

PROVERBS 1:1-19

James 1:5-8 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Lately, in my own personal life I have been asking the Lord for Wisdom.

Sometimes I feel ill-equipped to be a father, to be a husband, to be a better employee, and even a pastor.

Now like James says; if we lack wisdom than we should ask.

And in this asking not to ask doubting, or amiss, or even flippantly.

“God, I know your busy, but can you help me with this situation, if you can, you know, there are more important things going on in this world.”

That is not how we are to ask.

We ask expecting God to answer, to trust.

We are men of God; we are who are called to lead.

God will grant our request; we just have to be looking for his reply.

Understand this; James was saying that the wisdom would be granted through the trials of life.

So if you want wisdom, expect your school master to be tribulation.

It seems to be through the hardships of life our ears listen more carefully to God's instruction.

Well like I said earlier, I am seeking God's Wisdom.

I imagine us as men, and the spiritual leaders of this church could benefit greatly from the Wisdom found in this book.

These Proverbs were mostly written by King Solomon, David's son.

Remember when he was still a youth he came to fill his father's throne.

He was so humbled and fearful of the position; he had great respect for the enormity of his calling.

He was a young man, some think in his 20s.

We see this by his response to his encounter with God in [2 Chronicles 1:7-127](#) On that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

8 And Solomon said to God: "You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place. 9 Now, O Lord God, let Your promise to David my father be established, for You have made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. 10 Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?"

11 Then God said to Solomon: "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life — but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king — 12 wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like."

So Solomon like many of us here this morning was seeking wisdom in his humility.

And God because he did not seek riches and fame, will grant that to him as well.

I imagine they were a byproduct of his great wealth of knowledge.

So we see of this young man Solomon in **1 Kings 4:32**
He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five.

Now that is a monumental feat.

Right now what is a Proverb that you can come up with, that is original to you?

It is an incredible task to come up with a Proverb, let alone 3000. Chuck Smith says in all his life, he could only come up with 5.

My dad when I was younger, and I would tell him, dad I just need to get out of Phelan, then my life would be better, he would say son "Wherever you go, there you are." Reminding me that I am the problem.

You see Proverbs are short sayings that really bring home the point.

Solomon wrote 3000 of these very clever sayings.

And as we go through them we will find that they are truly God inspired.

A Proverb is profound saying, maxim, or oracular utterance requiring interpretation.

You see my dad could have simply said "Son you are a wreck." But instead he used a saying that when I interpreted it, I had a better understanding of what he said.

Now this book Proverbs is part of the Hebrew Poetic section of the Bible, we have in that section Job, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon and of course Proverbs.

Hebrew Poetry involves multiplying and building thoughts through repetition, contrast, restatement, and parallel. Chuck Smith

There is also a pattern of couplets, or two parallel Statements made, then restated in a different matter or a contrast given.

Hebrew Poetry grabs our imagination, and forces us to come to an understanding in a more enlightened way.

You see when something is told to us directly, we kind of tend to file it away with all the other facts we gather throughout the day.

But when our imagination is used, and we make the picture and point in our own minds, the conclusion or point tends to be more meaningful, and we remember the lesson easier.

Like my father's proverb. I still remember to this day, I can't run from my problems,

because I am the problem, wherever I go there I am.

So let's get into the scriptures now as the Author will introduce himself.

The Beginning of Knowledge

1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

Next Solomon will give the purpose of these writings.

2 To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding, 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; 4 To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion — 5 A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel, 6 To understand a proverb and an enigma, The words of the wise and their riddles.

So we have here the purpose.

We understand through his introduction, his purpose is not to just plainly fill our heads with knowledge.

Solomon could have easily just laid out some random facts about life, some statistics, and some obvious observations.

But his purpose is to give understanding, to give instruction on values that matter in life. Such as Justice, Judgment, even equity.

These are all relevant themes for us today.

We see what is happening in in our country; we see man is not showing justice to one another, the country is dividing on race lines, issues that separate one man from another.

Solomon says in his proverbs he will enlighten us with understanding on even these tough issues as equity, or our worth as man, what defines us?

Is it our bank account, our upbringing, our job, the color of our skin?

From where do we find answers to these issues?

Well Solomon says he will take on the toughest of man's dilemmas, and try to give us understanding, and hopefully we will heed his Holy Spirit inspired writings.

You see as you seek God's Wisdom on life, we can pray and pray, and ask, and ask, but if we are double minded we won't look for the answers.

God has given us the means to find the answers, but it requires something on our part, searching.

And since God has given us His Word, and inspired such men as Solomon to write it out for us, then it

would be of great value to search out all that Solomon endeavored to give us.

We see next the foundation of the Book of Proverbs, really the summery of all of Solomon's writings, the beginning of all thought and understanding is summed up in verse 7.

Now underline this verse, it will be the main point of everything discussed in this book.

**7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

Heb. 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Now in our humanistic culture, where man is elevated to the position of a god, we have lost the reverence we should have for God.

I even hear Pastor's preach texts like these, and say it is not like dread, or terror.

But when you look these words up in their original language, it does mean those things.

You see the fear of man has replaced the fear of God in most pulpits.

We can't possibly tell the people they must fear God, which is mean, it might offend them.

But this is the simplest meaning, to fear God is the beginning of ALL Knowledge.

Now sometimes you will hear a pastor read this kind of verse, and then kind of apologize for it.

“Now I don’t believe this means we have to be afraid of God” they will say.

But if this is the beginning than most people have not even begun to understand much.

We are going through Romans right now on Sunday, and Paul when he begins his great dialogue about the Gospel of Grace, begins with the Wrath of God.

You see we have downplayed and watered down God’s Word so much we fail to give the full weight of what scripture truly says of God.

He hates sin, Old Testament and New Testament God does not change.

In fact He hates sin and rebellion so much, that He defeated it by sacrificing His own Son.

He despises it.

Now I imagine things in our households would change dramatically if we all had a fear of God.

As men, the one’s God called to lead our families.

If we feared God, and raised our families the way He called us too, marriages would be saved, children would not rule the home, God would provide for your finances.

But too often we declare we are god, by disobeying His Word altogether.

You see Solomon will lay things out for us clearly as we go through this book; there are always consequences to disobeying God.

He is to be feared, and revered.

~~You sit in front of your computer and watch porn; it will ruin you and your spouse's love life.~~

~~God's Word tells us to love the wife of our youth, but you choose to love your computer screen, or maybe since the computer screen is not satisfying you anymore you find a tangible woman to cheat with.~~

~~Your marriage is a wreck, your kids are suffering, because you have no fear of God, and you are your own god.~~

~~If you decide to be a drunk, your health will be affected, God might even allow the law to pull you over, and the consequences will be enormous.~~

~~Or if you hit and kill a family, you will be in a cell for your whole life wasting away in guilt.~~

~~But you are your own god, you have not even begun at the starting point of knowledge, because you have no fear of your Creator and you totally disregard His ways.~~

~~The surgeon general tells us the consequences of smoking cigarettes.~~

~~You see they destroy the human body, God's creation.~~

~~However you don't fear God, because you are your own god, so when you are 65 years old, your lungs will deflate, and not have the strength to give you a breath.~~

~~Because you knew more than God.~~

~~I am watching my father in law right now struggle for every breath, he is a mighty man, but what good is the strongest man on earth if he is suffocating.~~

You see in our arrogance we exalt ourselves to a godless belief.

You can say I am a Christian all day long, but your life should show you are one.

We see Satan's schemes against man.

He has filled man's head with education without this foundation.

Science, evolution, colleges and universities filling the heads of many with fallen ideology.

But for us here, we see and understand the beginning of all knowledge is the fear of God.

And any other way, Solomon says is the way of a fool.

So Solomon after he gives the foundation for all his writings...

This is a really good portion the young adult leaving the home.

Or even for the senior in High School.

We see the first section was for ruling a household.

Now we leave the house and into the world...

Shun Evil Counsel

8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; 9 For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck.

If you are raised in a God fearing home, as Solomon was, he says take what you were taught, and hold it close to you.

He says remember their instruction as if it was these ornaments on your head and a chain bound around your neck.

An interesting contrast, one is beauty and one is a burden.

The witness to others will be beautiful, as God receives the glory from their godly instruction.

However the other side of the coin here Solomon points out will be a burden.

What is the burden of the instruction of your parents?

It goes against everything that is natural for us.

You see something begins to happen at around the age of 13 usually, the pride sets in a young man, they begin to question their parents, to exalt themselves above their instruction.

Some will challenge their authority, and the parent's job is to instruct through it all.

Now between the ages of 18-20 the young man will refer to himself as an adult, and he should be.

There usually is tension in the home from young men at this age.

This is the age they should move out, and begin to start their own households or even go off to college.

The conflict is there because the natural thing for an adult is to leave his father and mother, and even be looking for a wife of his own to cleave to.

Me and my father had an interesting relationship when I was growing up.

My dad raised me to be a man. My earliest memories, my dad began this training of being a man.

I had chores, when he mowed the lawn I even had a bubble mower that I mowed behind him with.

I even remember when I was young when he would leave on trips, he would tell me, "Son you are the man of the house now, act like it."

It gave me such a sense of duty, but it was all his training.

We never hugged much, or showed affection in that way, but looking back I never wanted that from my dad.

I wanted him to teach me manly things, like cutting firewood, building goat houses.

He taught me, it was by the sweat of my brow things got done.

Even my chores were kind of like rent.

I would say, "dad, all my friends get allowances, he would ask, do you have a roof over your head, do you have food to eat, how about clothes? Yes dad, well sounds like you are doing pretty good."

One time I got him to pay me to do one chore in particular, mowing our two huge lawns, he gave me a whopping 3 bucks every time I mowed them.

However in his training, in my teen years I began to exalt myself over his authority.

Now my dad actually handled it really well.

He must have known this was the natural thing God put in young men.

And I remember he sat me down, and said “son, if you are going to rebel against my rules in this household, you will have to go and start your own household.”

Now even in that instruction, my dad was training me to be a man. He was sending me out of the nest to fly on my own.

Now the culture of today has lost this, and young men are living at home, sheltered by their mothers and their wings are full grown, but since they never got pushed out of the nest, they kind of sit awkwardly in the nest.

Too big to be there, claiming they are adults and can make their own choices, but never getting the instruction to leave, to do the natural thing.

Solomon is writing about this time in a young person's life.

And I understand this is difficult for a parent.

But this is a men's breakfast, we want to be raising young men.

When my dad told me that, yes fear hit me, it was safe at home, but at the same time, I felt my dad was respecting me as an adult.

And he knew I was in rebellion he knew I would make huge mistakes.

But he trusted God would teach me through them.

Some of you are hindering our son's growth by keeping them in the home.

Teach them to fly.

Now my dad treated my sister's different, they did not have these expectations.

Then, I thought it was unfair, but now I see my dad understood biblical principles, he was training me to be a man, and to lead.

My sisters had a different training, my dad train them to be the best wives they could be to a man who would provide for them as he provided for our family.

This is all biblical, and our culture has put fear in us to teach such principles.

Talk about my chat with Breezy - Feminism.

So young men, our sons, when they finally leave, when the parents give their final lesson, and instruction to go and start their own household, Solomon then instructs.

10 My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. 11 If they say, "Come with us, Let us lie in wait to shed blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; 12 Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, And whole, like those who go down to the Pit; 13 We shall find all kinds of precious possessions, We shall fill our houses with spoil; 14 Cast in your lot among us, Let us all have one purse" — 15 My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path; 16 For their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed blood. 17 Surely, in vain the net is spread In the sight of any bird; 18 But they lie in wait for their own blood, They lurk secretly for their own lives. 19 So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners.

So Solomon instructs his son, one person you will meet outside of this home will probably be a sinner.

How many of you know we will be tested?

Your sons will be tested.

Solomon says there will be those who don't fear your God.

Now for those of you who have raised your children in a godly home, this is the biggest fear we have.

They leave and will be enticed to walk away from the fear of God.

Now my father gave me similar warnings about the wicked people waiting.

In fact he knew I had already found them, but this did not stop him from sending me out.

He knew I would have to learn as he did.

We can only warn our sons.

I can only say sheltering them in your home so they don't meet these sinners will harm them more than help them.

It is through our mistakes we learn the greatest lessons in life.

Let your sons make mistakes.

Notice what temptation Solomon is expecting his son to encounter.

These sinners are going to entice him to get things for nothing.

To take from others for the benefit of himself.

Solomon understands that his son will be tempted to want to make quick money to avoid hard work.

Now again this is what we are to be training our young sons to do.

Even if culture permits handouts, and things for nothing.

You are to be setting the example to them they are to work.

You see all the way back in Genesis God said man would make his living by the sweat of his brow.

There is no sidestepping this. The world offers many ways to avoid working to avoid God's command.

Benefitting off others hard work for nothing.

This generation is one that thinks everything is owed to them.

You as godly men need to train your sons otherwise.

Now the woman they have childbearing to deal with, be grateful we didn't get that one, or menopause.

But if you want a fulfilled life, a man must work.

It is in us as men to want to be the providers for our family, the protectors; we want to be strong, and looked at by our family a security and safety.

This is how you train your sons.

My dad understood this, I had to work from a very young age, he rarely gave me things, and I had to work for what I wanted.

Now my sisters, it was different for them, which now looking back it should have been.

My dad, like Solomon engrained in me nothing came for free in life.

In fact another proverb of his was “son, if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.”

If an offer to make a lot of money a part from hard work came to me, I usually learned it was too good to be true.

A man at home not working is a miserable man.

Now again I know this is not popular in this hostile, feministic culture.

But I imagine you as men all agree with this, there is something in us as men that society has tried to criminalize, our masculinity.

We at the end of a hard day of work feel satisfied, we feel purpose, we feel aches and pains, and it is all worth it to us.

We talk of our great feet's, in construction I would look at what my hands created at the end of the day, and I would just thank the Lord for what He allowed me to do.

When Men get together, they talk about women and their jobs usually.

We love to talk about the hard work we have accomplished in life. It is in us. And it is not bad.

This is not wrong, God created us to work, to provide, to protect, there is no easy way around the sweat of our brow.

This was God's purpose.

Now the older generation knew this, **John Mann Story**.

They did not have the government to help, something was never offered for nothing.

And Solomon warns against this mindset.

He explains to his son, as my father did, you need to avoid those kinds of people who want you to get freebies.

Even through my addiction years, strung out on meth, when my friends were stealing to provide for their habits, my dad had so engrained work in me, that I worked to provide for my habit.

Sometimes this meant even scrapping metal from the middle of the desert. Never stealing.

Taking from someone else was never an option.

So even in my wickedness, my dad's training helped me to do right.

So we will stop there. I know this wasn't the most inspiring men's breakfast.

But we are men, needed more than ever in our countries history is men who can lead.

So keep coming to these men's breakfasts, this is a place where we can address issues like these with a little more force.

I am looking forward to learning the principles God has given us through the second wisest man that walked the earth, King Solomon.

Understand this; these principles will be directly opposing what culture is saying.

I will try not to sugar coat anything.

Personally, I am looking at my baby boy, I want to understand the way I will raise him, not according to what culture says, but what God says.