

## Monday Night Discipleship: Week 16

### Overview:

1. Introduction to The General Principles of Interpretation Part 2
2. Longman Chapter 17 discussion:
  - a. Content: What Is Proverbs About?
  - b. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Proverbs and When?
  - c. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Proverbs?
  - d. Connections: How Does Proverbs Connect to the Gospel?

### Introduction to The General Principles of Interpretation Part 2

1. Regularly Consider the Biblical Genre- As you read the Bible, always take note of what Biblical genre you are reading.
  - a. Some of these genres include (but are not limited to):
    - i. Theological History (historiography)
    - ii. Narrative
    - iii. Law
    - iv. Poetry
    - v. Proverbs
    - vi. Wisdom
    - vii. Prophecy
    - viii. Apocalyptic
    - ix. Gospel Narrative
    - x. Parable
    - xi. Letters/Epistles
  - b. The Complexity of Biblical Genres/Literary Devices-
    - i. Some books of the Bible will contain more than one style of genre.
    - ii. Plummer writes, “we need to approach the Bible as sympathetic readers, respecting the various genres and authorial assumptions that accompany such genres.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Plummer, Robert, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 101.

- c. Some of these literary devices include (but are not limited to):
- i. Metaphor
  - ii. Simile
  - iii. Allegory
  - iv. Personification
  - v. Foreshadowing/Type
  - vi. Hyperbole
  - vii. Irony
  - viii. Symbolism
  - ix. Allusion
  - x. Repetition
  - xi. Chiasm
  - xii. Idiom
  - xiii. Wordplay
- d. Some examples:
- i. Proverbs- When we read through the genre of proverbs, it assumes \_\_\_\_\_ . As Plummer comments, “Proverbs are wise advice, not fail-proof promises.”<sup>2</sup>
    1. Proverbs 10:4
    2. Proverbs 22:6
  - ii. “A careful reading of the \_\_\_\_\_ work is often necessary to understand the purpose of smaller portions.”<sup>3</sup>
2. Be Aware of the Background Issues (Historical/Cultural)-
- a. Every Biblical author wrote with the assumption that the readers would be familiar with certain cultural, geographic, political, and historical background information.

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<sup>2</sup> Plummer, Robert, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 101.

<sup>3</sup> Plummer, Robert, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 102.

- b. Two Important Warnings:
    - i. Background issues should not overshadow the study of the Bible-
      - 1. Two questions are helpful critiques: “Did the biblical author really assume that his readers would know this fact? And, [if so], was it important for the meaning that he was trying to convey?”<sup>4</sup>
    - ii. Background issues should not be neglected-
3. Be Faithful to the Structural Context-
- a. Wherever we read any passage from Scripture, we must understand it within the \_\_\_\_\_ of the overall sentence, paragraph, sub-unit, book, and its place in the metanarrative of Scripture.
  - b. “A text without a context is pretext for a proof text”<sup>5</sup>-
    - i. In summary we need to hold tightly to the \_\_\_\_\_ of every passage we read and communicate.
    - ii. “I tell my students to hold onto the biblical text like a rider in a rodeo holds onto a bull. And, I also warn them that the only persons in the rodeo ring not on bulls are clowns. When preaching the Bible, I want to be able to place my finger on specific words and phrases in the text to justify my exhortations. I want the congregation to be persuaded by the words of Scripture, not my rhetorical ability. The power of a sermon or Bible lesson lies in its faithfulness to the inspired text.”<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Plummer, Robert, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 102-103.

<sup>5</sup> Tom Carson, source unknown.

<sup>6</sup> Plummer, Robert, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 105.

4. Read the Bible and Understand it in Community-

- a. In short, we must not simply read the Bible by ourselves and arrive at our conclusions about Scripture.
- b. There is much danger when we read the Bible in strict isolation.

5. Commit to Being a Lifelong Learner-

- a. Understand that no matter how long you've been a Christian, what degree you may have, or how long you've been a member of this church, every Christian will always remain a student of the word.
- b. "Rome was not built in a day."

Longman Chapter 17 Discussion:

1. Content: What Is Proverbs About?

a. Common Misapplications of Proverbs-

- i. Reading Proverbs doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ discipleship-
- ii. Individual Proverbs are not divine \_\_\_\_\_ from God- individual Proverbs are not mechanical applications, that if we do this...then God has to provide this...
- iii. Proverbs should not be treated in \_\_\_\_\_ - This style of reading will lead to moralistic distortion.

b. Correct Understanding of Proverbs-

- i. An Anthology with one purpose- The book of Proverbs is a collection of proverbs for the young and old, guiding them to wisdom that comes only from God.
- ii. "The individual proverbs must be interpreted and applied within the context of the whole book and, indeed, of the whole Bible. They are not divine promises for the here and now, but true observations that time will bear out."<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Tremper Longman III. *Introducing The Old Testament: A Short Guide to its History and Message* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2012), 104.

- c. Outline:
- i. Preamble (1:1-7) - The author is Solomon and its purpose is to impart true wisdom to all who fear God because He is the source of all wisdom.
  - ii. Proverbs for the Young (1:8-9:18) - a fool is not someone who is mentally incapable, but someone who \_\_\_\_\_ self-sufficiently, as if God did not exist.
  - iii. Proverbs of Solomon (10:1-29:27)
    1. Solomon's Part 1 (10:1-22:16)-
    2. The Sayings of Wise (22:17-24:34)-
    3. Solomon's Part 2 Recorded by Hezekiah's Men (25:1-29:27)-
  - iv. An Appendix- The last two chapters form an appendix, somewhat of a postscript that ends with two unknown sages, Agur and King Lemuel.
    1. The Sayings of Agur (30:1-33)-
    2. The Sayings of King Lemuel (31:1-31)
2. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Proverbs and When?
- a. Author- King Solomon and possibly some others-
  - b. Date: Unknown
3. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Proverbs?  
Wisdom Literature-

#### 4. Connections: How Does Proverbs Connect to the Gospel?

Jesus is the wisdom of God- Throughout the New Testament, Jesus is associated with wisdom.

#### **R.E.A.P.**

Proverbs 3:1-12

My son, do not forget my teaching,  
but let your heart keep my commandments,  
<sup>2</sup> for length of days and years of life  
and peace they will add to you.

<sup>3</sup> Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you;  
bind them around your neck;  
write them on the tablet of your heart.

<sup>4</sup> So you will find favor and good success<sup>[a]</sup>  
in the sight of God and man.

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.

<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.

<sup>7</sup> Be not wise in your own eyes;  
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

<sup>8</sup> It will be healing to your flesh<sup>[b]</sup>  
and refreshment<sup>[c]</sup> to your bones.

<sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your wealth  
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;

<sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled with plenty,  
and your vats will be bursting with wine.

<sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline  
or be weary of his reproof,

<sup>12</sup> for the LORD reproves him whom he loves,  
as a father the son in whom he delights.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Proverbs 3:1-12. All passages of Scripture will come from this translation unless otherwise referenced.

