

Understanding the Book of Proverbs through a Law/Gospel lens

Chapter 3-Part 2 (kind of Bonus)

Proverbs 3:13-20

In the middle of Proverbs 3 there is a discussion about the _____ of wisdom (verses 13-20).

Before we examine what is said of wisdom's value, let's first ask a few questions:

What is wisdom (according to the Bible)?

Proverbs 1:6 is very helpful in answering this question. Wisdom is a _____ from God (sola gratia). A basic understanding Hebrew parallelism also teaches us that wisdom has to do with _____ and _____. So, wisdom is a blessing from God and involves the combination of both knowledge (truth) and understanding (application of this truth).

Are there different kinds of wisdom (according to the Bible)?

Yes. There is a _____ form of wisdom (knowledge and understanding about things below)-1 Kings 3:6-14, 4:29-34, 7:13-14, Rom. 1:14. There is also a _____ form (knowledge and understanding about things above-the things, ways, Being, and character of God) (1 Cor. 1:18-31). In the book of Proverbs, we must not be firstly concerned with the lower form of wisdom but remember that all of Scripture is given primarily to instruct us in the higher form of wisdom.

Value of wisdom

- _____ to the one who possess it (13)
- Wisdom's _____ is beyond any precious earthly thing (14-15)
- Wisdom brings long _____, riches, and honor (16)
- Wisdom is the way of _____ and pleasantness/favor (17)
- Wisdom brings _____ and _____ (18)

Creative power of wisdom

- Wisdom was with God and was equally responsible for the _____ and the perseveration of the heavens and earth (19-20)

It does not take much biblical literacy to be able to see a clear connection between what is said of wisdom and what is said of the Lord Jesus Christ in Scripture.

Value of Christ

- Blessed are those who _____ to Christ (Eph. 1:3)
- Christ's value is _____ any precious earthly thing (1 Peter 1:18-19)

- Christ possesses the gift of eternal life, _____ and honor (John 14:1-3)
- Christ is the way of _____ and pleasantness/favor (Romans 5:1-2)
- Christ brings life and _____ from God (2 Cor. 1:20)

Creative power of Christ

Christ (the Eternal Son) was with God and was equally responsible for the creation and the _____ of the heavens and earth (John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:16-17)

The concept of wisdom in the book of Proverbs is not a competing idea with that of Christ but we should understand the Wisdom of Proverbs as fitting into the category of _____/shadow.

Christ is the wisdom of God-1 Cor. 1:24

What does this mean? Lets think of Proverbs 1:6

Only in Christ can you know the _____ of God. Christ is God's grace.

Only in Christ can you _____ God. The knowledge of God is found hidden in Christ.

Only in Christ can you begin to _____ the ways, Being, and character of God.

God and His ways will seem always veiled behind a dark cloud if you do not seek to understand everything through the lens of Christ. (Proverbs 25:2)

Hiedelberg Disputation (1518)

19. That person does not deserve to be called a theologian who looks upon the invisible things of God as though they were clearly perceptible in those things which have actually happened (Rom. 1:20; cf. 1 Cor 1:21-25),
20. he deserves to be called a theologian, however, who comprehends the visible and manifest things of God seen through suffering and the cross.
21. A theology of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theology of the cross calls the thing what it actually is.

"It mars all in religion when we go about heavenly things with earthly affections, and seek not Christ in Christ, but the world."-Sibbes