

Christ in the Wisdom of Proverbs

溥偉恩 Vern S. Poythress, Ph.D., Th.D.
Westminster Theological Seminary

A. The Challenge of Proverbs

Treasure and Life

Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit,
but righteousness delivers from death.

– Proverbs 10:2

Life Challenges

Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit,
but righteousness delivers from death.

– Proverbs 10:2

Themes:

true treasure; true success; righteousness; death.

What is the meaning of your life?

Attraction

Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit,
but righteousness delivers from death.

– Proverbs 10:2

Aesthetic balance:

wickedness vs. righteousness

not profit vs. deliverance

treasures vs. death

Rhythm

Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit,
but righteousness delivers from death.

– Proverbs 10:2

Hebrew Rhythm:

Not-profit treasures-of wickedness (3 stresses)

But

righteousness delivers from-death. (3 stresses)

Two Ways

Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit,
but righteousness delivers from death.

– Proverbs 10:2

wickedness

versus

righteousness

Attraction

The wise of heart will receive
commandments,
but a babbling fool will come to ruin.
– Proverbs 10:8

Themes:

Wisdom; the heart; value of
commandments/directions; babbling;
foolishness; ruin.

What is the meaning of your life?

B. Christ in the Old Testament

The Bible Is Christ-Centered

Luke 24:25-27: ... And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Pervasive Witness

all canon

totality

Luke 24:44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

Main Theme of OT

summary

international
focus of Acts
is in the OT

46 and said to them, “Thus is it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

Other Passages about Christocentricity

- 2 Cor. 1:20
- 1 Pet. 1:10-12
- John 5:39; 5:46-47; 8:56
- Matthew

C. Wisdom in Proverbs

Wisdom as a Theme

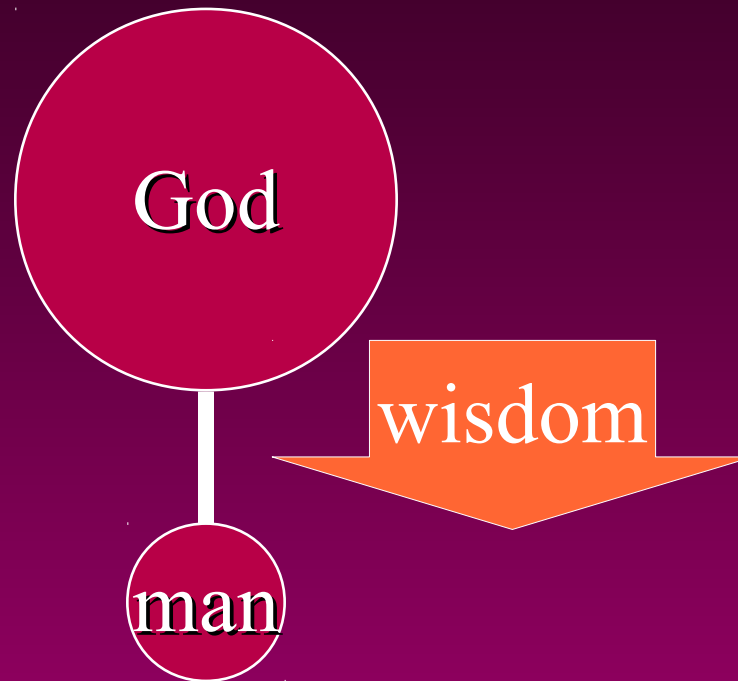
- Words for wisdom occur in Proverbs
- Idea even with the word:
proverbs contain wisdom

Centrality of Wisdom

To know wisdom and instruction,
to understand words of insight,
to receive instruction in wise dealing,
in righteousness, justice, and equity;
to give prudence to the simple,
knowledge and discretion to the youth--
Let the wise hear and increasing in learning,
and the one who understands obtain guidance,
to understand a proverb and a saying,
the words of the wise and their riddles.
– Proverbs 1:2-6

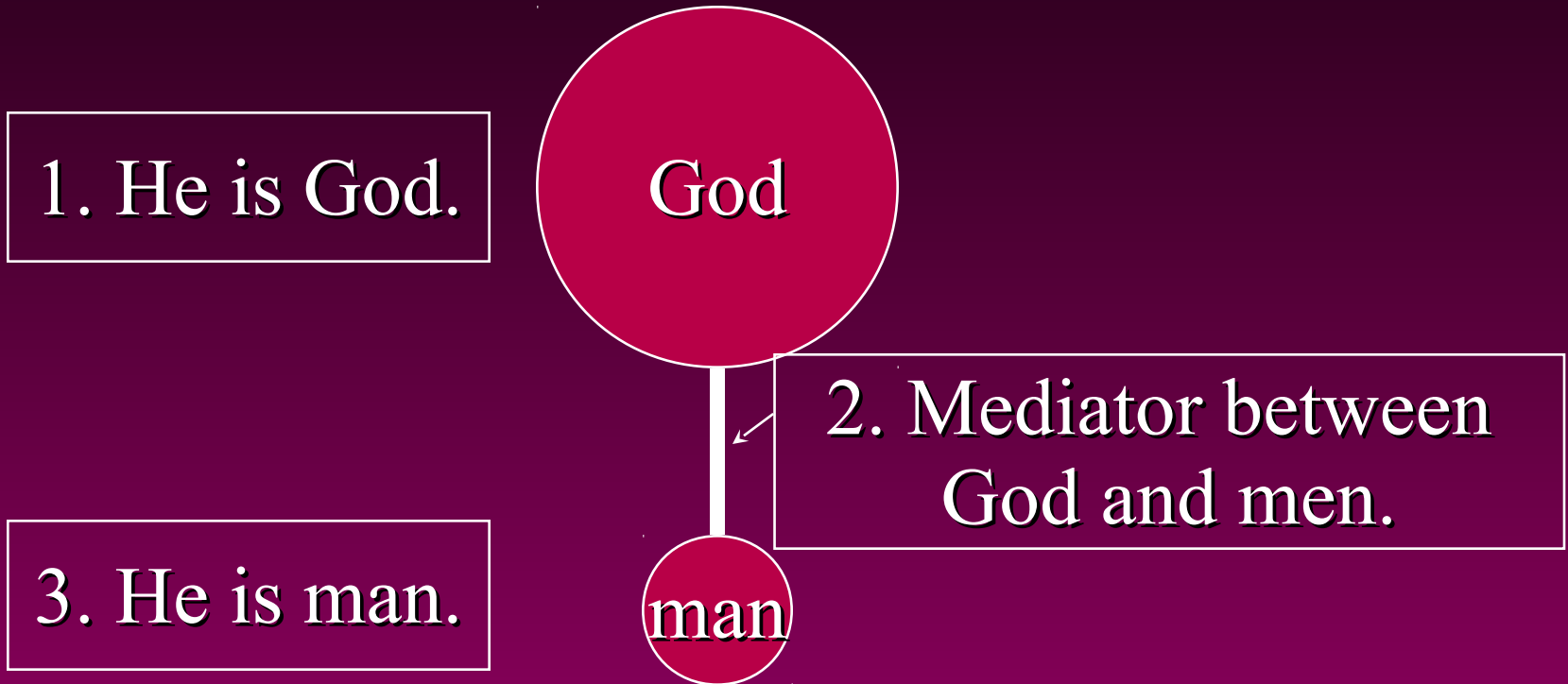
Wisdom through God

The fear of the LORD is
the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.
– Proverbs 1:7



D. Christ as Wisdom

Christ as God and Man



Christ as Speaker

- Christ as speaker speaks God's word
- He is the source of wisdom

Christ as Speech

- Christ embodies wisdom
- He is wisdom

... Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

– Colossians 2:2-3

... Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

– 1 Corinthians 1:30

Christ as Human Recipient

- Christ is fully human

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

– Luke 2:52

E. Christ in Proverbs

Life Challenges: Treasure

Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit,
but righteousness delivers from death.

– Proverbs 10:2

Themes:

true treasure; true success; righteousness; death.

What is the meaning of your life?

Treasure and Christ

Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit,
but righteousness delivers from death.

– Proverbs 10:2

- Christ as righteous
- Christ delivered from death
- Christ inherits

Treasure in Christ

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

– Philippians 2:8-11

Inheritance in Christ

... but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things,

– Hebrews 1:2

Coheirs:

... and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. – Romans 8:17

Wisdom as Treasure

... Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

– Colossians 2:2-3

Obtaining Treasure

Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit,
but righteousness delivers from death.

– Proverbs 10:2

Themes:

righteousness; eternal life; eternal profit;
treasures, freedom from wickedness—gained in
Christ's redemption.

This is the meaning of life!

Being Wise of Heart

The wise of heart will receive commandments,
but a babbling fool will come to ruin.

– Proverbs 10:8

Themes:

How do you become wise of heart?

How do you keep God's commandments?

How do become wise of speech?

Through Christ, who is the meaning of your life!

Being Wise of Heart: Answer

The wise of heart will receive commandments,
but a babbling fool will come to ruin.

– Proverbs 10:8

- Christ as wise of heart
- Christ as keeping God's commandments
- Christ as wise of speech
- Christ triumphing over ruin (the grave)

Satisfaction

The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry,
but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.

– Proverbs 10:3

Themes:

righteousness, fullness vs. hunger; the Lord's
reward.

Wise Speech

The tongue of the righteous is choice silver;
the heart of the wicked is of little worth.

– Proverbs 10:20

Themes:

speech; righteousness; value; the heart.

Riches

A rich man's wealth is his strong city;
the poverty of the poor is their ruin.
The wage of the righteous leads to life,
the gain of the wicked to sin.
– Proverbs 10:15-16

Themes:

wealth; righteousness; results; life.