

Proverbs Week #1 (1:1-4)

After listening to Walter Kaiser's teaching from this year's ETS annual meeting I have decided to start over in my teaching of the book of Proverbs. One of key points Dr. Kaiser made was concerning our constant need to allow the text of scripture to teach us - from start to finish. He pointed out that too much of Biblical teaching is devoted to topical messages and not the actual text. His suggested approach was to teach from the text -- verse by verse.

We hold in our possession the inspired word of God. It is adequate to equip us for good works; to equip us for those works which God intends and plans for us -- the things He wants us to be, think, believe, and do -- those matters that are important to His heart.

Proverbs 1:1-6

- 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...

The first few verses of the book of Proverbs introduces the main contributor to its collections of proverbs (The headings to the various collections within the book name four authors: Solomon 1:1; 10:1, "men of Hezekiah" who collected and edited some of Solomon's proverbs 25:1; Agur (אַגוּר) 30:1; and King Lemuel (לְמוּעַל מֶלֶךְ) 31:1.). The first few verses also provide the student and teacher with the purpose for the collections. It establishes the end (target or goal) and fruit which enrolling in its course of study will produce.

What lofty goals these verses provide! God inspired lofty goals -- to attain wisdom and discipline. Can that be done? Can we actually make such an acquisition in this life? The answer is a resounding YES!

3 Things to commit to memory:

- 1) To know wisdom and instruction
- 2) To receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice, and equity
- 3) To give prudence to the naive (to the youth knowledge and discretion)

What does it mean to know wisdom and instruction?

What does it mean to receive instruction in wise behavior?

What does it mean to give prudence or discretion?

What examples of each can you provide?

We will add a few foundational principles in next week's lesson and as we study this book together we will explore these themes in more depth.