

The Preface to Proverbs
Prov. 1:2-6

This Preface Expresses the Authors Intent for Writing

Seven Benefits from Studying Proverbs

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- ***To know wisdom & instruction (discipline)***

To Know Wisdom & Instruction

- ***“To Know” means an intimate acquaintance, an experiential type of knowledge***
- ***“Wisdom” is the skillful employment of knowledge***
- ***“Instruction” means “discipline”, i.e. the training that includes both instruction and correction***

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- ***To perceive the words (sayings) of understanding***

Perceive Words of Understanding

- ***“To perceive” means to discern, i.e. the ability to sort the good & bad, true & false, right & wrong***
- ***“Words of understanding” means “sayings of discernment”***
- ***These “sayings” are observations enabling us to make the discerning judgments necessary for the living of life***

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- ***To receive the instruction (discipline) of wisdom***

Receive the Instruction of Wisdom

- ***We “receive” this, not by mysticism, but study***
- ***The “instruction of wisdom” is equal to “intelli-gent discipline”—to understand the “whys” and the “wherefores” of a matter***
- ***Solomon expands the definition with “righteousness”, “justice” & “upright” (straight)***
- ***He assumes the “wise”, “educated” man must be both good, upright and godly in character***

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- ***To give subtlety (shrewdness) to the simple***

To Give Subtility to the Simple

- ***Subtility is shrewdness or prudence, the ability to know the way to arrive at a desired result***
- ***The “simple” is the gullible, inexperienced, or naive***
- ***The idea is expanded in the second phrase to a “youth” who is lacking experience***
- ***Discretion is “planning skill”, the ability to a practical plan of action to achieve an end***

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- ***The wise man knows He doesn't know all things, and knows he needs to learn more***
- ***The wise man "hears", "listens", not by hearing voices but by heeding God's Word***
- ***The wise man is one who continually "acquires" and "adds" more to his storehouse of wisdom***
- ***The Paradox is that the more the wise man knows, the more he sees he doesn't know***

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A Man of Understanding Shall Attain Unto Wise Counsels

- ***An understanding man is a discerning man***
- ***This man is instructed to “attain”, “possess”, or “acquire” something as his own***
- ***That “something” is “guidance”, a “knowledge of the ropes”, referring to navigational skills***
- ***He is able to negotiate and steer his way through a labyrinth of obstacles to reach his goal***

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- ***To understand a proverb and the interpretation***

To Understand a Proverb and the Interpretation

- ***Note the four things wisdom allows us to understand: Proverbs, Interpretations (satires), Words (sayings), and “Dark Sayings” (enigmas)***
- ***Note the various modes of communication***
- ***We’re enabled to “pick up” on the hidden meanings and insinuations being communicated***
- ***This requires time, meditation, contemplation, hard thought and mental focus***

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