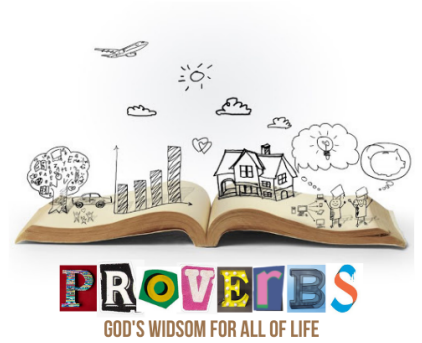


RBT: The Message of Proverbs

4th July 2021



A. INTRODUCTION

- Proverbs: A book that puzzles
- Proverbs: A book New Testament authors reference a lot!
- What is wisdom?

B. BREAKDOWN OF PROVERBS

- i. Introduction (1:1-9:18)
- ii. Solomon's Proverbs (10:1-22:16)
- iii. The Sayings of the Wise (22:17-24:22)
- iv. Further Sayings of the Wise (24:23-34)
- v. Solomon's Proverbs Collected by Hezekiah's Men (25:1-29:27)
- vi. The Sayings of Agur (30:1-33)
- vii. The Sayings of King Lemuel (31:1-21)

- Proverbs 9: the key to understanding the whole book

C. GUIDELINES FOR READING PROVERBS

1. Beware: Common Sense is Required!

2. Beware the Characters

- Wise
- Fool
- Simple

3. Beware the Language

- i. Synonymous Parallelism

ii. Antithetical Parallelism

iii. Synthetic Parallelism

4. Beware Reading Proverbs in Isolation

5. Beware Absolutising Proverbs

- The Force of Proverbs: Behavioural not statistical
- Only true in certain situations?
- Not immediately true?

6. Beware Good Questions to Ask When Reading Proverbs

- What does this proverb reveal about God's nature, by what he values and/or instructs?
- What does this proverb reveal about human frailty & need, by the instructions we are given?
- What does this proverb reveal about the grace humanity requires, which God will ultimately provide in Jesus?
- What virtue does this proverb command/commend?
- What values does this proverb affirm?
- What vice does this proverb hold up for our disapproval?

7. Beware the Goal of Reading Proverbs

- 1 Corinthians 1:18-24