Wisdom Defined and Categorized

• Overview of Proverbs

• Content of the Book
  • 31 chapters
  • More than 900 proverbs
  • Three authors:
    • King Solomon (1:1)
    • Agur (30:1)
    • King Lemuel (31:1)

• Definition of a Proverb
  • A short sentence expressing in a few words a well-known truth

• Summary Outline
  • Chapters 1-9: The definition of wisdom
  • Chapters 10-31: The practice of wisdom
Main Objectives of Proverbs
- To Know God
- To Know the Word of God
- To Know God’s Principles
- To Smooth the Rough Edges of Life
- To Give Purpose to Life

Keys to Understanding Proverbs
- Recognize Your Need
- Hear—Pay Attention
- Pray
- Dig
- Gather
- See Christ

Benefits of Studying Proverbs
- Personal Growth
- Helmsmanship
Wisdom: The Fear of the Lord

- The Source of Wisdom
  - The Fear of the Lord (Job 28:28; Prov. 1:7)
  - The Knowledge of God (Prov. 9:10)
    - Knowledge of God’s power (Psa. 33:8)
    - Knowledge of God’s holiness (Rev. 15:4)
    - Knowledge of God’s love (I Sam. 12:22-24; Ps. 34)

- The Fear of the Lord

- What the Fear of the Lord Is
  - It includes love
  - It includes reverence
  - It includes submission
  - Summary: The fear of the Lord is an affectionate reverence for God by which the child of God bends himself humbly and carefully to his Father’s will.

- The Attitude of Fearing God
  - The child of God has only one dread—to offend the Lord
  - The child of God has only one desire—to please the Lord
• The Importance of Fearing God
  • Isaiah 11:23 Christ feared the Lord.
  • Jeremiah 2:19 It is a sin not to fear the Lord.
  • Ecclesiastes 12:13 Fearing God is the whole duty of man.
  • 2 Samuel 23:3–4 The fear of God is essential for true Christian leadership.
  • Psalm 147:11 The fear of God is a distinguishing mark of those who please Him.

• How We Learn the Fear of the Lord
  • Studying God’s Word (Prov. 2:1–5)
  • Beholding God’s Majesty (Ps. 96:1–9)
  • Seeing God’s Works
    • In creation (Ps. 33:6-9)
    • In history (Josh. 4:20–24)
    • In our lives (1 Sam. 12:24)
The Wisdom of God vs. The Wisdom of Man

- Christianity: The Wisdom of God
  - The Foundation—The Word of God
- Five Key Teachings
  - God
  - Creation
  - Moral ethics
  - Servants of God
  - A compassionate worldview
• Humanism: The Wisdom of Man
  • The Foundation—Man’s Reasoning Powers
• Five Key Teachings
  • Atheism
  • Evolution
  • Amorality
  • Autonomous man
  • Socialistic, one-world order

• Conclusion
  • Christianity is God’s revelation of Himself as the only source of truth and salvation.
  • Humanism is man’s attempt to solve his problems independently of God.
Wisdom: A Person

- Gnosticism: A Show of Wisdom
  - A Vain Philosophy Based on Man’s Reasoning Powers and Tradition (2:8)
  - It Is Deceptive (2:18)
  - Its Followers Practiced Voluntary Humility (2:18)
  - They Worshipped Angels (2:18)
  - It Is a Vain Show (2:23)

- True Christianity: Fullness of Knowledge
  - Definitions
    - Gnosis = knowledge
    - Epignosis = fullness of knowledge (Col. 1:9, 10; 3:10)
  - The “Fullness of Knowledge” Is Christ (Col. 2:3)
    - In Him is all wisdom and knowledge (2:3)
    - He is all the fullness of the Godhead (2:9)
    - He makes us complete (2:10)
• The Fullness of Knowledge Is Not Human Wisdom
  • It is not merely intelligence
  • It cannot be obtained through human effort

• How the Fullness of Knowledge Is Obtained
  • Knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (Col. 1:28)
  • Knowing God’s Will for your life (Col. 1:9)
    • Col. 1:10 Increase in your knowledge of God
    • Hosea 6:3 Know the Lord
    • Proverbs 3:5-6 Acknowledge Him
    • Genesis 24:27 Actively pursue God’s known will
    • Psalm 63:8 Follow hard after Him
  • Knowing God’s Word (Col. 3:16)
  • Walking according to God’s Word and will (Col. 4.5)
Wisdom: How It Acts

- Wisdom Is Based on Truth
  - Concerning Christ (Prov. 8:14)
  - Concerning God (Prov. 9:10)
  - Concerning Self (Prov. 14:8)
- Concerning the Method of Gaining Right Information: Separation for Meditation
- Wisdom Based on Truth Must Be Obeyed
- Wisdom’s Actions are Illustrated in Nature (Prov. 20:24-28)
- The Ant: Forethought and Preparation (vs. 25)
  - Prepare the soul
  - Prepare the heart
  - Prepare the mind
  - History: sovereignty and providence of God
  - Math: orderliness and design of God
  - Psychology: effects of sin on God’s creation
• Biology: love, care, and omniscience of God
• Science: wisdom and power of God
• Grammar: most effective way to communicate God’s glory

• The Coney: Weakness and Security (vs. 26)
  • Wisdom recognizes man’s weakness without God
  • Wisdom recognizes man’s need of God’s strength

• The Locust: Unity and Cooperation (vs. 27)

• The Spider: Boldness in Prayer (vs. 28)
  • Venom: man’s sin
  • Web: snares and wiles of the devil & weakness of man’s best efforts
  • Fly: sinner in Hell
  • In Palace: access to God’s throne through Christ
Wisdom: The Foolish Man

- Two Fools in Proverbs
  - Bull-Headed Fool
    - Hebrew: evil
      - Root meaning: weak-minded
      - Implied meaning: strong-willed
      - Description: energetic, wants his own way
  - Pig-Headed Fool
    - Hebrew: chesil
      - Root meaning: fat
      - Implied meaning: mentally fat
      - Description: lazy, inactive

- How Fools React to Instruction and Discipline
  - The Bull-Headed Fool’s Reaction
    - 16:22 Despises wisdom
    - 29:9 Doesn’t listen to reason
    - 27:22 Will not change
• The Pig-Headed Fool’s Reaction
  • 1:7 Despises wisdom
  • 23:9 Will not listen to instruction
  • 17:16 Wastes his time in school
  • 26:11 Repeats his folly, doesn’t learn from past mistakes

• The Attitudes of Fools
  • The Bull-Headed Fool’s Attitude
    • 12:15 Confident and cocky
  • The Pig-Headed Fool’s Attitude
    • 1:32 Complacent
    • 14:16 Careless
    • 28:26 Trusts his own heart

• The Mouths of Fools
  • The Bull-Headed Fool’s Mouth
    • 19:3 Blames God or others for his failures
    • 20:3 Quarrels and argues
• The Pig-Headed Fool’s Mouth
  • 10:18 Spreads slander
  • 15:2, 4 Spouts folly
  • 15:7 Doesn’t spread knowledge
  • 12:23; 29:11 Says what he thinks
  • 18:6-7 Causes strife
  • 14:33 Brags
  • 18:2 Expresses his own opinions rather than the Word
  • 19:1 Lies

• The Fools and Sin
  • The Bull-Headed Fool and Sin
    • 14:9 Mocks at sin
  • The Pig-Headed Fool and Sin
    • 10:23 Enjoys sin and views it as a sport or game
    • 13:19 Thinks it is a sin not to sin
    • 14:8 Never considers the consequences
Wisdom: The Wise Man vs. the Foolish Man

- The Fools’ Friends
  - The Bull-Headed Fool’s Friends
    - 17:12 Court disaster
  - The Pig-Headed Fool’s Friends
    - 13:20 Are destroyed

- The Fools’ Homes
  - The Bull-Headed Fool’s Home
    - 14:1 Has a destructive influence
    - 15:5 Rejects his father’s discipline
  - The Pig-Headed Fool’s Home
    - 15:20 Despises his mother
    - 19:13 Destroys his father
    - 17:21, 25 Brings grief and hurt to his parents
• The Fools’ Goals
  • The Bull-Headed Fool’s Goals
    • His goals are many but unrighteous
  • The Pig-Headed Fool’s Goals
    • 17:24 Has no goals

• The Fools’ Use of Resources
  • The Bull-Headed Fool’s Use of Resources
    • Uses his resources for himself
  • The Pig-Headed Fool’s Use of Resources
    • 21:20 Wastes and squanders his resources
      • His time
      • His opportunities
      • His institutions
• The Fools’ Anger
  • The Bull-Headed Fool’s Anger
    • 14:7 Uncontrolled anger
    • 14:29 Quick to lose his temper
    • 27:3 Lingers in anger
  • The Pig-Headed Fool’s Anger
    • 12:16 Uncontrolled anger

• The Fools’ Origin and Cure
  • The Origin: Birth
  • The Cure: The Rod of Correction
    • It is a sign of love (Prov. 13:24)
    • God uses correction to restore His children (2 Chron. 33:12-13)
Wisdom: How It Is Obtained

- **Aspiration** (Prov. 18:15; 29:3)
  - Ambition Seeks Glory for **Self**
  - Aspiration Seeks Glory for **God**
- **Attention** (Prov. 1:5; 8:33)
  - Resist **Distractions**
  - Examine Your **Motives**
  - Identify the Speaker’s Purpose or **Theme**
  - **Outline** the Message
- **Retention** (Prov. 2:1; 7:1-3)
- **Meditation** and **Reflection** (Prov. 2:2)
- **Supplication** (Prov. 2:3)
- **Separation** (Prov. 4:23-27)
The Importance of the Home

• Devotional Life (2 Tim. 3:15-16)
  • Study the Word
  • Study the God of the Word

• Social Life (Acts 16:2)
  • Our Response to the Wicked (Prov. 4:14; 24:1)
    • Do not follow their paths
    • Do not envy them
    • Do not desire their friendship
  • Our Relationship to the Wise
    • It can give us security (Prov. 13:20)
    • It can give us sharpening (Prov. 27:17)
• Home Life (2 Tim. 1:5)
  • God’s Commands to Children
    • Inner attitude: honor
    • Outer behavior: obey

• The Consequences of a Wrong Attitude
  • Destroys peace
  • Develops into bitterness

• Four Steps to Victory (1 Peter 5:8-9)
  • Be Serious
  • Be Suspicious
  • Be Submissive
  • Be Steadfast
### Your Place in the Home

- **God’s Chain of Command**
  - The *Revelation* of God’s Chain of Command  
    (1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 6:1-2)
  - God
  - Christ
  - Father
  - Mother
  - Children

- **Our Reaction to God’s Chain of Command**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results of Obedience</th>
<th>Results of Disobedience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>Bitterness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission</td>
<td>Rebellion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joy</td>
<td>Suffering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace</td>
<td>Conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmony</td>
<td>Disharmony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress</td>
<td>Problems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• God’s Will for Your Life
  • The Christian Life Requires Submission
  • Submission Now Prepares You for the Future
    • College: teachers and administration
    • Marriage: needs of your spouse
    • Vocation: boss
    • Service: God and the needs of others

• Submission Places You at Odds with the World
  • The World’s Philosophy
    • It places everyone on the same level
    • It is inspired by Satan
  • The World Rejects Submission
    • College: students run the administration
    • Marriage: no leadership, rampant divorce
    • Vocation: labor runs management
    • Service: man serves himself
Understanding Your Parents

• Discipline Is Part of Life
  • It is Natural
  • It is Correct

• Discipline Is Commanded by God
  • The Command: Proverbs 23:13
  • Illustrations of Disobedience
    • David (1 Kings 1:5-6)
    • Eli (1 Sam 2:12-36)

• Discipline Is an Expression of Love
  • The Truth Stated: Hebrews 12:6 and Proverbs 3:12
  • The Truth Explained
    • Discipline is a sign of God’s love
    • A parent will discipline a child he loves
• The Truth Illustrated
  • Parental rules, regulations, and discipline are not meant to keep teenagers imprisoned but to protect them from danger.

• Discipline Produces Godliness
  • Discipline Instills
    • Maturity (Prov. 22:6)
    • Wisdom (Prov. 29:15)
  
• Discipline Drives Out
  • Evil (Prov. 20:30)
  • Foolishness (Prov. 22:15)
  • Hell (or the Grave) (Prov. 23:13-14)

• The Most Important Factor in Discipline is Attitude
  • The Truth Stated: Hebrews 12:5
  • The Truth Charted: Parents Are Merely God’s Tools
DUTIES OF THE PARENTS

• Men and Women Are Different
  • Three Major Areas of Difference
    • Their needs
    • Their temperaments
    • Their responsibilities
  • Their Differences Complete One Another

• Husband + Wife = One Flesh
  • The Principle of Leaving
    • They must leave their parents
    • They must leave their own rights
  • The Principle of Cleaving
    • They are to be one flesh
    • They are to place priority on their spouse
• The **Practice** of the Principle
  • Don’t allow the home to become **child-centered**
  • The couple must invest **time** into their marriage

• Husbands and Wives Complete Each Other
• The Wife Is a **Crown** to Her Husband

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Crown</th>
<th>Corruption</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proverbs 31:11-12</td>
<td>Faithful</td>
<td>Untrustworthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titus 2:5</td>
<td>Chaste/pure</td>
<td>Impure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephesians 5:22-23</td>
<td>Reverent obedience</td>
<td>Domineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titus 2:4</td>
<td>Immovable affection</td>
<td>Loves other things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proverbs 31:12, 23</td>
<td>Delights in his honor</td>
<td>Seeks her own glory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proverbs 10:12</td>
<td>Private concerning his faults</td>
<td>Criticizes him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proverbs 14:1</td>
<td>Prudent in family management</td>
<td>Lazy, wasteful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proverbs 31:27-28</td>
<td>Domestic</td>
<td>Sloppy, brings shame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proverbs 31:26</td>
<td>Kind and considerate</td>
<td>Bitter, critical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proverbs 31:30</td>
<td>Fearful of the Lord</td>
<td>Not interested in spiritual things</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• The Husband Is a Savior to His Wife
  • He must meet her needs
    • Need for security
    • Opportunity to care for her family
  • He must cherish her

• The Cause of Most Unhappy Marriages
  • Selfishness
  • Immaturity
    • “If I choose her for her beauty, I shall love her no longer than while that continues. But if I love her for her virtues: then, though all other sandy foundations fail, yet will my happiness remain entire.” (Bishop Beveridge)
Wisdom: In Companions

• Biblical Warnings About Companions
  • 1 Corinthians 5:9-11
    • These people are Christians
    • This does not mean complete withdrawal from the world
    • The command: Don’t fellowship with backsliders
  • 2 Thessalonians 3:14
    • These people are Christians
    • The command: Don’t associate with the willfully disobedient

• Reasons for the Warnings
  • Haggai 2:12-13
    • Holiness does not spread
    • Pollution does spread
  • 1 Corinthians 15:33-34
    • Corruption is contagious
    • Godliness must be taught
• How to Reach Wayward Christians
  • The Right Response
    • Not isolation
    • Not integration
    • Show interest
  • The Right Attitude
    • Note them
    • Don’t unite with them
    • Don’t treat them as enemies
    • Admonish them as brothers
• Your Parents Role in Choosing Companions
  • They Are Commanded by God to Monitor Your Friendships
  • Respond in Submission not Resentment
Companions to Avoid

• Illustration of Avoiding the Ungodly

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>One-Word Description of Approach</th>
<th>End Result of This Approach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill</td>
<td>Interest (Integrity)</td>
<td>Conviction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed</td>
<td>Integration</td>
<td>Compromise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan</td>
<td>Isolation</td>
<td>Contention</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• What Avoiding Is Not
  • It Is Not Being Unfriendly
  • It Is Not Being Unkind

• The Three-Fold Purpose of Avoiding
  • To Win the Lost and to Restore the Wayward
    • Don’t respond to evil with more evil
    • Live honestly and honorably before men
    • If possible, live at peace with all men
    • Don’t seek revenge
    • Respond to cruelty with kindness
• Don’t be overcome by evil
• Overcome evil with good

• Because We Fear Offending God
• Because We Know Our Own Weaknesses

• The Stair Steps to Sin
  • Step 1
    • Relationship: contact
    • Response: anger and grief
  • Step 2
    • Relationship: familiarity
    • Response: become accustomed
  • Step 3
    • Relationship: integration
    • Response: acceptance
  • Step 4
    • Relationship: participation
    • Response: agreement
Characteristics of Wrong Companions

- Four Wrong Companions
  - Evil Person (Prov. 28:5)
  - Cliquish Person (Prov. 28:21)
  - Froward or Perverse Person (Prov. 2:12-15)
  - Worthless Person (Prov. 6:12-14)

- Characteristics of the Worthless Person
  - His Mouth Is Crooked (Prov. 6:12)
    - His words are unscriptural
      - Exodus 20:7 Curse
      - Colossians 4:6 Crude words
      - Ephesians 5:4 Immoral words
      - Matthew 12:36 Idle words
      - Proverbs 20:19 Gossip
      - Galatians 5:15 Critical words
      - Proverbs 26:28 Lying
    - His words are revealing (Matt. 12:34-35)
• Proper Speech (Col. 4:6)
  • Gracious speech
  • Attractive speech
  • Considered speech

• His Eyes Are Winking (Prov. 6:13)
  • His eyes are evil
    • Matthew 5:28 Lustful looks
    • I Samuel 18:9 Jealous looks
    • Matthew 7:3-5 Fault-finding looks
    • Proverbs 30:17 Mocking looks
    • Proverbs 30:12 Self-righteous looks
  • His Eyes Are Revealing
    • By observing their emotion
    • By observing their direction

• His Feet Speak (Prov. 6:13)
  • They signal direction
  • They walk into sin
• His Fingers Teach (Prov. 6:13)
  • Immoral gestures
  • Immoral touching (2 Tim. 2:22)
• His Mind Is Perverse (Titus 1:15)
• His Impact: Spreads Strife (Prov. 6:14)
Wrong Attitudes and Wrong Actions

- The Importance of Attitude
- Definition of Attitude
  - The direction one is pointing
  - Posture, inclination, or tendency
- Every Success or Failure Begins with Attitude
  - Focusing on God brings peace (Isa. 26:1-4)
  - Focusing on earthly things brings destruction (Phil. 3:18-19)
- Two Dangerous Attitudes
  - Envy (Prov. 3:31–32)
    - Our old nature tells us the ungodly are having fun
    - We have turned our eyes away from God’s glory
  - Desire to Be with Them (Prov. 24:1)
- Victory over Wrong Attitudes
  - Consider the End of the Wicked (Ps. 73:17-19)
  - Be a Continual Companion of God (Ps. 73:23)
  - Fear the Lord (Prov. 23:17)
WHY WE LOSE FRIENDSHIPS

• What Is Friendliness?
  • Definition of Friendliness
    • Friendliness is showing an interest in the lives and affairs of others
    • The opposite of friendliness is selfishness
  • Characteristics of a Friendly Person
    • He listens as much as he talks
      • Stop what you are doing
      • Look the person in the eyes
      • Listen carefully to all he says
      • Respond
    • He talks about things that interest others
  • He smiles
    • Smiling requires self-forgetfulness instead of pride
    • Smiling reflects warm-heartedness instead of bitterness
    • Smiling relaxes nervousness instead of causing insecurity
    • Smiling radiates godliness instead of sin
• He is courteous and thoughtful
• He makes friends of strangers
  • Get out of your comfort zone
  • Make strangers feel at ease
• Why Do We Lose Friends?
  • We Lack Genuine Love for Others (Prov. 10:12)
    • Cause strife (Prov. 10:12)
    • Seek revenge (Prov. 19:11)
    • Mock the poor (Prov. 14:31)
  • We Act Without Knowledge (Prov. 13:15-16)
  • We Are Not Right with God (Prov. 16:7)
How to Gain Friends

• Be Merciful (Prov. 14:21)
  • What Mercy Is
    • Withholding wrath from those who deserve it
    • The opposite of seeking revenge
  • Showing Mercy to Others
    • Cover transgressions (Prov. 17:9)
    • Feed your enemy (Prov. 25:21)
  • Effects of Showing Mercy
    • Showing mercy will do his soul good (Prov. 11:17)
      • Failure to show mercy brings troubles
    • Showing mercy brings happiness (Prov. 14:21)
      • Failure to show mercy is sin

• Be Diligent in Seeking Good (Prov. 11:27)
  • Diligence Means Persistent Effort
  • Christ Went About Doing Good (Acts 10:38)
• Be Understanding (Prov. 13:15)
  • Understanding Means to Get the Facts Before We React

  • Four Consequences of Reacting
    • Proverbs 14:29 It exalts folly
    • Proverbs 15:18 It stirs up strife
    • Proverbs 20:22 It takes God’s place
    • Proverbs 25:8 It brings shame and embarrassment

• Be Right with God (Prov. 16:7)
  • All Relationships Are Based on Our Relationship with God
  • Parallels the Ten Commandments
    • Commandments 1-4 Deal with our relationship to God
    • Commandment 5 Deals with our relationships at home
    • Commandments 6-10 Deal with our relationships with others
• Be Friendly (Prov. 22:11)
  • True Friendliness Is Being Genuinely Interested in Others
• Five Characteristics of a Friendly Person
  • Listens to others
  • Talks of the interests of others
  • Smiles
  • Is courteous and thoughtful
  • Knows how to make friends of strangers

• Be Considerate (Prov. 29:7)
• Defining Consideration
  • Have regard for the needs of others
  • Have regard for the feelings of others
• Results of Being Considerate
  • Causes one to act with less haste
  • Makes one more aware of the needs of others
What Is Character?

- Meaning of Character
  - Original Meaning
    - From the Greek word: *charakter*
    - Original meaning: engraving instrument; distinctive mark
  - Definitions of Character
    - Living and acting by a predetermined set of life principles rather than by impulse or feeling. (Dr. Walter Fremont)
    - Knowing and doing what you should do, regardless of whether you feel like it.

- Blueprint for Building Christian Character
  - The Foundation (Matt. 7:24)
    - Salvation in Jesus Christ
    - Continued grace of God
    - Beholding God in His Word and works
• The Superstructure (1 Cor. 3:10-15)
  • Don’t build with feelings (James 1:8; 4:8)
  • Build with faithfulness (Phil. 2:13-16)
    • To God
    • To biblical principles
      • A rule or law based on the character of God which never changes and by which we govern our lives.

• The Carpenters
  • Parents and home life (Prov. 22:6)
  • Friends (Prov. 27:17)
  • Environment—school, church, nation, and culture
  • Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16, 18, 22-23)

• Instructions for Building Christian Character
  • Begin with a Biblical Foundation
  • Prayerfully Build Faithfulness into Your Life
  • Humbly Submit to God’s Carpenters
THE WORKS OF THE FLESH

• Two Types of Materials
  • Feeling-Oriented Materials
    • Works of the flesh
    • Marks of the unsaved life
  • Faith-Based Materials
    • Fruit of the Spirit
      • Produced by the Holy Spirit
      • Based on the character of God
    • Basis for biblical principles

• Inspecting the Works of the Flesh
  • Moral Sins
    • Sexual immorality
      • Adultery
      • Fornication
    • Moral impurity
    • Shamelessness
• Sins of Worship
  • Idolatry
    • Placing anything before God
  • Materialism
  • Witchcraft
    • Drug use
    • Occult
• Sins of Relationships
  • Hatred
  • Strife
  • Jealousy
  • Wrath
  • Rivalry
  • Dissensions
  • Factions
• Sins Against Society
  • Envy
  • Murder
  • Drunkenness
  • Partying

• Getting the Right Materials
  • Confession (John 15:1-3)
    • Pray for cleansing
    • Repent
  • Submission (Gal. 5:16-18; John 15:10)
    • Walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16-18)
    • Obey God’s commands (John 15:10)
  • Abide in Christ (John 15:1-4)
    • Meditate on God and Christ in the Word (Matt. 11:29)
    • Rest confidently in His grace (Matt. 11:28)
  • The Spirit Will Produce Fruit (Gal. 5:22-23)
    • He produces change into God’s image (2 Cor. 3:18)
    • He works as we abide in Christ (John 15:5)
LOVE

• Producing the Fruits
  • The Ongoing Process
    • Put off the old man
    • Put on the new man
    • The renewed mind
  • Principle of Replacement
    • The principle stated
      • When we cleanse our lives of sins, we must replace them with something worthwhile to fill the emptiness
    • The principle illustrated
      • In construction: replace rotten timbers
      • In the Bible: Matthew 12:43-45
• Looking at Love
  • Love is the Foundation of All Other Fruits
  • Basis of Love: Christ’s Passion for All Men
    • His love extends to all mankind (John 3:16)
    • His love does not depend on our loving Him (1 John 4:9-10)
    • His love was expressed in His death (Rom. 5:8)
  • The Principle: We Must Have Passion for All Men

• Defining Love
  • The Definition Stated
    • Love is an unselfish, self-sacrificing desire to seek God’s best for and to meet the needs of the cherished object
    • God’s best is God’s will

• Antonym and Synonym
  • Antonym: selfishness
  • Synonym: self-sacrifice
• Examining Proverbs on Love
  • Proverbs 10:12
  • Proverbs 17:9
  • Proverbs 24:17
  • Proverbs 25:21-22
• Appropriating Love
  • Confess Where We Lack Love
  • Meditate on God’s Love
  • Yield to the Spirit
• Looking at Joy
  • Basis of Joy: Christ’s **Pleasure in the Midst of Dying**
    • Joy in the midst of **sorrow** (Isa. 53:3)
    • Joy in the midst of **scorn** and **rejection** (Isa. 53:3)
    • Joy in the midst of **suffering** (Heb. 12:2)
  • Types of Joy
    • Physical joy brings **pleasure**
    • Soulful joy brings **pride**
    • Spiritual joy brings **praise**
  • The Principle of Joy
    • We must have **praise** on our **lips** and **gratefulness** in our **hearts** at all **times**
      for both **God** and **man**
  • Defining Joy
    • **What Joy Is Not**
      • Joy is not **physical pleasure**
      • Joy is not pride in **possessions** or **popularity**
      • Joy is not **laughter, fun, or parties**
• The Definition Stated
  • Joy is the *exultation* of my *spirit* as a result of genuine *harmony* with *God* and with *men*.

• Antonyms and Synonyms
  • Antonyms: *griping*, *complaining*
  • Synonyms: *praise*, *thanksgiving*

• Appropriating Love
  • True Joy Comes Only from the *Hand of God*
  • True Joy Is Produced by the *Holy Spirit*
  • True Joy Comes Through *Confession*, *Meditation*, and *Submission*
PEACE

• Looking at Peace

• Basis of Peace: Christ’s Peace in Every Circumstance
  • No irritation in hunger and hardships (John 4:32)
  • No retaliation in persecution (1 Peter 2:23)
  • No agitation in poverty (Matt. 8:20)
  • No desperation in peril (Matt. 8:24-26)

• The Principle: We Must Have Peace in Every Circumstance

• Defining Peace

• The Definition Stated
  • Peace is realizing God has provided all I need

• Three Kinds of Peace
  • Peace with God—upward
  • Peace of God—inward
  • Peace with men—outward
• Antonyms and Synonym
  • Antonyms: anxiety, worry
  • Synonym: contentment

• How to Appropriately Peace
  • Confess Your Lack of Peace
  • Meditate on God’s Strength and Salvation
  • Yield to God in Faith
LESSON 24  OVERHEAD

LONGSUFFERING (PATIENCE)

• Reviewing the Fruit
  • Love: Having Passion for All Men
  • Joy: Giving Praise at All Times
  • Peace: Having Peace in All Circumstances

• Looking at Longsuffering
  • Basis of Longsuffering: Christ’s Patience in Trial and Suffering
    • His focus on the future (Heb. 12:2-3)
    • His faith in a righteous God (1 Peter 2:21, 23)
  • The Boundary of His Longsuffering
    • It is fathomless (Luke 22:63-65; 23:9-11)
  • The Benefits of His Longsuffering
    • To finish our faith (Heb. 12:2)
    • To forgive his foes (Luke 23:33-34)
    • To fortify our faint hearts (Heb. 12:3)

• The Principle: We Must Have Patience in Every Trial
• Defining Longsuffering
  • The Definition Stated
    • Longsuffering is steadfastness of soul in every provocation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provocations</th>
<th>Wrong Responses</th>
<th>Right Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criticism</td>
<td>Retaliating</td>
<td>Listen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>Quitting</td>
<td>Learn from Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desertion</td>
<td>Regressing</td>
<td>Befriend Others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pull of the World</td>
<td>Conforming</td>
<td>Persevere in Faith</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Antonym and Synonym
  • Antonym: short-tempered
  • Synonym: merciful
    • Because of God’s mercy, we can endure criticism
    • Because of God’s mercy, we can endure apparent failure
    • Because of God’s mercy, we can endure desertion by our friends
    • Because of God’s mercy, we can endure the pull of the world
• Appropriating Longsuffering
• Confess Your Frustrations
• Meditate on God’s Longsuffering with Us
• Yield Your Plans to the Lord
Gentleness (Kindness)

• Reviewing the Fruit
  • Love: Having Passion for All Men
  • Joy: Giving Praise at All Times
  • Peace: Having Peace in All Circumstances
  • Longsuffering: Having Patience in Every Trial

• Looking at Gentleness
  • Basis of Gentleness: Christ’s Pattern of Life
    • Providing for the needs of others (John 19:26-27)
    • Protecting His disciples (John 18:8)
    • Showing pity for the oppressed (Acts 10:38)
    • Praying for Peter (Luke 22:31-32)
    • Presenting His life for His sheep (John 10:11, 15)
• The Principle: We Must Have **Personal Concern for All Men**

• Defining Gentleness
  • Definition Stated
    • Gentleness is expressing **personal concern** for the **needs** of others

• Antonym and Synonym
  • Antonym: **Getting for Self**
  • Synonym: **Giving for Others**

• Appropriating Gentleness
  • Confess **Harshness** Towards Others
  • Meditate on God’s **Kindness** to You
  • Yield Yourself to **Meet** the **Needs** of Others
GOODNESS

- Reviewing the Fruit
  - Love: Having Passion for All Men
  - Joy: Giving Praise at All Times
  - Peace: Having Peace in All Circumstances
  - Longsuffering: Having Patience in Every Trial
  - Gentleness: Having Personal Concern for All Men

- Defining Goodness
  - Goodness Is What God Is
  - Goodness Is Whatever God Approves
  - The Definition Stated (Ps. 100:5)
    - Goodness is the purity of motive that seeks only to please and honor God
    - Revealing what God is = honoring God
    - Doing what God approves = pleasing God
• Antonym and Synonym
  • Antonym: Self-centeredness
  • Synonym: Godliness
    • Doing *everything* with God’s *glory* in mind (Gal. 1:10)

• Looking at Goodness
  • Basis of Goodness: Christ Pleased God in All He Did
    • Pure motives *honor* God (John 8:29; 17:4a)
    • Pure motives *achieve* their goal (John 17:4)
    • Pure motives *proclaim* the Gospel (John 17:6)
    • Pure motives *disciple* for growth (John 17:8)
    • Pure motives *give* sacrificially (John 10:11)
  • Principle: We must have *purity* in every *motive*, and the only pure motive in life is to *please* God.

• Appropriating Goodness
  • Confess *Impure* Motives
  • Meditate on the *Pure Goodness* of God
  • Yield Your Life to *Please* God in *Everything*
FAITHFULNESS

• Reviewing the Fruit
  • Love: Having Passion for All Men
  • Joy: Giving Praise at All Times
  • Peace: Having Peace in All Circumstances
  • Longsuffering: Having Patience in Every Trial
  • Gentleness: Having Personal Concern for All Men
  • Goodness: Being Pure in Every Motive

• Looking at Faithfulness
  • Basis of Faithfulness: Christ’s Pursuit of God’s Will
    • It was undying—accomplishes its purpose (John 4:34)
    • It was unconditional—asks no benefit (Matt. 26:39)
    • It was unwavering—always the same (John 8:29b)
    • It was unhesitating—acts immediately (John 9:4)
• The Principle: We Must Have Persistence in Obedience
  • The meaning of persistence (Luke 18:1-7)
  • The enemy of persistence is half-heartedness

• Defining Faithfulness
  • The Definition Stated
    • Faithfulness is being unswerving in both purpose and goal

• Antonym and Synonym
  • Antonym: fickle
  • Synonym: fixed

• Appropriating Faithfulness
  • Confess Half-Hearted Devotion to God
  • Meditate on God’s Faithfulness
  • Yield Completely to God
Meekness (Gentleness)

- Reviewing the Fruit
  - Love: Having Passion for All Men
  - Joy: Giving Praise at All Times
  - Peace: Having Peace in All Circumstances
  - Longsuffering: Having Patience in Every Trial
  - Gentleness: Having Personal Concern for All Men
  - Goodness: Being Pure in Every Motive
  - Faithfulness: Being Persistent in Obedience

- Defining Meekness

- Examples of Meekness
  - Moses (Num. 12:3)
  - Jesus Christ (Matt. 11:29)

- The Definition Stated
  - Meekness is an inward attitude of mind that yields all rights and expectations to God
• Antonyms and Synonyms
  • Antonyms: Arrogance, pride
  • Synonyms: Humility, submission

• Looking at Meekness
  • The Basis of Our Meekness: Christ’s Parental Submission
    • Meekness is strong in spirit (Luke 2:40)
      • The power of meekness
      • Becoming strong in spirit
        • Implies being filled with the knowledge of God
        • Implies being filled with the Word of God
    • Meekness is submissive in service (Luke 2:49)
    • Meekness is silent in subjection (Luke 2:51-52)
  • Principle: We Must Have Poverty of Spirit Toward All Authority

• Appropriating Meekness
  • Confess Your Pride and Self-Promotion
  • Meditate on Christ’s Meekness Before God
  • Yield to God’s Rightful Authority over Your Life
SELF-CONTROL (TEMPERANCE)

- Reviewing the Fruit
  - Love: Having **Passion** for All **Men**
  - Joy: Giving **Praise** at All **Times**
  - Peace: Having **Peace** in All **Circumstances**
  - Longsuffering: Having **Patience** in Every **Trial**
  - Gentleness: Having **Personal Concern** for All **Men**
  - Goodness: Being **Pure** in Every **Motive**
  - Faithfulness: Being **Persistent** in **Obedience**
  - Meekness: Having **Poverty** of Spirit Toward All **Authority**

- Defining Self-Control

  - The Definition Stated
    - Self-control is the **discipline** of the **whole life**: body, soul, and spirit
      - Not prideful self-effort
      - Humble submission to God
• Antonym and Synonym
  • Antonym: out of control
  • Losing control of the body
  • Losing control of the spirit
  • Synonym: Spirit-controlled

• Looking at Self-Control
• Basis of Self-Control: Christ’s Power under Pressure
  • Matthew 26:62-65—Power to hold His anger
  • Matthew 27:12-14—Power of the Spirit to evidence God’s control

• The Principle of Self-Control: We Must Have the Power of a Disciplined Life
  • Discipline of the mind
  • Discipline of the body
  • Discipline of character
    • His appetites
    • His emotions
    • His speech
    • His priorities
    • His adjustment to authority
Wisdom: Dealing with the Flesh

• Reviewing the Fruit
  • Love: Having Passion for All Men
  • Joy: Giving Praise at All Times
  • Peace: Having Peace in All Circumstances
  • Longsuffering: Having Patience in Every Trial
  • Gentleness: Having Personal Concern for All Men
  • Goodness: Being Pure in Every Motive
  • Faithfulness: Being Persistent in Obedience
  • Meekness: Having Poverty of Spirit Toward All Authority
  • Self-Control: Experiencing the Power of a Disciplined Life

• Characteristics of a Pagan (Prov. 27:20)
  • Concerned Primarily with Satisfying His Own Flesh
    • Overemphasis on appearance
    • Overemphasis on appetites
    • Overemphasis on amusements
• Views Life in the Present Tense
  • Sends men to Hell
  • Robs a man of his future
  • Never satisfies

• Characteristics of a Christian (Psalm 17)
  • Finds His Satisfaction in God
    • In knowing God’s glory
    • In growing in God’s glory
    • In showing God’s glory to others

• Views Life in the Future Tense
  • Sends men to Heaven
  • Gives man joy in both the present and future
  • Satisfies
Wisdom in Thought Life

• The Importance of Our Thoughts
  • Areas Our Thoughts Influence
    • Our health (Prov. 14:30; 12:25)
    • Our spirit (Prov. 15:13)
    • Our face (Prov. 15:13)
    • Our speech (Prov. 16:23; 15:28)
    • Our attitude toward sin (Prov. 16:6)

• Illustrations of Their Influence
  • A computer (Prov. 19:27; 23:12)
  • A fountain of life (Prov. 13:14; 14:27)

• The Deceit of Our Thoughts (Jer. 17:9)

• Learn to Trust God (Prov. 3:5)
  • Trust God completely
  • Don’t lean on your own understanding
• Let God be the **Judge** (Prov. 16:2, 25)
  • Man’s view of his actions
    • They are **clean**
    • They are **right**
  • God’s view of man’s actions
    • He knows the **motives**
    • He knows the **end**

• **The Control of Our Thoughts** (Prov. 16:1)
  • **Man Prepares His Heart**
    • Must eliminate **wrong** data (Prov. 19:27)
    • Must feed his mind **proper** data (Phil. 4:8)
      • God’s **commands** (Prov. 3:1-2)
      • God’s **character** (Prov. 3:3-4)
      • God’s **guidance** (Prov. 3:5-6)
  • **God Provides the Victory in Our Thoughts**
    • Through the **Spirit** of the **Lord**
    • With **spiritual** weapons
Wisdom: In Speech (Part 1)

• The Importance of the Tongue
  • It Distinguishes Between Tastes
  • It Forms Words
  • It Reveals Our Heart
    • The tongue is the outward evidence of our inward condition

• The Power of the Tongue
  • Its Power to Guide (James 3:2-4)
    • The bit—taming the young
    • The helm—guiding the mature
  • Its Power to Harm (James 3:5-8)
    • Like a fire—spreads destruction
      • Often begins small
      • Never stays small
      • It affects everything
• More dreadful than a wild beast—untamed evil  
  • Cannot be managed  
  • Full of poison  

• Its Power to Bless  
  • Like a fountain that refreshes (James 3:9-11)  
  • Like a tree that nourishes (James 3:12)  
  • Like a goad that edifies (Eccl. 12:11)  

• Conclusion  
  • The Tongue Can Bless or Curse, But If It Does Both It Is a Freak of Nature  
  • Meeting the Great Need of the Gospel Today  
    • Giving information  
    • Being a demonstration
WISDOM: IN SPEECH (PART 2)

• The Wise Man and His Speech
  • Thinks Before He Speaks (Prov. 15:28)
  • Gets the Facts Before He Speaks (Prov. 17:27–28)
  • Considers the Consequences Before He Speaks (Prov. 21:23)
  • Speaks Only That Which Edifies (Prov. 10:21)
• Summary
  • Don’t say what you’re thinking until you are thinking
  • Don’t say what you’re thinking until you’re sure what you’re thinking is righteous

• Skill in Using Our Word
  • Two Archers
    • The careless archer (Prov. 26:18-22)
    • The cautious archer (Prov. 10:32)
• Three Cautions
  - Our words—knowing what to say (Prov. 25:11)
  - Our attitude—knowing how to say it (Col. 4:6)
  - Our timing—knowing when to say it (Psa. 19:14)

• Five Wrong Attitudes
  • An Independent Spirit
    - Definition: reserving to myself the right to make my own decisions
    - Outward evidences: desires to get ahead, lists his rights and expectations, prone to anger and flares of temper
  • A Wounded Spirit
    - Definition: a spirit whose rights and expectations have not been fulfilled as rapidly as desired
    - Outward evidences: distrusting, apathetic, needs detailed instructions, cynical, cutting
  • A Condemning Spirit
    - Definition: result of pride or past injuries, giving us a judging, defensive spirit
    - Outward evidences: critical, defensive, refuses to admit when wrong, gossips, gripes, finds fault in others
• **An Ungrateful Spirit**  
  • Definition: believing I achieved what God and others really did for me  
  • Outward evidences: boasts, brags, has “I” centered conversations

• **A Bitter Spirit**  
  • Definition: lacking in love and full of hatred and rebellion because our rights, expectations, pride, and desires have been absolutely denied  
  • Outward evidences: harsh, speaks unloving words, has a hardened face, has problems with nerves, experiences depression, has some physical problems
Wisdom: In Acknowledging God

Your greatest ambition (wildest dream)

Definitions of Success

1. Financial security, comfortable goods
2. Recognition (reaching the top)
3. Achieving major personal goals
4. Acquiring good friends for life
5. Making a lasting contribution to society
6. Having a wonderful family with character
7. Happiness and contentment
8. Other (Specify)

• What Is Success?
• Success Is Accomplishing What God Created Us to Do
  • God made and fashioned man (Ps. 119:73)
  • To make— to bring into being
• To fashion—to design for a known purpose
• God has a plan for every man (Jer. 1:4-5)

• **Success Is Knowing God’s Will**

• **Success Is Doing God’s Will**
  • He is doing what he was designed to do
  • He is pleasing his Maker
  • God will bless him with all he needs
  • He will do his work better, with less effort, and greater inner satisfaction
  • He will be happier doing God’s will than in doing anything else

• **Why Men Don’t Do God’s Will**

• **Satan Blinds Men**
  • Man thinks he can do his own will and God’s will (Saul)
  • Man thinks God’s way will make him miserable (Jonah)
  • Man judges by his feelings and outward appearance (Lot)

• **Believers Are Not Always in a Position to Know God’s Will**
  • Because of unconfessed sin (Isa. 59:1-2)
  • Because of failing to listen (Jer. 7:13)
• How to Know God’s Will
  • Romans 12:1-2
    • Dedication—A living sacrifice
    • Separation—Not conformed
    • Transformation—Renewing of the mind
  • Proverbs 3:5-6
    • Depend on God’s wisdom
      • Know Him
      • Trust Him
    • Don’t depend on your wisdom
      • Not in our selves (Prov. 28:26)
      • Not in our strength (Prov. 21:31)
      • Not in our future (Prov. 27:1)
      • Not in logic (Prov. 3:5-6)
  • Result—God’s Guidance
Wisdom: The Fountain of Life

• Biblical Pictures of a Fountain
  • The Spirit of God (John 4:14; 7:38-39)
  • The Word of God (Psalm 1)
    • Brings stability
    • Brings fruit
    • Brings success
  • The Fear of God (Prov. 14:27)
  • The Mouth of the Righteous (Prov. 10:11)

• Why Our Fountain Runs Dry
  • We Forsake God for Idols (Jer. 2:11-13)
  • We Pass on Rules Without Knowledge of God
  • We Conform Outwardly Without an Inward Relationship

• Christ: The Fountain of Life
  • Christ Is Our Wisdom (1 Cor. 1:30)
• Christ Is the **Wisest** Man Ever to Live
  • He is wiser than **Solomon** (Matt. 12:42)
  • His wisdom proves His **deity** (John 16:30)
• Christ Is the **Source of All** Wisdom (2 Peter 1:3-4)