Wisdom Defined and Categorized
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 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
  – Philippians 3:12

• Hear—Pay Attention
  – Proverbs 1:5; 2:1–2

• Pray
  – Proverbs 2:3
Keys to Understanding Proverbs (cont.)

• **Dig**
  – Proverbs 2:4

• **Gather**
  – Proverbs 2:2

• **See Christ**
Benefits of Studying Proverbs

• **Personal Growth**
  – Proverbs 1:5

• **Helmsmanship**
  – Proverbs 1:5
LESSON 2

Wisdom: The Fear of the Lord

Proverbs
The Fountain of Life
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; Psa. 34)
What the Fear of the Lord Is

• It includes love
• It includes reverence
• It includes submission
What the Fear of the Lord Is (cont.)

• 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

- Only one dread—to offend the Lord
- 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
The Importance of Fearing God (cont.)

- 2 Samuel 23:3–4—The fear of God is essential to true Christian leadership
- Psalm 147:11—The fear of God is a distinguishing mark of those who fear Him
How We Learn the Fear of the Lord

• Studying God’s Word
  – Proverbs 2:1–5

• Beholding God’s majesty
  – Psalm 96:1–9
How We Learn the Fear of the Lord (cont.)

• Seeing God’s works
  – In His creation (Psa. 33:6–9)
  – In history (Josh. 4:20–24)
  – In our lives (I Sam. 12:24)
“Remember: it’s not so much that we think about the wrong things; it is that we do not think about the right things!”
LESSON 3

The Wisdom of God vs. the Wisdom of Men

Proverbs
The Fountain of Life
Christianity: The Wisdom of God

- The foundation — The Word of God
Five Key Teachings

- God
- Creation
- Moral Ethics
- Servants of God
- A Compassionate world view
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