



SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING

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Scripture: Proverbs

TITLE – Proverbs – Be Wise

I remember as a kid looking at various books at my mother's salon. I would read guides on salon management, haircutting, coloring, and even taxes. Here's the problem. I could read and even memorize what I read. But I did not have the capacity or ability to put it into practice. That's the difference between knowledge and wisdom. Wisdom is what the book of Proverbs is all about.

We live in a time where we have more information than ever before, but we live more foolishly than any generation before us. That's why as Christians, we should engage the Bible. We have the ability to read and live out the truths of Scripture.

And there is no more practical Old Testament book than the book of Proverbs. The primary author of Proverbs was Solomon. Others contributed to it, such as Agur and King Lemuel. One thing to remember about Proverbs is that they are general truths. They are practical ways to live, but they are not a magic formula.

In short, pithy statements and stories, the authors provide 900 proverbs. They give wise instruction on wisdom and folly, pride and humility, justice and vengeance, laziness and work, poverty and wealth, friends and neighbors, parents and children, husbands and wives, love and lust, anger and strife, life and death, and so much more.

Is Christ found in Proverbs? Not directly, but we see pictures of Christ. For example, in Proverbs 4:5-8, we can see the Wisdom of God. This is a picture of Christ. In chapter 8, wisdom is personified and seen in its perfection. It is divine. It is the source of spiritual life. It is available to all who will receive it. This, again, is a picture of Christ.

What is the main thing of Proverbs? Be wise. Many of us know a lot, but few of us know how to live a skillful life that is pleasing to God and beneficial to the community around us. So we need to take Solomon's words wisely in Proverbs 1:5-7 (CSB).

“Let a wise person listen and increase learning, and let a discerning person obtain guidance— for understanding a proverb or a parable, the words of the wise, and their riddles. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and discipline.”

May we, as God's people, rightly fear Him and pursue His knowledge so we may be wise. When we consume God's knowledge, we can begin to pursue Proverbs 3:5-6.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.”

When we know God, we will trust Him. When we trust Him, we will follow where He leads.

So here's my challenge for you today: Be wise. How have you been a fool in your life? How have you not feared God but relied on your own understanding? Turn back to the Bible. Turn back to God. Know Him. Pursue Him. Fear Him. And then begin to follow Him one step at a time.

When we become wise according to God's instruction, there is no other option but to win the day.