

The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 6

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Proverbs 25.2

Related Passages: Proverbs 30:1-4

Sermon Date: November 4, 2007

The LORD is wise beyond our comprehension.

Did you ever stop to think about how if you were God, how you would go about bringing a savior into the world to save mankind?

I know this, that I would not pick an unknown teenage girl who wasn't yet married to carry the savior of the world. I also would not let this savior be born in a manger surrounded by animals. I would have had our savior born into a palace with great fanfare.

Or take the life of Jesus here on earth, here is the son of God, with all of the powers of God at his disposal, yet he chooses to confront the rulers of the day and let them put him on a cross without so much as even a good defense at his trial.

As I think about it, it seems that our God in heaven does everything the opposite of how I would have made it happen. Not only that but he continues to confound me in my Christian walk, by working things out in ways that I could have never imagined. Our great God in Heaven in his infinite wisdom, chooses the lowly and meek to overcome the best that man can put forth. God's ways are often mysterious but looking back we can see the wisdom in his ways. That is our theme for this weeks study.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have. The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>Key Verse Proverbs 25:2 (NIV)</p> <p>^{25:2} It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>^{30:1} The sayings of Agur son of Jakeh — an oracle; This man declared to Ithiel, to Ithiel and to Ucal:</p> <p>^{30:2} I am the most ignorant of men; I do not have a man's understanding.</p> <p>^{30:3} I have not learned wisdom, nor have I knowledge of the Holy One.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>^{30:4} Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of his hands?</p> <p>^{30:4} Who has wrapped up the waters in his cloak? Who has established all in the ends of the earth?</p> <p>^{30:4} What is his name, and the name of his son? Tell me if you know.</p> <p>.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father,? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it Say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **Sins** to avoid
- ◆ **Promises** to believe
- ◆ **Examples** to follow (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **Commands** to obey
- ◆ **Knowledge** to share

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

4. Proverbs 25:2 tells us it is the glory of the Lord to conceal things. What is the Lord concealing? Looking at Deuteronomy 6:4-8 what has the Lord revealed to us?

5. How does trust in the Lord and his not telling us everything relate to each other? (See Psalm 37:1-17) and also see Isaiah 29:13-17.

6. Continuing on with the thought of why God conceals things from us, look at Mathew 24:36-44. What does this passage reveal to us about the wisdom of God? About our need to know or not to be told everything?

7. Proverbs 30:4 asks the question—"Who has gone up to heaven and come down?" Can you think of instances in the Bible when God came down to visit man? (See Gen. 18:33; Gen. 28:12-13; and John 3:11-13)

8. God has revealed many things to us through his word. In I Peter 1:13-16 God tells us our part in his master plan. What does God demand of us. How does this reveal the glory of God?

9. Look up 1 Corinthians 1:20-25 and write down your thoughts about what these verses say about the LORD's wisdom. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life this week?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 25:2

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.

This week we have been looking at the wisdom of God and how great it is, even beyond our comprehension. Where do we fit into this aspect of wisdom?

James 3:13-17 speaks about two kinds of wisdom. This passage says that a person with worldly wisdom harbors bitter envy and selfish ambition in their hearts. The passage goes on to tell us that where we have envy and selfish ambition, there we will also find disorder and evil practices.

In contrast, James tells us that the wisdom that comes from heaven is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

We can gain this wisdom from heaven by asking the Lord Jesus Christ into your heart. He will then send the Holy Spirit to help you understand the things of God. 1 Corinthians 2:10 tells us that God's revelation is revealed to us by his Holy Spirit. The Spirit searches all things even the deep things of God. Ask Jesus into your heart and begin that journey of coming to a deeper knowledge of God as revealed to us through his Holy Spirit.

*These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact **studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com***

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