

Lecture 22 – Proverbs, V

These are also the sayings of the wise:

To show partiality in judging is not good:

Whoever says to the guilty, “You are innocent” –

Peoples will curse him

And nations denounce him.

But it will go well with those who convict the guilty,

And rich blessing will come upon them. Proverbs 24:23-25

Key Terms

Wisdom vs. folly, righteous vs. wicked, advanced course, the wise

Lecture Objectives

*Provide an outline of Proverbs and discuss its strengths and weaknesses for interpreting the proverbs.

*Identify key contributors to Proverbs and their distinctive characteristics.

Preliminary Questions

*How would you describe the main theme of Proverbs and its relative function within the inspired and inerrant Word of God and its intended purpose for Christian life and service?

Book Recommendation: A Complete Literary Guide to the Bible, Van Leeuwen,

Proverbs, V

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

*4. Van Leeuwen on Proverbs structure:

a. Ch. 1-9 wisdom vs. folly

b. Ch. 10- 15 righteous vs. wicked

c. Ch. 16 - 22:16 advanced course in wisdom

5. Prov. 22:17 “Pay attention and listen to the sayings of the wise “

a. Pr. 22:20 Matthews & Benjamin p.189, thirty sayings

b. Difference from Egyptian proverbs? *ex. Pr. 22:22-23*

c. Use of comparative literature: religion-wax fruit/real fruit analogy

6. Prov. 24:23 “These also are sayings of the wise”

a. Pr. 24:23-25

7. Prov. 25:1 “These are more proverbs of Solomon, copied by the men of Hezekiah king of Judah”

a. Systematized

1) Fool Pr. 27:5

2) Sluggard Pr. 28:5

3) Gossip Pr. 29:25

8. Prov. 30:1 “The sayings of Agur son of Jakeh-an oracle”

a. Preponderance of numeric sayings

- b. Ex. Pr. 30:18-20
- 9. Prov. 31:1 “The sayings of King Lemuel-an oracle his mother taught him”
 - a. 31:1-9 Words of King Lemuel
 - b. 31:10-31 Acrostic of the ideal wife

Why can it be useful to compare Proverbs with other Ancient Near East wisdom literature? What do we learn about Scripture from this comparison?

What does Proverbs 31 tell us about a biblical view of women?



Go back and rethink the
'To think about before you
go on' questions on the
first page of this lecture.