

Content

Just as our US Constitution has a preamble before the main document, the book of Proverbs contains a preamble before the main content of the book itself. And Proverbs 1:1-7 serves as the preamble to the book as a whole. And the focus of the preamble is to exhort, motivate and encourage us to get wisdom. It serves as a preamble in two ways which we explore this morning. First, by giving us the Purpose of Proverbs. That is our first point in our outline. The purpose is summarized for us in v.2 where it says, ***“To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight.”*** Verses 3-6 then expand on this summary showing us how wisdom will shape both our thinking and ultimately our character. The second point is The Principle of Proverbs which is stated in v.7, ***“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*** Of course, this challenges us with the question, which are we, growing in wisdom or living in our foolishness?

Gospel Connections

So how do we grow in the fear of the Lord in order to grow in wisdom and character? A commentator I am reading and am indebted to on the book of Proverbs is Raymond Ortlund, who writes, *“Our true crisis is not informational but relational.”* In other words, while the correct information is absolutely necessary, it is not enough. The right information will always point us to the right relationship. A relationship with the One who is wisdom in person form. Again the book of Proverbs is always pointing us to the gospel. The gospel that tells us that wisdom in Person form loved us enough to bear our foolishness on the cross so we could have as a gift a relationship with the One who is wisdom.

Application and Discussion Questions

1. What did you learn from this sermon? Specifically
 - a. What insights did you learn?
 - b. What questions do you have? Are there any areas you don't understand?
 - c. What areas of your life (be specific) do you sense God wants to change as a result of this passage of Scripture?

2. Look at Proverbs 1:2-6 and James 1:2-7. What is the relationship between perseverance and wisdom? How do these two qualities build Christian character and maturity?

3. Read Matthew 11:28-30. What is the rest for your soul that He is giving? If the fear of the Lord is an awe, wonder, reverence, openness, eagerness and total embrace of God in your life, how can Jesus giving you rest for your soul help you to pursue and grow in the fear of the Lord?