4) - a good reputation

5) A happy life (v. 13, 18)

6) A prosperous life (v. 16-17; cp. Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:1-3)

7) A worry-free life (v. 21-26)

CONCLUSION:

Key Words in Proverbs -

1. "Hear"
2. "Forget not"
3. "Forsake not"

Some of the Themes to be studied in Proverbs:

God's Wisdom regarding: Friendships

Money

the Tongue

Humility

Sexual immorality

Laziness & Discipline

Gluttony

Justice

Sin

Marriage & Family

Bad company

Surety (co-signing)

Honesty

Possessions

Self-Control

Righteousness

Work

Child Discipline

We need Wisdom!

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(Living Ability)

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