



Proverbs – Part #2

To pick-up from last week, the book of Proverbs is “for attaining wisdom and discipline... doing what is right, just and fair, and for teaching both the simple or young, as well as the wise and discerning” (1:2-4). Thus, underpinning the search for wise living before God is to have a reverent “fear of the Lord [for that] is the beginning of knowledge” (1:7).

Proverbs is composed of four major collections, each with different authors or collectors:

- Proverbs 1-24 is attributed to Solomon
- Proverbs 25-29 also from Solomon but collected by King Hezekiah’s scribes
- Proverbs 30 is attributed to man named Agur (unknown to us)
- Proverbs 31 is attributed to a king named Lemuel (also unknown to us).

While Proverbs 7 warns against the temptation of adultery, vividly describing how a simple/naïve man succumbs to immorality “like an ox going to the slaughter” (7:22); listening to the adulteress leads to death (7:27). In contrast, Proverbs 8 calls out to young men to listen to wisdom, for wisdom leads to life and favor with the Lord (8:35). Wisdom is personified as a noble woman who provides Godly instruction and who is also the antithesis of the coarse and undignified woman depicted in chpt. 7.

Proverbs 9 continues a similar analogy of contrasting women, this time between “lady wisdom” and “lady folly.” Once again, the young man is advised that the “fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,” resulting in life (9:10-11).

Proverbs 10-15 are dominated by “antithetical” lines, where the second line of the proverb gives the opposite and contrasting reality from the first line. For example, “Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, but wickedness overthrows the sinner” (13:6).

Proverbs is filled with teaching that is applicable and relevant to us today!