

As summer comes to Saskatchewan and our landscape is once again dressed in green, I have a reminder. Winter is coming! And with the beginning of winter comes Alumni Weekend! Ok, so maybe the majority of readers don't want to think that far ahead, but the Alumni Committee is. We are working hard to get speakers and workshop leaders lined up and will be spending part of our summer preparing for another great weekend of reconnecting with people and the bible college. We hope to see you all there!

A passage of Scripture that I have given some thought to in the past is Proverbs 1:1-7. Solomon uses these verses to introduce this book of Proverbs, and to reveal the heart one is to have as they read it. If a person desires to "know wisdom and instruction" (v.2), to "receive instruction in wise dealing" (v.3), and to have "knowledge and discretion" (v.4), then they need to "hear and increase in learning... [and] obtain guidance" (v.5). This learning and guidance will help the reader to "understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles." (v.6)

This introduction is not written to a fool or to a non-contemplative person. It is not written for a person who *needs* wisdom, but to a person who is *seeking* wisdom. It is written to the wise and the person who understands. This introduction is a call to be humble and give consideration to the wisdom of another; to be wise and still increase in learning; to be full of understanding and still seek to obtain guidance.

In verse 7, Solomon lays the foundation for this humble pursuit of knowledge. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." This is the same foundation that the prophet Micah uses when he writes, "What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8). It's also the foundation Jesus uses when He answers the lawyer and says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Mat. 22:37). To have knowledge we must first have humility before God. True wisdom spawns from a fear of the Lord. Our greatest command is to love God with everything we are. Real understanding comes when, through the work of Christ, we fear the Lord and love Him.

On the flip side of the coin, if we are those who do not receive instruction well and who refuse to listen to the wisdom of others, then we are fools. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Prov. 1:7) Despising instruction and wisdom shows us to be fools; a fool lacks even the beginning of knowledge and, therefore, lacks a fear of the Lord.

How many times have I rejected a wiser man's instruction? How many times have I ignored and despised the guidance given to me? Too many times to count, I'm afraid. Pride and arrogance render us fools, and reveal a heart that fears the opinions of men more than God. To be truly wise, is to be truly humble and that is only possible through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Benjamin Thiessen
Alumni President
benjamin.thiessen.x19@gmail.com