

"The Prize of the Wise"

Sunday, October 1, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI

Pastor Jonathan DeCou

Proverbs 1:1-7

BIG IDEA: Only God can make us wise.

*"The fear of the LORD
is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and discipline."
Proverbs 1:7 (CSB)*



Background and setting of Proverbs.

- **WHO?**
- **WHAT?**
- **WHEN?**
- **WHERE?**
- **WHY?**
- **HOW?**



An Outline of Proverbs.

- Proverbs 1:1-7, The Prologue
- Proverbs 1:8-9:18, Exhortations to Wisdom
- Proverbs 10:1-22:16, Proverbs of Solomon
- Proverbs 22:17-24:22, 30 Sayings of the Wise
- Proverbs 24:23-34, More Sayings of the Wise

- Proverbs 25:1-29:27, More Proverbs from Solomon by Hezekiah's Wise Guys
- Proverbs 30:1-33, Sayings of Agur (Lists to Live By)
- Proverbs 31:1-31, Sayings from King Lemuel (taught to him by his mother)



Key Words in Proverbs.

- **WISE/WISDOM**
- **KNOWLEDGE**
- **UNDERSTANDING**
- **FEAR**
- **FOOL/FOLLY**



So what am I going to do about it?

- **Left to ourselves, we're a mess.**
- **Keep learning.**
- **Don't just make a living, make a life.**
- **You can fool-proof your life.**

BIG IDEA: Only God can make us wise.

READ: Luke 6:46-49 & Mark 4:1-9

THINK: Consider the purpose of Proverbs, then ask yourself these questions: *What is the significance of Proverbs being written/collected over such a long period of*

time? In your own words explain or define each of the key words from Proverbs discussed in this message today: WISE/WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING, FEAR, FOOL/FOLLY. Why does it require complete self-denial in order to find the path of wisdom? How do we solve the dilemma that “we don’t know what we don’t know”? Why the title for this series, “The Art of Living”?

DO: Rate yourself on a scale of 1-10, 1 being “THE FOOL” and 10 being “THE ULTIMATE WISE GUY”. Then ask your spouse, another family member, or trusted friend where they think you are on that scale. Ask yourself, “How desperate am I right now to give up the self-life and follow Jesus?”