

The Art of Life

Proverbs 1:1-19

Solomon's request was for wisdom.
His fame was for wisdom.
His writing was of wisdom. (I Kings 4:32)

v1. Here he establishes his authority to write a book of wisdom.
Proverbs. "Proverb" in Hebrew is "mashal": "to be like" or
"represent" or a "figure" or even "an illustration"

i.e. a proverb is "a near picture of a heavenly truth."

It's the practicality of truth.

In verses 1-6 notice how often "to" or "in order to" is used.
The purpose of Proverbs is "in order to" do a number of things.

v2. "to know wisdom" or literally "skill"

"The art of living in blessedness."

And to know "instruction": One must be taught wisdom.

Wise living is unnatural to fallen man.

It also is "to discern the sayings of understanding."

"Sayings": Proverbs are short.
Nails to secure.
Lights in the dark.

"... of understanding ..." To perceive correctly.

"... discern ..." means that one goes beyond just intellectual
learning to knowing "why" one believes.

v3. It leads "to wise behavior" or a lifestyle conformed to truth -
especially the dignified treatment of one's fellow man.

v4. It gives "prudence" or literally "craft" in the ability of skilled
choices . . . to the "naive" or "youth" i.e. who acts on emotion.

literally "simple" - "Simple" means non-divided or
non-compound

The simple is a person of one response who cannot make critical
judgments and decisions.

Wisdom gives "knowledge" – A better way or an alternative
whereby through "discretion" one can choose the better
way.

v5. Only two pre-requisites

1.) Teachability: Such a man will hear and increase . . .

v6. . . . and understand the "riddle."

The "riddle" is the proverb.

Thus a "riddle" is a comparison.

It demands thinking,
seeking, looking deeper
and following the road
less traveled.

v7. The other pre-requisite?

2.) The fear of God: A reverence for the standard of God and an obligation to obey Him.

Honoring and Just character can only begin with God.

Thus only “the fool despises wisdom.”

v8. Wisdom starts with parents . . . the young . . . in the home.

v9. Wisdom leads to promise and nobility.

v10-15. Wisdom is lived “against the flow.”

v15. “Don’t go near” the wicked path;

v16. As these men oppose God!

v17. Be a bird! Literally “a possessor of wing.”

v18 -19. The lives the evil destroy are their own.

Conclusion