

# 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 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 – 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

# THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

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