



Faith Talk

Trinity Canadian Reformed Church

Worshiping Sundays 9 am and 3 pm, 2553 Binbrook Rd E

Wisdom

By Trish Gelms

What is wisdom? How can one attain wisdom? Is it exclusively for those with higher learning? Does one need to have a PhD in theoretical chemistry, for example? On the other hand, does one need to have attained great success in the business world? The book of Proverbs has a good grasp of what wisdom is and how to attain it. You can find Proverbs in the middle of the Bible, between Psalms and Ecclesiastes.

Proverbs admits that wisdom is difficult to attain but available to all who will learn from life. Wisdom means knowing the best way to manage every part of life. The Book of Proverbs is full of advice on how to be wise in this way. Solomon and the other writers of Proverbs agree that the first step to wisdom is love and reverence for God. There are many wise words in Proverbs and they touch on every aspect of life, such as friendship and family, cheerfulness and kindness, laziness and gossip.

“A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother.” (10:1) “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (22:6)

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (15:1) “A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.” (15:30) “A man’s spirit sustains him in sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?” (18:14)

“Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.” (10:4) “A sluggard does not plough in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.” (20:4)

“A gossip betrays a confidence. But a trustworthy man keeps a secret.” (11:13)

This is one of my favourites, although its instruction is sometimes hard to follow:

“Listen to advise and accept instruction and in the end you will be wise.” (19:20).

Proverbs carefully leads us in a seminar on how to live. It guides us through the various stages of acquiring wisdom, always identifying dangers of foolishness, yet never making the process of becoming wise seem impossible. Proverbs is God’s book on “how to wise up and live.”

It is His treasure book of wisdom.

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