

Proverbs – Outline

Basic Structure

Song of Wisdom – Proverbs 1-9

Proverbs (Wisdom) – Proverbs 10-31

Seven Collections (Waltke)

Collection 1 – Preamble and Prologue (1-9)

Collection 2 – Proverbs of Solomon (10:1-22:16)

Collection 3 – 30 Sayings of the Wise (22:17-24:22)

Collection 4 – More Sayings of the Wise (24:23-34)

Collection 5 – Proverbs of Solomon

collected in Hezekiah's days (25-29)

Collection 6 – Words of Agur (30)

Collection 7 – Words of King Lemuel

and his mother (31)

Preamble and Prologue

Proverbs 1-9

1. Preamble – purpose and presupposition
Proverbs 1:1-7

2. Ten messages to his son

Message 1 – Proverbs 1:8-19 – An issue of life and death
Message 2 – Proverbs 2:1-22 – The protection of wisdom
Message 3 – Proverbs 3:1-10 – The blessings of wisdom
Message 4 – Proverbs 3:11-35 – The blessing of discipline

Message 5 – Proverbs 4:1-9

Message 6 – Proverbs 4:10-19

Message 7 – Proverbs 4:20-27

Message 8 – Proverbs 5:1-23

Proverbs 6:1-19 (appendix to Lesson 8)

Message 9 – Proverbs 6:20-35

Message 10 – Proverbs 7:1-27

3. Two messages from Wisdom

Message 1 – Proverbs 1:20-33 – An urgent appeal

Message 2 – Proverbs 8:1-36

4. Rival invitations from Wisdom and Folly

Proverbs 9:1-18

Introduction – Proverbs 1:1-7

The purpose.

- ▶ To know wisdom and instruction
- ▶ To receive instruction in wise living

The recipients

- ▶ The simple – unformed child
- ▶ The wise – the beginner in wisdom

The fundamental requirement

- ▶ The fear of the LORD – salvation
 - ▶ Wise living by the believer in an evil world
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Folly and Wisdom

The nature of folly

- ▶ Devoid of wisdom – simpletons, fools, mockers
- ▶ Evil – murderous men
- ▶ Enticing – an attractive harlot
- ▶ Darkness – ignorance
- ▶ Incredibly dangerous – the pathway to eternal hell

The nature of wisdom

- ▶ Distinct from folly – foreign to human capacity.
 - Commands you cannot do
 - Truth you cannot conceive
- ▶ Good
- ▶ Moral/Ethical
- ▶ Knowledge of God and His ways
- ▶ Blessed – an ornament of grace – a tree of life
- ▶ Exclusively for the believer

Lesson 3: The Pursuit of Wisdom

Proverbs 4-5

Message #5: The priority of wisdom
Proverbs 4:1-9

Message #6: The safety of wisdom
Proverbs 4:10-19

Message #7: The heart of wisdom
Proverbs 4:20-27

Message #8: The faithfulness of wisdom
Proverbs 5:1-23

Message #5 – Proverbs 4:1-9

The priority of wisdom

A grandfather's message (4:3-4)

- ▶ To his “sons”
- ▶ Gain insight and get good precepts
- ▶ Keep my commandments in your heart and live

Get wisdom, get insight

- ▶ Duplicated message (4:5, 7)
- ▶ Language of value – Get = buy
- ▶ Language of affection
- ▶ Language of priority

The outcome or benefit.

- ▶ She will keep/guard you
- ▶ She will exalt and honor you.
- ▶ An ornament of grace

Message #6 – Proverbs 4:10-19

The safety of wisdom

The call to hear and live

The way of wisdom

- ▶ Paths of uprightness
- ▶ No stumbling or falling
- ▶ It is your life

The way of the wicked

- ▶ Do not go there
- ▶ The zeal of the wicked
 - Insomnia – eager to do evil
 - Insomnia – eager to corrupt
 - Eat and drink evil

Contrasting paths

- ▶ The path of the righteous – rising sun
- ▶ The path of the wicked – deep darkness

Message #7 – Proverbs 4:20-27

The heart of wisdom

“The anatomy of discipleship” (Waltke)

- ▶ Ears
- ▶ Eyes
- ▶ Heart
- ▶ Mouth/tongue
- ▶ Feet

The heart is life for the body

- ▶ Mind
- ▶ Spirit
- ▶ Affections
- ▶ Served by the members
- ▶ Directs the members

The heart keeps to the pathway

- ▶ Wisdom must be in the heart
- ▶ The heart must be guarded

Message #8 – Proverbs 5

The faithfulness of wisdom

The father's concern for his son

- ▶ Sexual immorality
- ▶ An expanded audience (Proverbs 5:7)
- ▶ The battle for the mind

The threat to the son

- ▶ The forbidden woman – strange woman
- ▶ The subtle enticement
- ▶ The not so subtle outcome
- ▶ No understanding of the path of life

The father's warning to his sons

- ▶ Listen to the words of my mouth
- ▶ Stay away
- ▶ Consequences – Dishonor & Slavery
- ▶ Agony at end of life – utter ruin

The cause for failure

- ▶ Hated instruction – discipline
- ▶ Despised reproof

The father's exhortation

- ▶ Drink water from your own cistern
- ▶ Rejoice in the wife of your youth
 - Be intoxicated with her
 - Remain faithful

The conclusion

- ▶ The LORD knows the ways of man
- ▶ The bondage of sin
- ▶ The want of discipline
- ▶ Great folly leads astray

Proverbs 1-5

Message #1: An issue of life and death (Proverbs 1:8-19)

- ▶ Wisdom's first call: An urgent appeal (Proverbs 1:20-33)

Message #2: The protection of wisdom (Proverbs 2)

Message #3: The blessings of wisdom (Proverbs 3:1-10)

Message #4: The blessing of discipline (Proverbs 3:11-35)

Message #5: The priority of wisdom (Proverbs 4:1-9)

Message #6: The safety of wisdom (Proverbs 4:10-19)

Message #7: The seat of wisdom (Proverbs 4:20-27)

Message #8: The faithfulness of wisdom (Proverbs 5:1-23)

The New Testament summary: Romans 12:1-2