

Understanding the Book of Proverbs through a Law/Gospel lens

Intro & Chapter 1

All of Scripture is given to us for the purpose of leading us to _____. Some books it is easier to see this purpose in than others.

Proverbs is primarily a book of _____, a book of law. We must remember that the law is not an enemy to the gospel but is rather a guardian meant to lead us to the gospel (Galatians 4:1-2).

Law leads us to Christ (for _____) and then Christ leads us back to law (for practical _____).

There are several ways that this book of Proverbs can lead us to Christ:

As the True _____ & Eternal _____-Christ is the Author (book teaches us of His divinity)-not the book of a mere man (Solomon)-Wisdom is here speaking to us & Christ is the Wisdom of God-1 Cor. 1:30. Wisdom is calling us...Christ calls to us.

As the True _____-In His earthly ministry we see Christ teaching us the wisdom of God (Matthew 12:42) and His Apostles (sent ones) proclaim to us His wisdom.

As the True Covenant _____-Christ is the Man of Wisdom who never walked in the paths of folly but did all things well (Mark 7:37).

Chapter 1

Verse 1-verse is loaded with Christ

"The proverbs of Solomon"-a _____, needy of God's grace found hidden in Christ (sacrifices needed) yet pardoned and accepted by God because of his faith in the promises

"The proverbs of Solomon"-a _____, desperately needy of wisdom (1 Kings 3:1). He must ask God for wisdom because he did not possess it naturally and God, who loves to bestow good gifts on His children in and through Christ, is gracious to him (1 Kings 3:5-9).

"...son of David"-a great son of David, rich and wise, who ruled for a long time, but he was _____ the Promised Son of David, possessor of all, the very Wisdom of God, whose Kingdom shall have no end. The Son who sits on David's throne, whose Kingdom shall have no end is not Solomon, but the Lord of Glory, Jesus the Christ.

"...king of Israel."-Solomon's kingdom did not last even for 5 years after his death. Jesus Christ is the King not only of Israel but the _____ of _____, whose kingdom will endure forever.

Verses 2-6- The purpose of this book is to know _____. The Apostle Paul declares that he wants the saints to grow in *"full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."*

To know wisdom one must come to know _____. Understanding the proverbs on a mere surface level is not wisdom, seeing Christ in them is necessary. For Christ is the Wisdom of God. One can read the Proverbs and still be a fool. The treasures that Wisdom offers are found on in Christ. Christ is the Pearl of great price. We will see how to do this as we go on

Verse 7- The fear of the Lord refers to a _____ and respect that one has for God. The greatest evidence of a fear of the Lord is a submission to that which He has revealed to us in the Scriptures. To fear the Lord, one must accept and believe the message of the gospel that God has revealed.

A _____ rejects Christ. If you desire to have the knowledge of God, you must believe the message of God (Colossians 2:3).

Verses 8-9 Now we come to the first command (**Law**). And as we come to this command let it _____ us. Let us consider how much sin has made fools of us all. We all are unruly, and foolish children who do not by nature heed the instruction of our Father nor our earthly parents (Romans 3:10-18). We are slaves to our sinful rebellious will. We, by nature, desire the things contrary to our Father's good will. We are all deserving only of the reward of a fool (Proverbs 26:3).

If Law was all we had, we would all be crushed here. For whom among us has heeded the voice of our Father. Who among us has obeyed the _____ of _____.

But we are not only given Law but also the _____ of salvation (**Gospel**). From the very beginning where sin first entered the human soul we see a promise given by God. A way of escape from punishment for our folly. A way of peace has been made, a way of rescue from the house of folly (the house of death).

Christ as an obedient Son, pleased the Father in all ways (Matthew 3:17 & The Resurrection), including His subjection and obedience to His earthly parents (Luke 2:51-52). By union with Him, through faith alone, we are now seen by God not as we are by nature (those who did not hear their Father's instruction) but as we are by _____ (those who have heard and obeyed His voice). The graceful garland of Christ's righteousness is about our head and the beauty of His purity is a pendant hanging from our necks.

Once we understand the goodness of God in Christ to us, the Spirit, builds in us a greater desire to _____ the voice of our Father and obey (**Law**)...not for righteousness, but as a fruit of thanksgiving and love.

Verses 8-19-Sin is enticing (it _____ to us). It promises thrill, satisfaction, and happiness. But in reality, it is like a fish being led to bite on a hook, the fish thinks it is getting something it desires but in the end it is their death that they have swallowed.

The enemy of our souls is not stupid. He will use _____ to try and persuade us to evil. It is often easier for us to give into the fruit of evil if it comes to us from the hand of someone we know.

However, the evil that men devise come _____ upon them. Rebellion against God in the present leads only to judgement in the future.

Our sin and our lust for sin only has earned us _____. For the wages of sin is death (**Law**). But God in His infinite mercy has sent His Son to die for those who are "greedy for unjust gain". Christ had His life taken away (the curse for our sin) so that we might know the blessings of life (**Gospel**). A growing faith in God's gospel creates in us a desire to depart from evil and walk not in the paths of the wicked but in the paths of uprightness, aka godliness (**Law**).

Verses 20-33-Wisdom also calls to us and cries for us to come to her to know _____. Wisdom warns us that to reject her is to bring death and judgement. However, whoever listens to her call and comes to her finds safety, rest, and salvation.

Law-we are by nature hard-of-hearing _____ who heed not Wisdom's call. **Gospel**-by the power of the new birth we hear and see and come to Christ so that we might find safety, rest, and salvation. **Law**-Trusting in Christ leads to a desire to heed His instruction, which is the way of wisdom.