

## Message #3

## Proverbs 1:1-6

Proverbs has its own inspired introduction (1:1-6).

**WISE PEOPLE ARE THOSE WHO WILL CONTINUALLY DISCIPLINE THEMSELVES INTO A CONSTANT PURSUIT OF THE WISDOM OF GOD.**

There are five clauses which all begin with the preposition “to.”

**PURPOSE CLAUSE #1** – Proverbs was written so we might know the wisdom and instruction of God. **1:2a**

The word “know” means to have knowledge gained through personal experiences.

The word “wisdom” comes from a root word that means skill.

The word “instruction” is a word that means discipline.

This first clause teaches us an important lesson—to personally gain the wisdom of God so that we live a life of skillfulness that requires we are disciplined in the things of God. **Without a disciplined life there is no skill!**

**PURPOSE CLAUSE #2** – Proverbs was written so we might discern the sayings of God at a level that understands them. **1:2b**

The word “discern” or “perceive” is one that means to have the ability to distinguish what is right. The word “understanding” is very similar because it means to be able to discern in the sense of read between the lines.

God wants us to have discerning minds. He does not want us to be gullible simpletons. Proverbs is a book designed to make us discerning people.

**PURPOSE CLAUSE #3** – Proverbs was written so we might receive God’s instruction. **1:3**

The wisdom of God is designed to produce a changed life. **If we do not change, we are not wise!**

The words “receive instruction” literally in Hebrew mean to “accept the discipline.” Proverbs is written to show us the kind of discipline that is needed to be wise. Four particular characteristics of one being schooled in the wisdom of God:

- 1) The person will demonstrate wisdom (1:3b)—specifically wise behavior.
- 2) The person will demonstrate righteousness (1:3c)—conform to the written standards of God.
- 3) The person will demonstrate justice (1:3d)—ability to judge what is legally right.
- 4) The person will demonstrate equity (1:3e)—treat people fair and equal.

**PURPOSE CLAUSE #4** – Proverbs was written to develop all classes of people. **1:4-5**

**Class #1** - Proverbs is written for the simple. **1:4a**

The word “simple” refers to one who is naïve or untaught, not a reference to an imbecile who is incapable of learning. The word “prudence” means that Proverbs is written to give this person the ability to be more craftier in his thinking.

**Class #2** - Proverbs is written for the young. **1:4b**

The word “young” refers to one who is immature. This book will give “knowledge and discretion” to this type of person, which means the young person needs insight into God’s Word and needs caution as to how to live life.

**Class #3** - Proverbs is written for the wise. **1:5**

The words “wise counsel” are Hebrew words of one who would steer or guide a ship with ropes. A wise person is one who will continually allow himself to be guided by instruction from the Word of God. For one who God deems as wise, there is never an end to the acquisition of knowledge.

**PURPOSE CLAUSE #5** – Proverbs was written so we might have deep understanding. **1:6**

Dr. Toy called this verse “The Scholarly Aim” of Proverbs. The implication of these words is that Proverbs was written so that there would come an understanding of God’s wisdom through some organized study, which truly attempts to lay hold of the proper interpretation and deep meaning of God.

**Without systematic instruction, without a desire to learn, without the discipline of self, there will NEVER be the wisdom of God in our lives.**