

Sermon Handout

Gaining Wisdom

Proverbs 1:1-7

- I. The Words of Solomon the King** vv. 1-4
- a. To know wisdom & instruction v. 2a
 - b. To perceive (recognize) words of understanding v. 2b
 - c. To receive instruction v. 3
 - i. In wise behavior – apply knowledge in a godly way
 - ii. In justice – just treatment as a matter of law
 - iii. In judgment – making wise discernments
 - iv. In equity – treating people justly (ethics) Mt 7:12 Ps 98:9
“live honestly, harm no one, give every man his due” Justinian
 - d. To strengthen the young & immature v. 4
 - i. In prudence – acting under various circumstances *cf.* Col 3:22
 - ii. In knowledge – understanding, not just knowing facts
 - iii. In discretion Pr 8:13; Ps 34:11-13
 - 1. When to act, when to refrain
 - 2. When to speak, when to shut up
- II. What is a Wise Man?** vv. 5-6
- a. He listens; pays attention to what others are saying Pr 9:9
 - b. He increases his knowledge; does not assume his opinions are right
 - c. He will benefit from wise counsel; remembers and ponders it (Josh 1:8)
 - d. He will understand a proverb and its meaning; it affects his life
 - e. He will receive wise words and their implications; they affect his life
- III. Crucial Definitions** v. 7
- a. Knowledge starts with fearing God v. 7a – Pr 9:10; Job 28:28; Ps 15:33
 - i. Acknowledge him for who he is – the God of all creation
 - ii. Understand his laws; how he defines equity Ps 111:10
 - iii. Honor him as Sovereign King of Kings Pr 2:1-5
 - b. Foolishness is turning away from wisdom and instruction v. 7b
 - i. The older, more experienced, wiser man is given no credence.
 - ii. “The fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.” Pr 12:15
 - iii. “A scoffer does not like to be reproved; he will not go to the wise.” Pr 15:12
 - iv. A fool takes no pleasure in what is reasonable, but only in showing off.” Pr 18:2