

PROVERBS

Poetry to engage and stretch us. The bridge between prayer and action. Wisdom across Scripture, revealed by God. 21st January 2018.

What are these Proverbs telling us about God?

1. God is sovereign and just
2. God cares about his children
3. God wants us to be honest with him (from the inside, out)

LORD: Yahweh: God revealing himself when entering into the Covenant with Israel

Working (biblical) assumptions:

1. God is real
2. People are made in the image of God
3. People live in God's world

Wisdom = thinking and living in accordance with how things actually are

Folly = a way of thinking and living that ignores how things actually are

The fear of the Lord = The reverent obedience to God alone

- ✓ A secure fortress
- ✓ A refuge for their children (14:26)
- ✓ A fountain of life
- ✓ Escape from the snares of death (14:27)
- ✓ Leads to life
- ✓ Allows us to rest content, untouched by trouble (19:23)

Being honest with God.....

The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him. (15:8)

The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous. (15:29)

Our sovereign, just God can't be bought

He detests the sacrifice of the wicked. (15:8)

To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. (21:3)

There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord. (21:30)

Practising the presence of God..... in our everyday lives

"Blessed is the one who always trembles before God but whoever hardens their heart falls into trouble" (28:14)

Some tricky Tim Keller questions (Timothy Keller, "The Way of Wisdom")

In what area of life do I need to most grow in wisdom? (Read James 1:5)

When I'm next anxious – is it fuelled by too much confidence that my plans are wiser than our sovereign God's?