

COUNSELING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Part 2 – Proverbs 2-3

Series 10 – A Live Interactive Study
In Proverbs
with Dr. Christopher Cone

Background of **Proverbs**

- Titled in the Hebrew, *sepher mish'le'i*, the meaning is literally *book of proverbs*.
- Several of the authors are named within the book: Solomon, Hezekiah's men, Agur, and King Lemuel.
- The book was probably compiled either by Hezekiah's men around 700 BC, or by a later redactor such as Ezra or the like.

A Collection of Wisdom

- Proverbs is a collection of inspired, wise sayings
- Note the authority cited by 4 NT writers (who accounted for at least 16 of the 27 NT books)
 - Proverbs 3:11 in Hebrews 12:5-6
 - Proverbs 3:34 in James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5
 - Proverbs 10:12 in James 5:20, 1 Peter 4:8
 - Proverbs 11:31 in 1 Peter 4:18
 - Proverbs 22:8 in 2 Corinthians 9:7
 - Proverbs 25:21 in Romans 12:20
- Because it is a collection, we will handle it here exegetically *and* topically (verse by verse in topical context).

PROVERBS

Outline of Proverbs

Proverbs: The Wisdom of Righteousness

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Proverbs of Solomon: To His Son | 1-4 | Heed Wisdom |
| | 5 | Avoid Adultery |
| | 6 | Of Diligence, Worth, & Purity |
| | 7 | Avoid Immorality |
| | 8-9 | Wisdom vs. Foolishness |
| Proverbs of Solomon | 10-18 | The Righteous vs. The Wicked |
| | 10-24 | 19-24 General Instruction |
| Proverbs of Solomon: Transcribed by Hezekiah's Men 25-29 | 25-26 | Moral Comparatives |
| | 27-29 | General Instruction |
| 30 | Words of Agur to Ithiel & Ucal | |
| The Oracle of King Lemuel's Mother | 31:1-9 | The Excellent King |
| | 31 | 31:10-31 The Excellent Wife |

Purpose Statement for **Proverbs**

To know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, to receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice, and equity; to give prudence to the naïve, to the youth knowledge and discretion, a wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel, to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles (1:2-6)



Theme of Proverbs

“the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction” (1:7)...For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth comes wisdom and understanding” (2:6).



Worldview Implications of **Proverbs**

Socio-Political

Sociopraxy

Ethics

For Believers
For Unbelievers

Metaphysics

Eschatology
Teleology
Axiology
Ontology

Epistemology

Interpreting Authority
Source of Authority

ought

is



Methodology of this Study

Step 1 – As Proverbs provides wisdom, instruction, sayings of understanding, and instruction in wise behavior (1:1-3a), we will **exegete each individual proverb** in its own context.

Step 2 – We will identify each individual proverb's **thematic emphasis as counsel**.

Step 3 – We will **categorize each proverb** into an area of counseling to develop an approach for practically applying the Proverbs

Step 4 – We will seek to be wise people who listen to counsel, as in Proverbs 12:15



Foundational Principle: Meaning ≠ Significance

Step 1 – Observe

Step 2 – Interpret

Step 3 – Correlate/Confirm

Step 4 – Apply

Primary Application – how the original audience applied the content, one application (if in the text), and often is part of the meaning of the passage

Secondary Application – how we apply the content, there can be many applications. this is *significance*.

Secondary application is not part of the passage's *meaning*.



One Way to Apply **Proverbs**



“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens **to counsel.**”
– Proverbs 12:15

Some Thematic Emphases / Counseling Topics

- Identity, Purpose, Priorities Counseling
- Depression and Anxiety Counseling
- Pre-Marital and Marital Counseling
- Parental/Children Counseling
- Financial/Stewardship Counseling
- Addiction Counseling
- Abuse and Trauma Counseling
- Conflict Counseling



Some Thematic Emphases / Counseling Topics

- Identity, Purpose, Priorities Counseling
- Depression and Anxiety Counseling
- Pre-Marital and Marital Counseling
- Parental/Children Counseling
- Financial/Stewardship Counseling
- Addiction Counseling
- Abuse and Trauma Counseling
- Conflict Counseling

Your Assignment: Highlight and Categorize Every Verse In Proverbs Using Eight Colors:



Counseling Content (Some Secondary Applications)

Proverbs 1-3

Identity, Purpose, Priorities Counseling (1:2-4,5-7, 20-23,33, 2:3-9,11,20-21, 3:3,5-6,19-20,33-35)

Depression and Anxiety Counseling (2:10,3:4,13,17-18,22)

Pre-Marital and Marital Counseling (2:16-19)

Parental/Children Counseling (1:4,8-9,2:1-2,3:1-2,11-12,21)

Financial/Stewardship Counseling (3:9-10,14,16,27-28)

Addiction Counseling (1:10-18,22,24-32,2:12-15,22,3:7-8,15)

Abuse and Trauma Counseling (2:8,3:23-26)

Conflict Counseling (1:19,3:29-32)

COUNSELING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Part 2 – Proverbs 2-3

Series 10 – A Live Interactive Study
In Proverbs
with Dr. Christopher Cone