

# Introduction to Proverbs

Framework for Proverbs: So it doesn't get reduced to self-help phrases or nostalgic sayings!

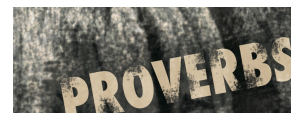
## **We have a God glorifying Cultural Mandate—Genesis 1, Genesis 9, Psalm 8**

**Genesis 1:**<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." <sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

**Genesis 9:**<sup>1</sup>Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. <sup>2</sup>The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. <sup>3</sup>Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. <sup>4</sup>"But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. <sup>5</sup>And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. <sup>6</sup>"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man. <sup>7</sup>As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it."

**Psalm 8:**<sup>1</sup>LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. <sup>2</sup>From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. <sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, <sup>4</sup>what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? <sup>5</sup>You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. <sup>6</sup>You made him ruler



over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: <sup>7</sup>all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, <sup>8</sup>the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. <sup>9</sup>O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## **Theme of Proverbs is wisdom!**

### **Knowledge that leads to Wisdom:**

*1 Corinthians 8:1*

*Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up.*

Two kinds of knowledge: There is Good knowledge and Bad knowledge.

### **Knowledge is a first step toward wisdom. Wisdom is practical.**

*James 1:22*

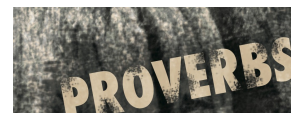
*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

Knowledge comes quickly. Wisdom comes slow. Wisdom Comes through experience and life, putting things into practice. Wisdom is living, it takes time. (Marriage, Children, etc...)

### **Two Kinds of Wisdom: Wisdom from the Devil and Wisdom from Heaven**

*James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. <sup>16</sup>For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.*

*<sup>17</sup>But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup>Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.*



**Why do we do all the things?** (Love God, our families, work hard, be submitted etc...)

**So that our lives can be participating in God's work creating a culture. A new way of life that is God honoring and God glorifying!**

**We need to be transformed...or what are we making?**

### **3 hallmarks of corrupt culture**

*Isaiah 3:12*

*<sup>12</sup>Youths oppress my people, women rule over them. O my people, your guides lead you astray; they turn you from the path.*

**Addicted to youthfulness.**

**Women ruling over men**

**People leading others astray**

**We have been redeemed from all that!**

*1 Peter 1:<sup>18</sup>For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

Our mandate: Creating a counter culture—One that is God glorifying— one that reflects God---a new way of life.

God is all about a new community becoming transformed glorifying Him in how they live their lives!

*John 17—prayer not to take out of the world but to protect from the evil one.*

*<sup>6</sup>"I have revealed you[a] to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup>For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup>I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the*



power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup>My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify[b] them by the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

## **What do we do?**

*Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.*

**You will need faith! Without faith it is impossible to please God!**

*Hebrews 11:6*

*And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

**Use your imagination!**

Beyond what we are currently and see what is possible by God's grace!

How long do you think it will take to see Nashville change?

**This God glorifying Cultural mandate; this new way of life is the container; Proverbs is the content.**

**I'm inviting all of us to put our hand to the task and with faith work toward this goal.**

Some will be convicted: Jesus offers forgiveness and freedom, He can give you a new heart!

**Begin small.**

