

Wisdom's Source

Proverbs 1:1-3, 7

1-3 These are the wise sayings of Solomon, David's son, Israel's king—Written down so we'll know how to live well and right, to understand what life means and where it's going; a manual for living, for learning what's right and just and fair.

7 Start with God—the first step in learning is bowing down to God; only fools thumb their noses at such wisdom and learning. (The Message)

Many people think that most of what is written in the Bible has to do with getting right with God—the saving of our eternal souls. While certainly this is an important purpose of scripture, it is also concerned with living on this earth—and living well. Proverbs is wisdom literature in the Bible—these writings by “wise men” provide the young instruction on how to behave in order to live prosperous and happy lives.

Proverbs focuses on wisdom—the art of living skillfully in whatever actual conditions we find ourselves. (Dictionary.com defines wisdom as “the quality or state of being wise; knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action; sagacity, discernment, or insight.”) Sometimes folks confuse wisdom with acquiring information or knowledge. While wisdom often applies to both of these, having information or knowledge isn't enough for one to be wise. Instead, wisdom has to do with becoming skillful in navigating and using good judgment in the here and now—honoring our parents and raising our children, handling our money and conducting our personal lives, going to work, exercising leadership, using words thoughtfully, treating friends kindly, healthy eating and drinking, emotional stability, and attitudes toward others that promote peace and justice.

In early verses of Proverbs that wisdom starts with God. The way we think about and respond to God is central to the degree of wisdom that we achieve and apply, and thus the effectiveness of our lives—living well.

Our human nature often leads us to a prideful posture that suggests we think we are able to effectively negotiate life on our own. If we apply the wisdom writings in the book of Proverbs, our best assurance of a life well lived is by putting God first and at the center of all that we do and say. If we're thumbing our nose at God and doing life on our own—it's sure evidence of our foolishness.

APC

Point for Prayer:

In what area of your life do you need to seek wisdom? Remember to start with God...