

THE PROFUNDITY IN SIMPLE WISDOM

(Prov. 30:1-9)

Introduction:

1. The Book of Proverbs has 31 chapters, 29 of which are clearly attributed to King Solomon. The last two chapters are attributed to Agur, the son of Jakeh; and King Lemuel respectively. Many suspect that King Lemuel (“devoted to God”) is a pseudonym of King Solomon, but again no one knows for sure.
2. Who exactly Agur the son of Jakeh is remains unknown. Many suspect it as a literary device used by King Solomon. Agur means “to gather” from a root meaning “harvest”. Jakeh comes from a root meaning “to obey”. Ithiel comes from a root meaning “blessed with God”. And Ucal comes from a root meaning “to eat”. Thus some think it was King Solomon describing himself as a man who has been blessed bountifully by God (fellowshipped and nourished) because he had been faithful.
3. Not knowing exactly, we will not be dogmatic regarding the author. The author was inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:21) and thus we approach this chapter humbly, looking to learn from God.
4. Let us this morning focus in on verses 7-9 and feast upon the riches of God’s wisdom found therein.

Discussion:

I. Proper Relationship with God (v7).

- A. Man as supplicant to God.
 1. Man is the finite and incomplete one.
 2. God is the infinite One who is the giver of all good and perfect gifts (cp. Jas. 1:17).
- B. Verse seven begins with the beginning of a prayer. There are two things Agur asks of God. He desires what he prays for to be his while he is still alive.

II. Desire for Truth (v8a).

- A. A request against the false idols of the world.
 1. God’s word is truth (John 17:17), and service is to be to Him and only to Him (Matt. 4:10 = Deut. 6:13 and 10:20; good hermeneutical lesson).
 2. Israel’s greatest problem was their desire to serve God and other gods as well. They did not want to be separate from the peoples around them. They disobeyed the exclusive nature of being God’s people (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1).
- B. A request against the idols of the heart.
 1. Everything that applies to actual false gods being worshipped is equally applicable to our thoughts/hearts.
 2. When we disobey or refuse to obey we make ourselves god and usurp the One and Only God (1 John 3:4; Jas. 4:17).
 3. This request is a prayer against the terrible wickedness of iniquity (Hebrew = *avon* = “to make crooked what was straight”-Brown, Driver, and Briggs), the twisting of God’s word to make it conform to our will.

III. Desire for Balance (vv 8, 9).

- A. His desire is a rejection of the old army joke (uniform sizes = too big and too small), and an affirmation of Goldilocks (not too soft, not too hard). He does not want TOO much or TOO little. He wants what has been allotted (a word meaning “limit, prescribed”) to him.
 1. He explains that if he has too much he might very well forget/deny his need/dependence upon God. This would lead him to the falsehood mentioned above, another in place of God.
 2. He explains that too little might tempt him to violate God’s word and thus profane God. Literally he will become guilty of taking God’s name in vain = saying he is God’s man but acting contrary to that.
- B. This desire applies to all aspects of our lives, not just food. We ought to strive for not too much or too little.

- C. This desire leads to one of man's greatest and least found goals, contentment. This man is praying for contentment (cp. Matt. 6:11; and Paul's example Phil. 4:4-13; 1 Tim. 6:6-8).

Conclusion:

1. Such a simple statement, and yet spiritual food enough to feast upon for the rest of our days.
2. How good is our God who has given to us all things that pertains to life and godliness, the question is, will we partake of it; that we might partake of the divine nature.
3. Invitation.

MORE ON "THE PROFUNDITY IN SIMPLE WISDOM"

1. "Who ya gonna call?" Not Ghostbusters. Only God can (has the power and the desire) help us in our lives (Is. 45; Jer. 10:23; Prov. 3:5-8; Matt. 6:24-34; 1 Pet. 5:7; et al).
2. "Remove all falsehood and lies far from me".
 - A. The lies told to us by those in positions of authority.
 - False teaching by family, schools, etc.
 - Bad examples by family, schools, etc.
 - B. The lies told to us via false religious people; whether word or deed.
 - C. The lies we tell ourselves.
 - From our limited experience, knowledge.
 - To reshape our reality (that is, to be gods).
 - to ease (but really sears) our conscience.
3. Seeking contentment not "Toos".
 - A. When we lose sight of the goal of this life we will seek "Toos".
 - B. When we lose or devalue our glory in Christ we will seek "Toos".
4. We must not confuse the wisdom of God with the norms of culture (1 Cor. 1:10-2:16).
5. The Bible is able to make us wise unto salvation (2 Tim. 3:15), equipping unto life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3; John 10:10; and 1 Cor. 11:1 teaches so much without spelling it out).
6. Consider the choice in 1 Cor. 14:20, and choose wisely (Matt. 7:24-27).