

Sermon Text Discussion 4/9/2017

Proverbs 9: "The Decisiveness of True Wisdom" by Drew Hunter

Overview

We are at the end of our study of the first 9 chapters of the book of Proverbs. They represent a prologue to the rest of the book and a good understanding of this section is critical for the proper use of entire book. Proverbs 9 is the climax of the prologue and its central theme, 'the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom', is at the heart of the chapter, verse 10.

The first and third sections of Proverbs 9 are invitations – one from Woman Wisdom and the other from Woman Folly. The central section, verses 7-12 outlines two possible responses to the call of Woman Wisdom.

Quotations

In response of a friend's critique:

- "He is performing on our behalf the most heroic act of pure charity." Charles Spurgeon
- "What an inestimable blessing it is to have a faithful friend! Satan is ready enough to point out whatever good we have; but it is only a faithful friend that will screen that from your sight, and show you your deficiencies." Charles Simeon

Understanding & Application

- 1) The invitations of Woman Wisdom and Woman Folly may look similar, on the surface. In reality, they are dramatically different. What differences can you identify?
- 2) Drew mentioned that an implied requirement for accepting Woman Wisdom's invitation is humility. Do you agree with this? How does our willingness to be humble impact our ability to accept God's wisdom?
- 3) Describe a time when you've attempted to correct a 'wise person'. Compare that situation to a time when you attempted to correct a 'scoffer' or a 'wicked person'. What impact does one's willingness to accept (or not accept) correction have?
- 4) Do you tend to be a person who easily accepts feedback and correction? Would those close to you agree? What actions can you take to become more accepting of correction?
- 5) Put into your own words what it means to 'fear the Lord'. Why is the fear of the Lord the beginning of wisdom?
- 6) Both Woman Wisdom and Woman Folly have positioned themselves in the place of worship in the city in Proverbs 9 and represents an invitation to worship either God or idols. What idols in your life competes with God for our worship? What steps should we take to ensure God is receiving our worship?