December 31, 2023 La Jolla Christian Fellowship Learning Curve: A Study of Proverbs – S2/Ep1: Wise Reprover Elliott Sterns

Proverbs 1:1-9 NIV1984

1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: 2 for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight; 3 for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; 4 for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young— 5 let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance— 6 for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise. 7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. 8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. 9 They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

1. The Point of Proverbs 😵

- Described in 1:2-4. "...to know wisdom...receive instruction...bestow prudence..."
- Reading and praying Proverbs day by day, month by month, year by year...
- How *NOT* to think of Proverbs

II. Jesus, the Embodiment of Wisdom – "...God made [Jesus] to be wisdom itself." (1 Cor 1:30 NLT))

- The difference between "wisdom" (etc.), and "the Spirit of wisdom." Note Prov 1:23!
- Compare Prov 1:1-9 with Isa 11:1-4
- Look at the correlations in the terms in both passages and...
 - See the progression from the Spirit of Wisdom to the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord.
 - See the progression from Jesus' birth to His Second Coming in vss. 1-4.
 - See that the same Spirit that "rests" upon Jesus ≫ comes as fire 🤞 upon us? Why?

III. Two UNDERappreciated Themes in Proverbs

A."Reproof" – "The...reproofs of instruction are the WAY OF LIFE" (6:23)

- The Hebrew word for "instruction" literally speaks of "chastening"... Why?
- What are the stated purposes of the Word of God in 2 Tim 3:16 and Heb 4:12?
- David vs Solomon; Amaziah vs the prophet; Alan Brooke vs Churchill (see Prov 28:23)
- The two problems: reproving with courage; receiving reproof with humility (AND courage)

B. "Equity" – "...understand righteousness, and judgment, ..." (2:9)

- "*Equity*" means "balanced." All of creation was designed to move in harmony with Truth.
- A lie disrupts the flow of Truth in time and leads to the need for correction; read: *judgment.*
- Jesus "*blotted out*" the power of our sins and transgressions on Calvary (Isa 43:25; 44:22; Acts 3:19). The non-believer must pay with his soul the "*wages of sin*" (Rom 6:23).
- Again and again in Scripture we read of deeds being "*weighed*" (1 Sam 2:3; Dan 5:27, etc.).



- "...*behold...be sure your sin will find you out*" (Num. 32:23; also Prov 13:15)
- The "weight" of sin can reach a "tipping point," even for the whole world (see Isa 24:20).
- Repentance leads to "balance" being restored.

IV. To what END? "...the path of the just is as the shining light..." (4:18)

- The inheritance of the just is multiplication (Deut 7:13), an ever-widening "river" of the revelation of God (Ezek 47:1ff), life and abundance (John 10:10), and...
- A merry heart! bestowing a "continual feast" (15:15) in fellowship with Jesus.

Questions to Consider

- 1. What is the danger of reading Proverbs as just "proverbial" sayings?
- 2. How is wisdom to be attained according to Proverbs and the rest of Scripture?
- 3. Why is graciously accepting reproof, or even rebuke, necessary for spiritual growth?
- 4. What are some of the verses in Proverbs you use as "guiding lights" for your life?
- 5. Does knowing that one *always* reaps what he sows fill you with dread? or hope?

