

“THROUGH THE BIBLE”

Union Chapel M.B. Church

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PROVERBS

(PART 1)

(Mashal)-Moral and Spiritual Instruction

“For the Lord gives wisdom, and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding...Then you will understand what is right and just and fair-every good path. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul...Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse.”

(Proverbs 2:6, 9-10, 12).

-Selected Scriptures-

OVERVIEW

The Hebrew word for Proverbs: “Mashal”!

Here we are again! God’s *inspiration* (**2 Tim. 3:16**). In this Book, God will not argue. The Book is written in **Hebrew poetry, which is very concise**. HE gives us brief sayings, vivid illustrations, general truths and, instructions in choosing what is right and good to live our daily lives. Therefore, **“morality”** will find its foundation expressed in **wisdom** (*guidelines revealed by God*). **Wisdom (from God) is meant to be demonstrated**. The Book of Proverbs is meant and intended to be a “word to the wise”. The Hebrew language translates skill as “wisdom.” So not only is it the most comprehensive, dominating theme, but also the key word in the Book. It is only God who can “declare what something is and should be, to give character and destination.” In other words, it is God who rules and has dominion (“Mashal”). **NOTE: This Hebrew word is also used for parable**. When the Lord explained Himself to be the “true Shepherd” (**John 10:1-5**), by way of parable, **v.6** “...they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.” Do you think those that followed Him ever read Psalm 23?

MESSAGE AND PURPOSE

- **The biblical wisdom of the Book of Proverbs reflects a kind of writing that was common in ancient times. Solomon is credited as the author (Prov. 1:1,2) and a major portion of the Book (Prov. 10:1-, and 25:1 by way of Hezekiah scribes). The Book contains stories,**

teaching, and examples. However, we must be careful to make the appropriate application of the truths to our own situations (1 Cor. 10:11).

- The Proverbs are given so “that we will not make the same mistakes.” God and wisdom are very closely connected. They both call for obedience, morality, the fear of God, because God is the SOURCE of this inspiration. HE is the only One who guarantees the success that wisdom promises, and decides what is right and wrong.
- The Book of Proverbs expands the theme of the Deuteronomy: obedience to God’s instructions brings prosperity; disobedience brings adversity. These ideas are expressed in terms of wisdom and foolishness.
- Wisdom: following God’s instruction and doing what is right, understanding the benefits of wisdom and of God are the same.
- Wisdom is presented in the personification (image) of a woman- “Lady Wisdom” (Prov.1:20-21; Prov. 8). Solomon uses as a metaphor, “she is calling out in public to be heard.” Heed the call and listen to what she has to say. A special message (warning) to the young and naïve, as an invitation to take the right road. Remember, the “Lady” exists before creation (Prov. 8:22-31). Note: In the Hebrew language, wisdom is a grammatically feminine noun. It is contrasted with God’s own wisdom.

Foolishness: rejecting, dismissing, refusing God’s teaching and doing what is wrong.

It is because the Book of Proverbs is so comprehensive (broad scope), one of the LEAST explored in the O.T., God has chosen to share many insights with us. This assignment is given to help us become familiar with the 31 chapters (or at least 1).

*****INSTRUCTIONS:** There are 31 chapters. STARTING NOW: *SELECT* the chapter that corresponds with your DAY of birth. READ, for 1 week. ***

NEXT TIME: PROVERBS (PART 2), LESSON: “KNOWING GOD THROUGH THE PROVERBS”.

NOTES: