"The Beginning of Wisdom"
Proverbs 1:1-7

C.I.T.—The preamble of Proverbs reveals the building blocks for attaining wisdom.
C.I.S.—Jesus is the building block for attaining wisdom.
Purpose—I want to persuade our people to pursue wisdom and to study Proverbs, but ultimately start with Jesus.
Introduction—TV Chef's Cookbook

- Vs. 1—The Proverbs of Solomon
- Solomon's History
- **1 Kings 3:5-15; 4: 29-34**
- This book represents the collective wisdom of Solomon.
- This first parts gives us the building blocks of wisdom.

I. ***The Purpose of Wisdom***—vs 2-3
   a. For learning
      i. To know—coming to understand, to learn something
      ii. Wisdom—technical skill, aptitude, good sense-not just philosophical wisdom, but a knowledge of how to act
      iii. Instruction—presupposes someone giving the instruction, and a humility to receive the instruction—disciple, education
   b. For understanding
      i. Understanding refers to the deeper reality of perception.
      ii. We might hear or read something, but it stays surface level.
      iii. If something is understood, then we grasp it, get it, and apply it to our lives.
      iv. Difference between tasting/swallowing
   c. For receiving
      i. Prudence synonym for wisdom—wisely understand, comprehension
      ii. Righteousness, justice, and integrity (fairness)
      iii. Instead of using this wisdom for nefarious purposes, we are to use them to live life in accordance with God's righteousness.
   d. Each of these pruposes reflect a response from the one receiving instruction—learning, understanding, and receiving.
   e. Each of these focus on our responsibility.
   f. Illus.—Sponge in water—only when we release it will it fill with water
   g. Application
      i. The teacher, God through Solomon through the Bible, will impart the information needed, but will you submit to it.
      ii. It requires letting go of pride and submitting to the teaching by faith.

II. ***The Product of Wisdom***—vs. 4-6
   a. Grounding
      i. Inexperienced—Simple minded—gullible
      ii. Shrewdness—prudence, perspective
   b. Guarding
      i. Young man—Parallel with inexperience
      ii. Knowledge/discernment in life, which usually is discovered through trial and error
      iii. This is not someone who if unintelligent, but instead, they simply have not lived enough life to experience many of these situations.
   c. Growing
      i. Wise—this person has already grown in wisdom.

ii. We never arrive when it comes to wisdom, and thus a wise man will continue to learn, continue to be humble, and continue to seek wisdom.

d. *Guiding*
i. Discerning person is someone who is trying to make a decision.
ii. Wisdom will provide guidance and assistance in making decisions.

e. *Grasping*
i. Understand proverbs and allusive expressions
ii. Conundrums that are difficult to understand
iii. Wisdom holds the key to grasping the keys to this difficult situations

f. Illus.—Color blind

g. Application
i. We look at the world through the lens of our sinful selves.
ii. We cannot make wise decisions in and of ourselves, because we do not properly see the world around us.
iii. Thus, we must have wisdom departed to us from a source that can see clearly.
iv. Thus, we need the Word of God, and God Himself to give us this wisdom.

III. ***The Person of Wisdom***—vs. 7

a. Fear of the LORD
i. This is the beginning—starting point
ii. Without the fear or reverence of the Lord, you will not be able to add true wisdom.
iii. If he isn't part of the equation, the equation will be wrong.
iv. Wisdom cannot truly be attained without Him.

b. Foolish despise wisdom
i. They reject God.
ii. This rejection leads them to try to be wise in their own eyes, which leads to foolishness.

c. Illus.— **John 14:6** Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.Application
i. Wisdom is not a book or a set of teachings, it is a person.
ii. Jesus is wisdom.
iii. As you accept Christ and live a lifestyle following Him, you will learn from Him and will gain wisdom.
iv. This requires an initial decision to follow Christ and an ongoing discipline of following Christ.
v. When we fail at either of those, we end up living in a foolish way.

Conclusion

- The book has been written, the Son has been given, Wisdom has been provided.
- If you are unwise, you have no one else to blame but yourself.
- You must submit to the person of Wisdom in order to be considered wise.
- We can look at the cook and know that we can trust the cookbook.
- But you have to follow the recipe.

1 Kings 3:5 At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask. What should I give you?" 6 And Solomon replied, "You have shown great and faithful love to your servant, my father

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David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, righteousness, and integrity. You have continued this great and faithful love for him by giving him a son to sit on his throne, as it is today. [7] "LORD my God, you have now made your servant king in my father David's place. Yet I am just a youth with no experience in leadership. [8] Your servant is among your people you have chosen, a people too many to be numbered or counted. [9] So give your servant a receptive heart to judge your people and to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of yours?" [10] Now it pleased the Lord that Solomon had requested this. [11] So God said to him, "Because you have requested this and did not ask for long life or riches for yourself, or the death of your enemies, but you asked discernment for yourself to administer justice, [12] I will therefore do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has never been anyone like you before and never will be again. [13] In addition, I will give you what you did not ask for: both riches and honor, so that no king will be your equal during your entire life. [14] If you walk in my ways and keep my statutes and commands just as your father David did, I will give you a long life." [15] Then Solomon woke up and realized it had been a dream. He went to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord's covenant, and offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he held a feast for all his servants.

1 Kings 4:29 God gave Solomon wisdom, very great insight, and understanding as vast as the sand on the seashore. [30] Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. [31] He was wiser than anyone-- wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, sons of Mahol. His reputation extended to all the surrounding nations. [32] Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs numbered 1,005. [33] He spoke about trees, from the cedar in Lebanon to the hyssop growing out of the wall. He also spoke about animals, birds, reptiles, and fish. [34] Emissaries of all peoples, sent by every king on earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to listen to Solomon's wisdom.

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I. The P_____ of Wisdom
II. The P_____ of Wisdom
   a. G_____
   b. G_____
   c. G_____
   d. G_____
   e. G_____
III. The P_____ of Wisdom