

Points to Ponder - Discussion Questions from Sunday's Message

By Steve Hauser

“Wise up: Getting the scoop on wisdom”

Pastor Dale Barrett

Text: Proverbs 1:1-7

Summary: The importance of gaining knowledge to live a happy and prosperous life.

I. How proverbs is put together. (1:1)

- Who wrote proverbs? When was proverbs written? What was occurring in Israel at the time of the writing?
- What other books of the Bible are included as wisdom literature?

II. A lexicon about the contents of proverbs. (1:2-6)

- Read Proverbs 1:2-6
- Solomon gives a compelling list of the benefits of wisdom. Each verse contains a pair of “couplets.” Couplets are two phrases or sentences laid side by side for the intention of comparison. Sometimes the pairs are meant to be a contrast, sometimes they are meant to be parallel in meaning and sometimes one elaborates on the other.
- Read each verse and interpret what the couplet is explaining about wisdom.
- Give examples of how each of these benefits of wisdom applies to life.

III. A lesson about the source of wisdom (1:7)

- Verse 7 is an example of a couplet that is meant to serve as a contrast.
- Why is the “fear of the Lord” the beginning of knowledge (wisdom)?
- If the “fear of the Lord” is the beginning of wisdom, how does this give us insight into why the fool despises wisdom?
- Compare Prov 1:7 with Paul’s conclusion about the source of wisdom (1 Cor. 1:18-25) and man’s ability to understand Godly wisdom (1 Cor. 2:13-15).
- Solomon writes that the fool despises both wisdom and discipline (Prov 1:7b). How are wisdom and discipline related?