

- B. If we do not heed wisdom we are heading for disaster.
- i. We must choose the fear of the Lord (29). We must live in light of the One who sees all.
 - ii. What is the point of this warning? To rescue you now, before you get there!

C. 1 Corinthians 1:28-30

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What do the Scriptures teach us about how our “nature” contributes to evil behavior? What do they teach about how our “nurture” can effect us significantly? What is the 3rd category that we find in Proverbs for the cause of our deeds?
- What responsibilities can we discern for parents from the call of the father and mother to their maturing son in Proverbs 1?
- Which role might you be able to identify in this chapter that you either are in now or have been in? How does this chapter speak to you in the place in life you are at now?
- Why is *wisdom* in the scriptures not merely a matter of choosing a better practice but is a moral issue—choosing a *right* vs. *wrong* practice? How is wisdom viewed differently today?
- What is the fear of the Lord? Why is it not sufficient to understand what *fear* and *the Lord* mean to know what it means?
- How does the picture of the bird in vs. 17-19 maybe help us understand what it means to live in the fear of the Lord?
- How does the call from the wicked vs. 10-16 compare to the call of wisdom in vs. 20-33? What are some of the things that might be appealing in the wicked one's call to the young man?
- Why must one know they are a fool to be wise?

Wicked or Wise?

Jerry Cisar — March 15, 2015

Text: Proverbs 1

Introduction

A. *Why do people do bad things?*

- i. Nature: It's in your genes.
- ii. Nurture: It's in your environment.
 - a) Ephesians 6:4
 - b) Proverbs 22:6
 - c) Deuteronomy 6:6-9

iii. A third cause: The voice you choose to listen to.

B. The Setting: Embarking on a Life of Your Own

I. The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom (1-7)

- A. The target audience of this book is the young, the simple.
- i. The youth is on the threshold of maturity, but until he takes that final step he remains among the simple—the naive and easily deceived.
 - ii. *Wicked or Wise*: Wisdom is a moral issue.

B. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom.

- i. You can't simply understand *fear* **and** *the Lord* and understand *the fear of the Lord*.
 - a) Learning what God has revealed in Scripture.
 - b) *Fear, love, and trust*.

C. Bridges: *It is that affectionate reverence, by which the child of God bends himself humbly and carefully to his Father's law.*

ii. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

iii. Wisdom has to do with ***right and wrong***.

- a) 1 John 4:10-11
- b) The word translated atoning sacrifice includes both propitiation (absorbing the wrath that was due us) and expiation (removal of guilt).
- c) God's love leads to trust (fear of God) leads to doing what is right, just, and fair (love).

II. Beware the Promise of the Wicked (8-19)

A. An appeal from those who are against God.

- i. They are the voice of the serpent in the garden, "*Did God really say?... You will not surely die.*"
- ii. They offer you community.

iii. They propose an ambush.

B. While you watch; you are being watched. (17-19)

- i. Three repeated words or phrases from v11:
 - a) Let us lie in wait... these men lie in wait for their own blood
 - b) Let us ambush... they ambush only themselves
 - c) ESV has as "*without reason*". You might say, "undeservedly"... "in vain" or "for nothing".

ii. While these sinners are setting an ambush, they are being ambushed themselves. But by whom?

a) "*In the sight of any bird*"

- The bird is the victim they intend to ambush.
- The bird is the son who is to see the trap in advance and to flee knowing it is a trap for him.
- The eye of the bird is the eye of the Lord, Who while they are conniving and scheming to waylay some innocent victim is watching.

b) Hebrews 4:13

iii. *Son, as you set out from our home, as you seek to establish your own home, you must always live keenly aware of the One who sees you from on high.*

III. Heed the Voice of Wisdom (20-33)

A. Wisdom is crying out to all in the city.