

Reading the Bible – Proverbs

Sunday July 15, 2012

Proverbs

Wisdom

Wisdom and Knowledge – Wisdom is knowledge applied

Wisdom and Skill – Wisdom is Skill at Living

Wisdom and Ethics – More about Doing than Knowing

Getting Wisdom

Wisdom and God

Often today “Practical Living” and “Religious Matters” seen as separate “spheres of life”. Not so in Proverbs!

- Beginning of Wisdom – Fear of God (Prov 9:10)
- Trust, Commit – He will guide (Prov 3:5-6)

Wisdom and Seeking (Prov 2:1-10)

- Active – Want it, Ask for it, Look for it
- Passive – It will enter your heart; Gift from God

Wisdom and Training (Prov 1:1-7)

- Assumptions about education ...
- Today – “Values Free” Education
- Proverbs – The Need for Training
Left to ourselves we will go wrong!
Proverbs particularly target the young

Reading Proverbs

- Short, Practical, Memorable (not “precise”)
- Often Clever, Colourful, Extreme
- Rooted in Experience, Not Promises or Universal Truths

Review

Two Stage Process

- Try to Hear What First Readers Heard
- Then Ask, What Does this Mean Now