

Whose Advice Will You Take, God's or Man's?

Ricardo Campos Grace Chapel April 6, 2008

I Introduction

Without God nothing is possible, nothing! Without God revealing to man what he knows, he is lost, utterly and completely lost. In fact, all of man's wisdom that originates in his own thinking apart from God's is utterly and completely useless.

II God Holds All Wisdom and Knowledge: Colossians 2:3

- A. Colossians 1:15-17: God in the person of Jesus Christ¹ controls **ALL**!
- B. Colossians 2:3: God in the person of Jesus Christ holds **ALL** wisdom and knowledge.
- C. What does man's wisdom amount to? Empty deceit, Col. 2:8.

III One Example of God's Wisdom: Proverbs 1

1:1, Who is Solomon? He's king David's son, who reigned after him, 1 Kin. 1:28-40. He was the wisest man on the planet, 1 Kin. 3:5-12; 4:29-31. He spoke 3,000 proverbs, 1 Kin. 4:32.

1:2-6, this is the purpose statement for the whole Book of Proverbs.² The one who learns and applies these proverbs, i.e., God's wisdom, will be equipped to deal wisely with every situation in life.

1:7, this is the key to the whole book, in fact, the whole Christian life. What does "fear of the Lord mean" and how can it be "the beginning of knowledge"?

1:8-9, like impressive articles of clothing make for an impressive appearance, your parents' instruction will equip you with wisdom that commands respect and attention.

1:10-14, this is man's wisdom on how to get rich: kill the victim and take his possessions. What's God's advice on acquiring wealth? Prov. 8:20-21; 13:11, 22; 22:29.

1:15-19, what's God's response to man's advice on how to get rich? Don't follow it! It'll ruin your life!

¹ Jesus Christ is God in the flesh, Colossians 2:9.

² Proverbs 25-29 are also Solomon's proverbs, but not part of the book as Solomon originally compiled it; they were added by king Hezekiah's men. However, when one studies their content, it's clear that the purpose statement also applies to them, but not in the formal sense, since Solomon did not include these in his original compilation. Proverbs 30 belongs to Agur, son of Jakeh, and Proverbs 31 to King Lemuel.

1:20-23, God screams out His advice, His wisdom, at the foolish, but they delight in their foolishness and hate His wisdom.

1:24-27, what happens when you don't obey God's wisdom, His advice? You will perish and God will laugh and scorn at you as your destruction comes.

1:28, the scorner realizes that he needs God's wisdom, but it's too late.

1:29-31, since the foolish hated and refused God's advice, they refused the *fear of the Lord*, and His repeated rebukes, they will suffer the results of following man's advice: they will eat the fruit of their own folly.

Fear of the Lord means that you have a reverence for God which realizes that without Him, without His wisdom, you are utterly and completely lost. And to choose the *fear of the Lord* means that you pay attention to and obey God's Word, His wisdom.

1:32-33, the fool's foolishness will destroy him, but whoever obeys God's advice will dwell in safety without fear of evil.

IV Does God's Wisdom Actually Work in Real Life?

A. A School Teacher Applies Proverbs 22:10

It's amazing what will happen when a teacher applies God's Word in the classroom. When the teacher kicks the scoffer out, *contention leaves and strife and reproach cease*. Why does this work every time? Because God said it would.

B. When Parents Don't Take God's Advice: Proverbs 29:15:

Children who are never corrected and allowed to get their way become unbearable self-absorbed adults who will bring shame to their parents. Famous child psychologist Dr. Benjamin Spock said: *I don't think physical punishment is necessary or particularly effective*. Who's right man or God?

C. The Preacher Who Preaches God's Word: 2 Tim. 3:16; Acts 20:28; Eph. 4:11

The preacher is nothing without God. It is God's Word he preaches, it is God's church he preaches to, and it is God's gift of teaching that enables him to preach.

V Conclusion

Proverbs 1:7, *the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction*. This is the whole of it; without God, both believer and unbeliever, are utterly lost and become fools.