

Introduction to the Old Testament Book of Proverbs

1. Proverbs are not _____ = they describe the way life usually works, not how it always works, must work or will work

Example: "Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed." Proverbs 16:1

2. Proverbs are not _____ = while many of the proverbs are "generally true," they are not always so

Example: "Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything." Proverbs 11:24

3. Proverbs are _____ designed to provoke a _____ in those that hear them and relate them to life

"As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his foolishness." Proverbs 26:11

4. Proverbs are more _____ than _____, though God's work as Creator is especially highlighted and it's His character that we called to cultivate

Example: "Don't gaze at the wine, seeing how red it is, how it sparkles in the cup, how smoothly it goes down." Proverbs 23:31

Proverbs 1.1-7, New Living Translation

¹ The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: ² for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; ³ for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; ⁴ for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young—⁵ let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—⁶ for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise. ⁷ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

THE PURPOSE OF PARABLES

1. To teach _____ thereby gain the skill and knowledge to _____ life successfully
2. To develop godly _____ marked by:
 - a. Genuine _____
 - b. A _____ for others
3. To encourage an _____ relationship with the Lord
"The fear of the Lord" (Proverbs 1:7) gets a bad rap in our world
 - It refers to our viewing God with the _____ He deserves and is the major theme of the entire book
 - It is the _____ of knowledge (of great importance)
 - It demands a _____ for God
 - It involves _____ God
 - It necessitates a _____ to God
 - That only _____ reject

FINAL THOUGHTS

- In this series, I am inviting you to be a _____ = a _____ of the Parables
- Your challenge will not primarily be one of _____ what you read
- Your challenge will be one of _____ what you read and learn to your life

ASSIGNMENT FOR THIS WEEK

- Read Proverbs 1:1-33
- Email george@faithpointchurch.org and share in a few words what spoke to you.