

Proverbs 1

March 2021

1:1-7 — Purpose of Proverbs

1:1 — The book of proverbs is attributed primarily to King _____ son of _____.

- 1 Kings 4:29-34 — He is credited with having spoken _____ proverbs.

1:4 — Which group(s) of people are the proverbs especially intended for?

1:4-5 — The proverbs are intended to give _____ to the simple. They are also intended to help the _____ gain knowledge and discretion.

1:7 — The _____ of the Lord is the beginning of _____; but fools despise _____ and _____.

"These verses give the purpose and benefit of the book: it instills wisdom in the reader. The wisdom offered here is practical ('instruction in wise dealing'), intellectual ('increase in learning'), moral ('righteousness, justice, and equity'), and probing ('to understand a proverb and...riddles'). It is for all people, be they naïve and ignorant ('the simple...the youth') or already experienced ('Let the wise hear')."

— *ESV Study Bible 1248, note on Proverbs 1:2-6*

1:8-19 — Warning Against Being Enticed by the Wicked

1:11-14 — What pleasures do the sinners in these verses use to try to entice the youth to join them?

1:17-18 — What do you think these verses mean?

1:19 — What danger(s) does/do the vulnerable youth in this illustration need to be aware of?

- In this proverb, what kind of people are the parents warning their child to stay away from?

food for thought...

In the spirit of this warning, what are one or two harmful actions or types of people you would warn today's youth to stay away from?

1:20-33 — Wisdom's Rebuke

1:20 — In Proverbs, including here, Wisdom is often personified as a _____.

1:22 — Wisdom's message is for everyone. But what specific type of people does she call out to here?

1:24-27 — What will Wisdom do if you fail to listen to her and then fall into trouble?

1:28-31 — What will happen to those who failed to listen to Wisdom, then fell into trouble, then called upon her during their trouble?

1:32-33 — The simple are killed by...
...and fools are destroyed by...
...but those who listen to Wisdom will...

"Fools and scoffers, when disaster overtakes them, will frantically seek the wisdom to get out of trouble. But it will be too late for them."

— *ESV Study Bible 1250, note on Proverbs 1:28*

Questions for Class Discussion

1. How does "fear of the Lord" help a person develop wisdom?
2. Thinking especially of 1:8-19 — What can the church today do to help our youth (and all of us) grow in our ability to perceive the consequences of wicked deeds and avoid those deeds?
3. Consider Ephesians 2:1-9, which emphasizes God's grace that helps us in spite of our sinfulness. Doesn't Proverbs 1:24-31 contradict that message? What do you think?