

B. Before rejecting, consider the outcome, vs. 26-31:

C. Don't despise Wisdom and Discipline, or your quest will end here!

*The Quest begins with the fear of God, or it ends with disaster.*

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; wisdom and discipline, fools despise.”

### LIVE THE STORY

*We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, with the Central Character living in us.*

- Why do you think the fear of God is **the beginning of knowledge or wisdom**?
- What truth does Hebrews 4:13 inform us of that relates to the “the fear of God”?
- What did Jerry mean by, “knowing that there is One who sees” is “the first and most important accountability”?
- How has the fear of God been **active** or **absent** in your own experience?
- What are some of the ways people despise wisdom? In what ways are you tempted to despise wisdom?
- If our quest for knowledge and wisdom doesn't begin with responding to God's wisdom, where will it end?
- Do you think we are all, by nature, resistant to correction? What do you see in Proverbs 1:20-33 that addresses our resistance? How well do you handle correction?
- What was the lie from the serpent regarding how to gain wisdom, discerning good and evil? How does the book of Proverbs speak to that lie? What truth does it propose in its place?

## Wisdom's Promise, Folly's Pain: The Quest Jerry Cisar—April 11, 2010

### Text: Proverbs 1

#### Introduction: The Proverbs of Solomon (1:1)

A. Why Solomon?

i. 1 Kings 4:29-34

ii. Wise men were not new with Solomon.

B. Proverbs as a *genre*.

i. 1:6 *“proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.”*

ii. A single proverb doesn't teach all there is to teach on the topic. (Proverbs 22:6)

#### I. The Human Quest (1:2-7)

A. A quest mankind has been on since the garden of Eden

**Paul Tripp:** *“Notice that [Genesis 3:1-7] says that Eve saw the fruit as 'desirable for gaining wisdom.' Satan was not just selling Eve the best fruit in the garden, but something more fundamentally appealing. He was telling Eve that if she ate the fruit, she would be independently wise. The promise was autonomous personal wisdom, without any need for God or his revelation! ...Satan was offering a different path to wisdom, holding out the promise that people can discern life on their own....The serpent is selling Eve the most attractive and cruelest of lies, the lie of autonomy and self-sufficiency. He offers her wisdom that does not need to bow the knee to God.”*

Proverbs continues to remind us that *knowledge to discern good and evil (Wisdom) comes from only one source... God!*

- i. Wisdom is **not** an **amoral** pursuit.
  
- ii. 1:3, wisdom is *doing what is right and just and fair*.
  - a) For Israel, this book was ultimately about obedience to the Law, applied in the particulars of life.
  - a) For the Christian, Wisdom is summed up in Jesus Christ and a life conformed to Him in the particulars.

➤ Philippians 3:10

## B. Deciding Which Voice to Listen To

- i. Wisdom and Folly
  - a) Both voices call... both voices promise... but only one truly delivers.
  
- ii. **Lesson 1:** *“Fear of YHWH is the beginning of knowledge; wisdom and discipline, fools despise.”*

## II. The Quest Starts Here: The Fear of the Lord (1:8-19)

### A. Promises Contrasted

- i. No hype and delayed reward
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ii. A virtual marketing department

### B. Look Up!

- a) Someone is watching, and in the end that ill-gotten gain brings death!

### C. Wisdom starts when we realize there is One to whom we will all give an account.

- i. Wisdom begins with faith...

a) *The essence of faith is the fear of God.*

b) Hebrews 4:13

- This is the first and most important accountability.

- ii. Don't expect the world to get it. (1 Peter 4:4-5)

## III. Or the Quest Will End Here: Disaster (1:20-33)

### A. The quest for wisdom is not lost for lack of opportunity, but for hatred of it. (20-25)

- i. Fools despise it... vs. 22:

a) vs. 24-25 delineates what it looks like *to despise*:

- *rejected me when I called*
- *no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand*
- *you ignored all my advice*
- *would not accept my rebuke*

b) vs. 23 Respond, don't Reject