

Lecture 20 – Proverbs, III

The proverbs of Solomon:

*A wise son brings joy to his father,
But a foolish son grief to his mother.*

*Ill-gotten treasures are of no value,
But righteousness delivers from death.
The Lord does not let the righteous go hungry
But he thwarts the craving of the wicked*

*Lazy hands make a man poor,
But diligent hands bring wealth.
He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son,
But he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son. Proverbs 10:1-5*

Key Terms

Wealth, teachability, work, dissension, marriage, antithetical parallelisms

Lecture Objectives

- *Identify, describe, and locate key themes addressed in Proverbs.
- *Describe characteristics of proverbs found in chapters 10-15.

Preliminary Questions

- *In the proverbs quoted above the second line contrasts with the first line of each pairing. How does this contrast help you identify the main idea of the pair? How does the contrast help you get at the key point of each line itself?

Proverbs, III

I. Proverbs

A. Introduction

B. Authorship

C. Structure and content

1. Prov. 1:1 “The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:”

2. 1:1-7 Title, purpose and first principle

3. 1:8-9:end; Fatherly exhortations to embrace wisdom rather than folly

a. Themes in first 9 chapters - repeated throughout the book:

1) Wisdom begins in the home

2) Causative justice Pr. 2:21ff; Pr. 3:33-35

3) Limitations of human understanding Pr. 3:5-6; Pr. 22:19, Pr. 30:1-6

4) Psychosematic illness Pr. 4:20ff; Pr. 3:5; Pr. 15:30; Pr. 16:24; Pr. 17:22;
Pr. 18:14

5) Wealth Pr. 3:9-10

*6) Teachability Pr. 9:7; Pr. 17:10

7) Work/sluggard Pr. 6

8) Dissension

9) Marriage/love of spouse Pr. 5:15-23

b. Pr. 10:1 “The proverbs of Solomon “

1) Sentence sayings

- 2) Ch. 10-15 Antithetical parallelisms: “but”
- 3) “Vicinity repetition” Pr. 15:13-15; Pr. 16:20-23

See Knut Heim, “Coreferentiality, Structure & Context in Pr. 10:1-5” (Appendix 15)

Interesting fact: this section has 375 proverbs-the numeric value of the name “Solomon.”

Read Proverbs 10:1-11 and reflect on “Is there an apparent purposeful arrangement?” If yes, what it is and what is its significance?

Do you think the Proverbs are purposefully arranged or a mere collection of true, random sayings? How might your answer to this question affect the way you read and apply the Proverbs?