

## God's Wisdom for Our Lives – Week 2

### Two Ways to Live

#### Review

1. Genre: Wisdom
  - a. Common sense is often required
  - b. Individual proverbs are *normally* true now
  - c. Individual proverbs employ poetic imagery
  - d. Many individual proverbs are partial in themselves
  - e. Gospel-Centered humility is required
  - f. The Proverbs, like the law, ultimately point us to Christ
  
2. Over-Arching Theme: Wisdom
  - a. The Basic concept behind wisdom is skill...
  - b. Biblical wisdom is “the skill of living in reference to God” or “the skill of living in a way that pleases God”.
  - c. The foundation of Biblical wisdom: The fear of the LORD (Prov 1:7, 9:10, 31:30)  
The Fear of the Lord is the controlling principle for understanding and applying the proverbs.
  
3. The fear of the LORD:
  - a. A reverential awe and respect that is characterized by trust (Exodus 14:31)
  - b. I’m sure He’s for me, but I’m sure I don’t want to be against Him (Ps 34:9, Ps 76:7)
  - c. Love and obedience (Deut 10:12-13)  
You cannot fear God without loving Him, and you cannot love God without fearing Him
  
  - d. Definition: “The fear of the LORD is a proper awareness of my smallness and God’s greatness, of my weakness and His power, of my utter neediness and His saving love... it is the sober response of a people delivered from death and whose lives depend upon the saving mercy of God. And this response of fear and awe translates into a daily life characterized by God-oriented wisdom.” – Joshua Blount, CCEF
  
  - e. Simple Definition: “Lord, I trust you, and what you say goes, no matter what I think or feel”.
  
4. A covenantal book: Proverbs shows us what it looks like to embrace God’s covenant and live it out in everyday life situations.
  
5. Proverbs themselves do not make you wise... they show us what wisdom in-action looks like.
  
6. We actually need wisdom to understand and apply the proverbs, otherwise, they can be misused or cause harm.
  
7. The instruction in Proverbs is for all of us (Prov 1:4-5)
  
8. The fear of the Lord leads to godliness in everyday life.
  - a. Connecting salvation to the ordinary: “Until I can trace the connection between the saving deeds of God and the way I live my life, I haven’t understood the God who saved me.”
    - i. All of life belongs to Him...
    - ii. Salvation results in living in reference to God. This begins with the fear of the Lord, and it moves into every nook and cranny of existence.

**Key Theme:** There are only two ways to live...

- ❖ There is a way to life. That way is called wisdom, which is living in reference to God, in the fear of the Lord.
- ❖ There is a way to death. That way is called folly, which is rejecting or living without reference to God.

**Read Proverbs 9:1-6, 10-18**

9. What's being compared in this chapter?
  - a. According to verse 6, what's necessary in order to proceed in the way of understanding?
    - i. What does that way/path lead to (vs 6a, vs 11)?
  - b. Consider verse 15-16... Who is the woman of folly calling to? What are they doing, and what is she asking them to do instead?
    - i. What do those who "turn from straight paths" find in her house (vs 18)?
10. How does this picture of the two women calling/inviting illustrate that there are two ways to live?
11. What does verse 17 tell us about the path called folly? Why is it important for us to recognize this? (Consider Proverbs 14:12)
12. What do verses 1-3 tell us about the path called wisdom?
  - a. Why is wisdom depicted as prepared, thoughtful, and ready?

**Read Matthew 7:24-27...**

13. Who is the wise man, and what does it mean to build his house upon the rock?
14. Who is the foolish builder, and what does it mean to build his house upon the sand?
15. How is this passage in Matthew connected to the theme in proverbs that there are only two ways to live?
16. How does the statement "there are only two ways to live" relate to our salvation/position before God?
17. How does this statement "there are only two ways to live" relate to the details of our lives?
  - a. How might it be naïve or "simple" to suggest that this is over-stated?
  - b. Can you provide specific examples of how we come to the crossroads of these two paths daily?
18. Consider the areas of your life where you are experiencing disorder or difficulty... which path do you tend toward in these areas?
  - a. What would change if you approached these issues in a God-fearing manner?