

XIX. Traveling Route 66: The Bible in Biblical Perspective

The Journey to Christ, the Promised One

"Proverbs—The Book of Wisdom"

Book of Proverbs

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October 9, 2011 – Evening Sermon

We have arrived at the book of Proverbs in our Route 66 journey. I was almost afraid Tom Cheely was going to preach my sermon on wisdom and how we all need it, how we need to pray and ought to pray. Let's look in Proverbs 1. This whole subject matter of the book of Proverbs is extremely crucial for a number of reasons. I want to give you just a couple. One, is this wonderful gift of technology that we have today and how it can be used. There is Google, Facebook, MySpace, and all these other ways to stay in contact with each other. We can email, fax, tweet and twitter. It's enormously challenging and in many ways very helpful. I know I have made use of it on a number of occasions and how it has helped me. In it does come these dangers like John Nesbitt wrote about that high tech would lead to low touch and you can see it immediately. On Facebook people say they have 'friended' each other and that's not even close to what the Bible teaches what a friend is, whatsoever. We're constantly taking technology and putting titles and terms to it that have really been gutted of its relational dynamic.

We can use this technology to have all these facts and factoids available to us and I think for many of us we have substituted that for knowledge and understanding and wisdom that we're really not adept at thinking, thinking deeply, thinking with breadth, thinking with height and thinking with insight. We can get the facts, the factoids, but we can't really think. I've also been shocked to realize once again how much it requires time to gain wisdom. I have really noticed this in my life that the older I got the smarter my daddy got. My daddy got so smart after I was about 25 years old that it was amazing. He was so dumb when I was in high school and then all of a sudden he got so smart. I don't know what in the world happened to him. It's interesting as we get older at least there is this value of knowledge, understanding and this thing called wisdom.

We're in the middle of the section of this book, Wisdom Literature, of the Bible and it like everything else points to Christ. We have the first five books of the Bible, the Pentateuch – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Then we made our way through the Historical Books ending with Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther. Now we have started on the five books of Wisdom and we have begun to make our way through them. We have done Psalms and now we have arrived at Proverbs. Many of you are aware of the book of Proverbs because maybe you like me were raised with knowing you need to read the Bible everyday and were told to read a Proverb a day. It was wonderfully pointed out that there are 31 chapters and most months we have 31 days. On those that don't you can double up on one of the days and how valuable reading through the book of Proverbs actually is. I actually want to commend that to you because I think it is an excellent idea. The Proverbial statements do take time to just saturate and going through them chapter by chapter and day by day it's amazing what begins to be retained particularly if we take our time to think our way through it a little bit.

First I want to give you a little bit of a handle on the book of Proverbs so you understand some of the basic stuff around it. Then I want to show how the book of

Proverbs point us to Christ and in what way does it give us information that we need about Christ and how does Christ help us with the book of Proverbs itself. So let's start with understanding who wrote it. We'll take a look at this by looking at Proverbs 1.

Proverbs 1:1 says **1** *The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:* The whole idea of Proverbs in the Middle East and the somatic world in general greatly valued aphorisms, wisdom sayings, wisdom words and proverbial statements and so it was true in the days of Solomon. So these are Proverbs of Solomon, the son of David and he was king of Israel.

Why did he pull these Proverbs together? We don't have to wonder because he tells us in Proverbs 1:2-7 which says **2** *To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, 3 to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; 4 to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth— 5 Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, 6 to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.* (He sums it up in the next verse.) **7** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

I wonder how many of us who have taken our vows and seriously embrace that we want to raise our children in the nurture and admonition, have made use of the book of Proverbs to do that? I don't think there is a better anthology of wisdom in the entire world that surpasses the book of Proverbs. Yet many of us will allow our children to go all the way through our childhood and their adolescence and arrive at their adulthood and we have never intentionally as parents introduced them to these wisdom statements, gathered by who was acknowledged as the epitome of wisdom in the Old Testament, Solomon. There were three words that kept occurring in those six verses – knowledge, understanding and wisdom. So Solomon is both the author and the collector. He didn't write all of these Proverbs but he collected some and he is the arranger of them.

When did he do it? Basically he did it during his reign. I actually think there was some editing of it later probably during the time of King Hezekiah but basically Solomon put it all together. He set the pattern of what was to be there and the Hezekiah himself will add some Solomonic proverbs that hadn't been arranged there within it. So there is this gathering of Proverbs during the reign of Solomon.

Now is that born out in the Scripture? Yes it is but I want to look at one other verse first. Here is something that is going to be taught – knowledge, wisdom and understanding. What is the beginning of wisdom? It is the fear of the Lord. Proverbs 2:6-8 says **6** *For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; 7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, 8 guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.* The Lord gives wisdom and in the midst of that the Proverbs then begin to make a subtle shift. Not only is the Lord the giver of wisdom but the Lord becomes wisdom personified to guard us and guide us. Don't miss that. The Lord is the source of wisdom and becomes the personification of wisdom. The book of Proverbs points us to that.

If we say King Solomon did it is there any other evidence beside the fact that the book of Proverbs says so? In I Kings 4 we read this about the life of Solomon. I Kings 4:29-34 says **29** *And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore, 30 so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. 31 For he was wiser*

than all other men, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol, and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. 32 He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. 33 He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of the wall. He spoke also of beasts, and of birds, and of reptiles, and of fish. 34 And people of all nations came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.

Here we have a short anthology of those 3,000 plus Proverbs, those 1,005 plus songs. He had all of this wisdom that surpassed all around him that the Lord had given to him. That wisdom began to attract others to him that they also would get knowledge, understanding and wisdom. Notice how it talks about beast, land and birds and all kinds of things because the proverbs of that day kept reaching to nature, God's creation, for illustration whereas today we use technology. Many of these proverbs are special revelation from God, couched in general revelation that you can observe all around you. They are arranged in such a way that the insight of God's special revelation is both buttressed and illustrated from general revelation, from the birds of the sky, the animals, the hyssop that grows out.

For instance, there is a certain battlefield I like to take people to and there is this one spot that has this gigantic rock. In this middle of that rock is this cedar tree that has grown up out of that rock. In other words, some where along the line some cedar seed got into the crevasse of that rock and it began to grow. I'm always amazed to see how something can grow on a rock when it took so long for me to grow grass in my yard, yet something can grow right out of a rock. I don't know how many decades it grew but here's this rock and this tree and that rock has been split wide open. What is harder, the tree wood or the rock? Would you like for me to hit you with a piece of wood or a rock? Clearly, the rock is harder yet the wood split the rock. Why? Every time I went to that battle site I would get the chance to share the Gospel because I would tell them the reason why was the rock was inanimate, by virtue dead, but that tree is living and it has a root. That's what Christ gives you in this world, is a root. If you were smart enough you could put that in a parallelism and you would have yourself a proverb. These proverbs are absolutely filled with these kinds of things.

So King Solomon put it together, why? It's an anthology of proverbial wisdom. Why do the Proverbs exist? They exist to provide for us divinely, ordained, revealed, approved and affirmed common sense wisdom for life and it will be valued by those who know the fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom. Who will it value? It will be valuable to those who have a relationship with God by His grace and part of their relationship is the fear of the Lord. I think that's one of the big things that is missing today in the contemporary grace movement. We love to tell people about the love of Jesus and the forgiveness of Jesus but we somehow think we have to skip the fear of the Lord and therefore we rob God of the awe and respect that He alone is due. For those who think of a small God in which there is no respect and awe will result in a small life. Big lives have a big God who is respected and awesome is the Lord our God. We tremble when He shows up and in sight of Him. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom which is the beginning of that life.

This will greatly help you if you and I can grasp this. For instance, I meet people many times and they will say to me "Well Pastor, thank the Lord for His law and promise because I'm having a hard time with my children." I said, "You are?" He says "Yes, but

God gave me a promise that's in the book of Proverbs." I said, "What is it?" He said, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he'll not depart from it." Then I have the opportunity to talk with them about God's covenant promises to us as believers to our children and about that Proverb but that Proverb is not a promise. That is proverbial wisdom. That Proverb is telling you that as a parent what you do counts. If you are putting in proverbial common sense God is telling you basically that what you have put into your child eventually will come out. Now He doesn't say when it will come out, like a specific age, but that's not a promise.

There are other promises like "I'll be a God to you and to your children after you" but the book of Proverbs is not a promise. It's proverbial wisdom. It's divinely ordained common sense. I'd like to go one other step with this. When the Bible used the phrase 'the law of God' it means multiple things. Sometimes it's just referring to the five books of Moses or just the Ten Commandments or the whole Bible but it means the authoritative teaching of Yahweh but when the Bible uses the word 'law' there are three kinds of 'laws' in the Bible. On the one hand there is the apodictic law that is ethical law from God. That would be the Ten Commandments – you shall not steal, etc... That is an absolute. I know there are those who say there are no absolutes and I always find that amazing because my next question to them when they say "There are no absolutes" is "Is that an absolute? And if it is, then who gave it to you?" God has given us His Law. It's beyond the Ten Commandments but they are a prime example of this apodictic law.

Another kind of law in the Bible is casuistic law. You will find casuistic law in the Bible with 'if then' type phrases. Here is one. **If** My people who are called by My Name, humble themselves and pray, **then** I will hear from heaven. Here is one from the book of James. (If you) Draw near to God, (then) He will draw near to you. So these kinds of promises are put into casuistic law.

Then there is a third kind of law. It is proverbial law which is divinely ordained common sense. Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he won't depart from it. Remember the old G.I. G.O. – garbage in, garbage out? I have a better one, grace in – grace out, good in – good out. I know as a parent you don't think it's counting but it will count. Stay the course. Be consistent. Stay faithful to doing what you are doing. It may not look like its bearing results but it does come forth. So that is the way the book of Proverbs exists. It is divinely ordained common sense. It's proverbial law where God is teaching us wisdom for life.

I have put together an outline of Proverbs where I have used three different commentaries to draw this from. The prologue is Proverbs 1:1-7. Then fathers I think every one of us need to grab hold of Proverbs 1:8 through Proverbs 9:18. That is a father teaching his son and his children that which is absolutely essential in life – the proverbs of a father. The second section is the proverbs of Solomon which is in Proverbs 10:1 through Proverbs 22:16. Then come the thirty proverbs of the wise which are in Proverbs 22:17 through Proverbs 24:22. The other proverbs of the wise is the fourth section found in Proverbs 24:23 through Proverbs 34. Then come the Hezekiah proverbs that is Hezekiah's arrangement of Solomonic proverbs in Proverbs 25:1 through Proverbs 29:27. Then there are the proverbs of Agur in Proverbs 30:1-33. Then there is the proverbs of King Lemuel which is Proverbs 31:1-9 and then finally the acrostic of the proverbs woman of wisdom which is Proverbs 31.

There is a lady in this church named Emiline Spencer who wrote a Bible Study on Proverbs 31 concerning the virtuous woman. I have raised two daughters with that Bible Study. She did an excellent job with it and I still commend it mothers. I will tell you that if I was lady/woman there is one passage of Scripture I would probably never turn to and that's Proverbs 31:10-31, the end of the chapter. That chapter has to be one of the most intimidating things I've seen in my life. I like what one commentator said. He said "This is not an excellent woman – these are seven excellent women." This woman has to have an "S" on her t-shirt to stand for Super Woman. The wisdom literature has parallelisms and many times they are presented with acrostics using the alphabet. One commentator called it the 'alphabet woman' because it lays out the proverbial woman of wisdom following the Hebrew alphabet. It is an excellent study that I do commend to you, obviously one that requires a lot more time than we can give now. This is how the book of Proverbs ends.

What are the themes of the book of Proverbs? I want to give you three themes that I see coming out of the book of Proverbs. The first theme is it's God's will for life based upon knowledge, understanding and wisdom and when you get to the New Testament that is usually the order that these are given. There is knowledge, where I know these truths. Then there is understanding which is the grasp of truth. We call it today a life view. So I have life truth which is knowledge. I have a life view which is understanding and how does that truth land in life. Then what is wisdom? Wisdom is what you do with it. Wisdom is your lifestyle.

There is a parallel to the book of Proverbs in the New Testament. Do you know which book it is? It is James. James is your New Testament book that parallels the book of Proverbs. I want to look at two passages in James. The first one is James 1:2. Here is some wisdom I need for life. James 1:2-4 says *2 Count it all joy, my brothers, (not if) when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.* What is my default program when things are going tough? I'm a whiner. I'm ready to go over and die in a corner or if nothing else I just want to throw myself a pity party but in this text He says "No" we're not to do that if we're a believer. God is going to give us some knowledge and understanding that will lead to a wisdom way of life.

So **know** that you are going to have trials. Your understanding is why has God sent the trials. He is doing something in you. He is perfecting you. He is refining you. Wisdom is to respond with joy. So know that you'll have trials and it's not if but when you have trials. The understanding is that God has a purpose in it and it's to move you forward in your relationship with Him. The wisdom is not to whine but to rejoice in the Lord. It is not to rejoice over the trials but you are to rejoice in the Lord in the midst of the trials knowing what He is doing.

We obviously have a hard time doing that so now look at what the writer, Jesus' brother says. James 1:5-8 says *5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.* How many of you would tell me to skip this verse because you think you don't lack wisdom? Obviously, we

all know we need wisdom, don't we? The older we get the more we know we need wisdom and the more we want wisdom. So what do you need to do?

James says we need to pray which is the counterpart to the proverbial 'fear of the Lord.' I go before God as one in need – the fear of the Lord. I call upon Him and pray but I just found out in James that God loves to give me wisdom. Do you know why I know that God loves to give me wisdom? Who is the personification of wisdom? Jesus is the personification of wisdom. Did God give you His Son who is wisdom? Yes He did, then would He not delight in giving you wisdom with no regrets, without reproach? So call upon Him for when you are calling upon wisdom you ought to be calling upon the presence of Christ.

Now let's look at James 3 to see more of this matter of knowledge, wisdom and understanding. James 3:13-18 says **13** *Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.* **14** *But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.* **15** *This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.* **16** *For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.* **17** *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.* **18** *And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

Hear what He says here. If you want to know who has knowledge, wisdom and understanding then look at how they live. Wisdom shows up in behavior, not in being a know it all. A know it all isn't wisdom. Now it could be knowledge but it's not understanding necessarily and it's not wisdom. He says if there is wisdom you'll see it in their behavior and here is one of the true marks of a true wise person – its meekness and they are peacemakers. That doesn't mean they don't stand for truth or aren't willing to go to the battle if it comes to them but they are not people who raise up conflict. The wisdom of the world always produces unnecessary chaos, conflict and division. The wisdom of God is truth and it gathers people around it with the meekness of the wise and their behavior.

Here I want to speak to my own guild, pastors. I know many, many pastors who I know, know their Bible and their theology. Their knowledge absolutely intimidates me but church after church where they go is split, there's conflict, disruption, disorder and it's because the knowledge, life truths that are actual and factual, have not been joined with understanding. And it's not being manifested in their behavior that would actually draw people together around the truth and the way that they live. That is what James is telling us about wisdom. Wisdom isn't I'm the answer man or the wizard of Oz and you can come up with every answer. Wisdom is in fact shown that knowledge and understanding have met in life – life truth, life view, life style in which people are drawn to Christ through us.

The second theme that is found in Proverbs is that it is a life lived by God's grace on the one hand, dependent upon God, but on the other hand refuses to be passive but absolutely personally committed. The Proverbs tell us we have to be dependent upon God but dependency is not manifested with passivity. The Proverbs keeps telling us about the dependency on the Lord, the fear of the Lord, the grace of God that can make you wise and God Himself has to come to you, the personification of wisdom. The truth of you having embraced that is not shown by passivity but on the contrary He tells you to

be intentional, train, study, meditate, practical, thoughtful, pursuing of things, disciplined in life and all those things. Those things are not counterproductive in being dependent upon the Lord but the reason we do those things is because we are dependent upon the Lord. But when we're dependent upon the Lord it doesn't lead to sloppiness or serendipity but it leads to intentionality, discipline and pursuit. We don't earn God's grace in the gift of wisdom but we enact the gift of grace and wisdom in our life. We are learners and wisdom is seen by our pursuit of doing that which is true with understanding.

The third theme is the life of wisdom is available to all who surrender to the Lord, depend on Him and obey Him. It is there fully available to us. When you go through the book of Proverbs you will see a father educating his son and a lot of it is sex education. Then you get to see the lady of folly and the lady of wisdom. I'm not talking about Proverbs 31 but there is a lady of wisdom and a lady of folly found in other places in the book of Proverbs. You also get to see the wisdom of excellence to bring before the Lord our very heart because wisdom is ultimately that gift that is found in Christ. There is our journey to Christ.

In Christ is all wisdom for all who are in Christ and for those whom Christ is in you. To pray for wisdom is not just to pray for facts and not even just to pray for understanding, yet certainly it includes that. To pray for wisdom is to pray for Christ to be in me and for me to be in Christ for He is the personification. Let's look in Proverbs 8. We will conclude with this Bible exercise around wisdom. The blessings of wisdom or the fruit of wisdom is given to us all the way in the first eleven verses and then Proverbs 8:12 moves from wisdom as a concept and a construct to the personification of it. Wisdom becomes a person.

Proverbs 8:12-22 says **12** *"I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I (wisdom) find knowledge and discretion. 13 The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. 14 I (wisdom) have counsel and sound wisdom; I (wisdom) have insight; I have strength. 15 By me (wisdom) kings reign, and rulers decree what is just; 16 by me (wisdom) princes rule, and nobles, all who govern justly. 17 I love those who love me (wisdom), and those who seek me (wisdom) diligently find me (wisdom). 18 Riches and honor are with me (wisdom), enduring wealth and righteousness. 19 My (wisdom) fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver. 20 I (wisdom) walk in the way of righteousness, in the paths of justice, 21 granting an inheritance to those who love me (wisdom), and filling their treasuries. 22 "The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old.* Here is Yahweh possessing wisdom, the personification of it. Here is the glorious unity of the Father and the Son.

He goes on to say in Proverbs 8:23-36, **23** *Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.* (That very text in John 1:1 is flowing from this.) **24** *When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. 25 Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, (the eternality of wisdom is declared) 26 before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world. 27 When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, (the circular nature of the earth was long before all the people who we think discovered it – here it is in Proverbs) 28 when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep,*

29 when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, 30 then I was beside him, like a master workman, (In other words it was created through Me, this one wisdom) and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, 31 rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man. 32 “And now, O sons, listen to me (wisdom): blessed are those who keep my ways. (Who are we speaking of here? We are speaking of Christ. Christ is all wisdom who has been with the Father forever and through whom everything was created. He is in perfect fellowship and He loves those whom the Father has made.) 33 Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. 34 Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. 35 For whoever finds me (this Jesus, the personification of wisdom) finds life and obtains favor from the LORD, 36 but he who fails to find me injures himself; all who hate me love death.”

Now in conclusion let's look at I Corinthians 1. Here the New Testament brings this to fullness for us. I Corinthians 1:20-21 (concerning the wisdom of the world) says *20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.* What do we preach according to I Corinthians 1? We preach Christ and Him crucified. The wisdoms of this world with its religions and philosophies bring death. We preach Christ, the wisdom from above who brings life.

Now let's look at I Corinthians 3:18-23 says *18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” 20 and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” 21 So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, 23 and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.*

Now I want to go back to I Corinthians 1:30-31 says *30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”* The last one I want you to see is Colossians 2:2-3 says *2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

My dear friends be intentional. Go to the book of Proverbs and scour it. Here is life truth that leads to a life view that leads to a life style but where Proverbs is leading you is not just to running around trying to do 3,000 proverbs. It leads you to Christ for in Christ is wisdom and it is this Christ, when you pray, who comes and gives you the mind of Christ as you pray and study. Christ is your wisdom. He gives wisdom and wisdom lives Christ in this world. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the time we could be together. Thank You for the glorious passages of Scripture that tell us truth and that truth is found fully revealed in Christ our Lord. We lift Him up to You, Your Son in praise. Thank You for sending Him down for us. Now O God, we lack wisdom. Give us wisdom, give us Christ, I pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.

XVIII. 10/9/11 “PROVERBS — THE BOOK OF WISDOM”

- I. WHO? King Solomon
Author, collector and arranger
- II. WHEN? 971 – 931 B.C.
The Reign of Solomon
- III. WHY? Purpose—Anthology of Proverbial Wisdom
To provide Divinely ordained, revealed, approved and affirmed common sense wisdom for life to those who know the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
- IV. WHAT? *An Outline*

Prologue (1:1-7)

- A. The Proverbs of a Father (1:8-9:18)
- B. The Proverbs of Solomon (10:1-22:16)
- C. The Thirty Proverbs of the Wise (23:17-24:22)
- D. The Other Proverbs of the Wise (24:23-34)
- E. The Hezekiah Proverbs of Solomon (25:1-29:27)
- F. The Proverbs of Agur (30:1-33)
- G. The Proverbs of King Lemuel (31:1-9)
- H. The Acrostic of the Proverbs Woman (31:10-31)

Themes

- A. God's will for life is based upon knowledge, understanding and wisdom.
- B. A life lived by God's grace is on the one hand dependent upon God but on the other hand refuses to be passive but absolutely personally committed...
intentional –practical –thoughtful –pursued –discipline.
- C. The life of wisdom is available to all who surrender to the Lord, depend upon the Lord and obey the Lord.

The Journey to Christ

In Christ is all wisdom for all who are in Christ as Christ is in you...