Proverbs 1

- **Why is Proverbs so awesome?**
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  - **Its wisdom**
  - **That wisdom is Jesus**
- **Why is Proverbs hard?**
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  - **Poetic language, proverbial statements, ancient imagery, non-linear**
- **The problem isn't Proverbs, its our ignorance and unwillingness to listen to the Holy Spirit**
- **Proverbs is a series of "compressed experiences"**
- **Proverbs is true as it speaks to universal truths**

Proverbs 1:1-7

1:1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: 2 To know wisdom and instruction, To discern the sayings of understanding, 3 To receive instruction in wise behavior, Righteousness, justice and equity; 4 To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion, 5 A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel, 6 To understand a proverb and a figure, The words of the wise and their riddles. 7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- **Proverbs talks a lot about fools, and that foolishness is us!**
- **What is a fool?**
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  - **The person who lives like God isn’t there, isn’t good, and isn’t King of all**
  - **Full of ridiculous excuses, won’t start to change, helpless and hopeless**
  - **They provoke bad/sinful reactions in others**

- **What’s the purpose of the Proverbs?**
- **"To know wisdom and knowledge”= develop moral discipline and train the reborn mind to think**
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  - **We should read them and think, “Ouch! That’s me and I need to change.”**
- **Wisdom- human living at its highest and best; a developed skill for living**
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  - **Wisdom is the grace of Jesus beautifying our lives every day**
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- **Instruction- discipline; becoming excellent at godly living through practice and training**
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  - **We aren’t born wise; we learn it through trial and error, observing others’ wisdom and mistakes, and God’s humiliating correction**
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- **All of this is so we will live in justice, equity and righteousness**
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  - **So trained to know black and white that we can quickly choose the right way**
  - **AND the moral strength to choose right**
- **Who are the Proverbs for?**
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  - **Naive- unlearned; new; young**
  - **Wise- the knowledgeable person who wants to mature into more wisdom**
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- **V. 7- does the fear of God bother us? Should it?**
- **It should terrify you if you're not a believer**
- **If you're a believer, it shouldn't terrify you but it should consume you**
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  - **We mustn't confuse access to God as an excuse to be lazy in our response to him**
  - **Fearing God means we remember that we are accountable to him**
  - **Fearing God means to love God for who he is and hating what he hates**
- **Its the building block of all other wisdom**

- **vv. 8-19- what is the overall counsel of this first section of Proverbs?**
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  - **You will slip into foolishness when you think your treasure is _____ instead of God**
  - **You will live your life in folly if you chase after that other thing as your greatest treasure**
- **Wisdom means you see life through the entirely new set of eyes, values & priorities that start with God as our first treasure**
- **Wisdom is a love for God and his ways that causes us to live close to his heart in every moment and every choice**

Proverbs 1:20-23

20 Wisdom shouts in the street, She lifts her voice in the square; 21 At the head of the noisy *streets* she cries out; At the entrance of the gates in the city she utters her sayings: 22 “How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing And fools hate knowledge? 23 “Turn to my reproof, Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.

- **Some here are sure that this 2700 year old book cannot possibly have the answers to modern life**
- **God can’t be your last option when everything else falls apart**
- **Wisdom turns to God’s greatness and and beauty first**
- **Will you live life constantly expecting God to clean up your foolish mess, or will you live in pursuit of Christlikeness and rely daily on God’s grace to overcome your foolishness?**

Proverbs 1:26

26 I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes,

- **Why is God laughing?**
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  - **They aren’t turning to him and his wisdom; he’s their escape hatch**
  - **No real repentance; just “Get me out of this”**
- **“The wise man will learn while there is time”**
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  - **Are you falling asleep?**

- **The theme and purpose of Proverbs:**
  - **Radically renewed character that is deeply embedded in Christlikeness**
  - **Completely recreated minds and Godly thinking**

- **Foolishness is:**
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  - **Not looking at life**
  - **Not facing the brutal facts about our folly**
  - **Not devising a plan to walk like Jesus**
- **What game plan are you drawing up to look like Jesus today?**

- **We tend toward pride and foolishness and tend to fight against the things that our hearts are thirsty and longing and searching for**
- **CS Lewis- sehnsucht; a longing for something otherworldly that shines through the things and longing of this world**
- **Wind in the Willows- awe, fear, wonder and worship when God is encountered**
- **This is the essence of wisdom- drawn to God and his ways, ultimately through the cross of Christ**

- **Are you desiring and pursuing wisdom like this?**
- **Are you encouraging others to pursue it?**
- **How and where are you foolish?**
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