Proverbs

A father instructs his son
  ▶ A battle for heart and mind
  ▶ A life and death battle

A universal message
  ▶ The way of life v. the way of death
  ▶ Proverbs and the Gospel of Jesus Christ
    – Blessing comes to those who are wise
    – Wisdom requires the fear of the LORD – salvation
    – The wise are protected from sin
    – Proverbs calls for the wise to show wisdom
    – Proverbs emphasizes the tools of sanctification
    – Proverbs teaches the role of discipline
  ▶ Categories of humanity
    – simple
    – fool
    – scoffer
    – wise
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 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 – The priority of wisdom
   Message 6 – Proverbs 4:10-19 – The path of wisdom
   Message 7 – Proverbs 4:20-27 – The seat of wisdom
   Message 8 – Proverbs 5:1-23 – The faithfulness of wisdom
     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
Message #8 – The faithfulness of wisdom

Stay away from the strange or forbidden woman.
  ▪ A deceptive invitation to hell
  ▪ A life of dishonor, slavery, utter ruin

Delight in the wife of your youth – be intoxicated in her love
  ▪ Drink water from your own cisterns – Jeremiah 2:11-13
  ▪ Intoxication
  ▪ James 4:4

Addendum to Message #8
  ▪ No new call to hear
  ▪ Context – Proverbs 5:21-23
    – The LORD examines the ways of man.
    – The bondage of sin
    – The deception of great folly
  ▪ Three illustrations
    – Surety
    – Sluggard
    – Sleazebag (Seven abominations)
MESSAGE #8 ADDENDUM: The bondage of sin
PROVERBS 6:1-19

A surety (6:1-5)
- A snare or trap
- Urgently seek release
- An illustration – trapped gazelle or bird
- Pending ruin

A Sluggard (6:6-11)
- The lesson of the ant
- The sluggard rebuked
- Pending poverty

A Sleazebag (6:12-19)
- Overtly evil
- Deceptive
- Pending calamity
- 7 abominations to the LORD
  - Five body parts – eyes, tongue, hands, heart, feet
  - Two behaviors – false witness, discord

Three ways of living in the world.
- An unequal union
- Negligent conduct
- Abominable activity
- Protected by the father’s wisdom
MESSAGE #9: The beauty of wisdom
Proverbs 6:20-35

The father’s exhortation
  ▶ The protection
    – Father’s commandments; mother’s teaching
    – In your heart
    – On your neck
  ▶ 24/7 protection
  ▶ A way of life
  ▶ Preservation from the evil woman

The temptation of the evil woman
  ▶ Smooth tongue
  ▶ Beauty

The consequence – false beauty
  ▶ Bait and switch
  ▶ Coals of fire
  ▶ No leniency
  ▶ Self destruction
  ▶ Wounds and dishonor
  ▶ No compensation
MESSAGE #10: The way of life in wisdom
Proverbs 7:1-27

The father’s exhortation
  ▶ Keep or treasure my words
    – Incline your ear (5:1-2)
    – Bind them in your heart (6:21)
    – Treasure (7:1-4)
  ▶ Protection from the forbidden woman
    – Stay away (5:8)
    – Do not desire her beauty (6:25)
    – Do not go to her (7:26)
  ▶ The key to perseverance – the Word of God

The simpleton goes to the forbidden woman
  ▶ Simple – lacking sense
  ▶ Taking the road to her house
  ▶ Going in the evening – the time of darkness

The temptation – the woman meets him.
  ▶ Dressed as a prostitute
  ▶ She lies in wait
  ▶ She appeals to his fleshly lusts
  ▶ The cloak of religion
  ▶ An offer of pleasure
  ▶ An offer of safety

The acceptance
  ▶ An ox to the slaughter
  ▶ Ignorance

The final appeal (7:24-27)
  ▶ To future generations
  ▶ The way of life in wisdom
  ▶ The certainty of death
A contemporary message
   ▶ There is a battle for the soul
   ▶ The issues are life and death
   ▶ Tempted by the pathway – ignorant of the destination

The proper beginning: faith in Christ
   ▶ The fear of the LORD

The resources
   ▶ The wisdom of God
   ▶ The instruction of God

The desired response
   ▶ Trust in the LORD with all your heart . . . lean not unto your own understanding
      – Proverbs 3:5-6
   ▶ Despise not the chastening of the LORD
      – Proverbs 3:11-13