Scripture: Proverbs 8:32-36.

Sermon Topic: Wisdom is Common Sense.

Text: Proverbs 8:35 ... "For he who finds me (wisdom) finds life and wkxxx obtains favor from the Lord:..."

Proposition: Proverbs is an outstanding collection of God-given wisdom which offers common-sense advice for everyday living.

Sources: As indicated in typescript, and pages 767-778, Vol. 4, The Interpreter's Bible, Introduction to Proverbs

Date written: February 27, 1965.

Dates and places used:

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Introduction:

l. Somebody wrote this little poem about with the problem that parents sometimes have with children in the mornings, on the matter of getting up:

"Each time we call our kids for

school
They'll pout, they'll plead, they'll yawn.

But Saturday, without a peep,
They're up at crack of dawn"!"
(F.G.Kernan, Grit, in Quote, 2/21/1965.)
I'm sure this writer didn't have in

mind the teenager who had a date for the game the night before. We have found that our teenagers like to sleep late on Saturdays, if they don't have jobs or aren't going fishing or skiing. But our small children are sort of like that: hard to get up for school, and up for the early cartoons on TV on Saturday.

Not just in our own day and age have people put in verse and witty saying truths that come from observation of everyday life, from common experience. This thing of putting into words in witty, to-the-paint sayings commonly-observed truths has been going on for ages. One of the most-widely known collections of such

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2. Not just in our own day and are nave people but in verse and withy saying truths that come from observation of everyday life, from common experience This thing of pusting interested in witty, to-the-point sayings commonly-observed truths has been coing on for ares. One of the most-widely known collections of seen

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3. Because Proverbs can be so helpful to us in finding words to express our everyday conclusions, because it is a source of advice and help, because we think that God used men of long ago to channel to us wisdom which he would have us know, we seek here today to develop a larger understanding of the book of Proverbs, and to get its central outlook for us.

I. Scanning the book of Proverbs reveals its place in literature as a book of wisdom.

- l. In fact, wisdom is its chief
 theme throughout. The first nine
 chapters are almost an ode to wisdom,
 and repeat again and again how important wisdom is. That is what the words
 which we use as our text are talking
 about. It is as if wisdom is talking
 itself, and says: "For he who finds me
 finds life and obtains favor from the
 Lord:..."
 - 2. The Old Testament has other "wisdom literature", too. There ise the books of Job, Ecclesiastes and

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"wisdom laterature", too. there are the books of Joh, Ecclesiastes and

which belong to this class, which deal with the general subject of wisdom, which are collections of wise sayings. These pieces of "wisdom literature" in the Old Testament are closely associated with similar writings of other cultures, societies and kingdoms of the times and surrounding areas. It seems obvious to scholars that there were numberous contacts with the wisdom literature of these other cultures on the part of the writers of Proverbs and other Old Testament writin of similar vein. A study of some of these other writings indicates that substantial parts of the book of Proverbs were borrowed from Phoenician or Camaanite sources. There is much Egyptian writing similar to Proverbs. much of which we still have available to scholars, and its influence on Hebrew thinkers and writers was strong. The Babylonians, too, had similar things. All of this points up the fact that it was common practice for the thinkers and wise men of any culture to teach orally or to write down the conclusions which to which their thinking led them. The wise sayings which lasted were put into forms of speech easy to remember and dealing with common ordinary subjects. This

deuse: de estanta Tree double .as to wind of anoled forme with the teneral subject of wasdom, which are collections of wise sayings. viscois of designed bio on ar associated with similar amiliars of other cultures, societies and kinedoms of the times and surrounding area. wisdom literature of these other culto emos to vouts A study of some of -orl to wood and to esten fairnateous Camanine sources, There is much according and time similar to Provenbe. to scholars, and its influence on The Banylonians, too, had similar things. All of this points up the fa and tol coldong mommou eaw if tank thinking led them. The ware sading with common ordinary subjects, this

- our books of Proverbs.
- 3. The properts, the priests and the wisemmen were the three groups of leaders who molded the cultural life of ancient Israel. The probhets and the priests were by far the more prominent. since Israel's history was writeen mostly by them. Mose of our Bible books are prophecy or priestly than of the type of Proverbs. Although the wise men who wrote the type of literature we are thinking about today did not occupy as wise prominent a position in the life of Israel as the other lead ers, their popular style and genial manners attracted a large number of followers among the common people. They did not speak with the authority of the prophet, "Thus saith the Lord". They did not have the piety and religious correctness of the priest. They were simply earnest seekrs of the good life, and it was their aim to teach their disciples what the good life was.
- wise man, of at least the first person to be called "wise" in the Old Testament was a woman, a woman of Tekoa, the home of the prophet Amost Another

Page orige 8:32-26

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Wise man, or at least the first to be called "wise" in the Old Testament was a woman, a woman of Tekos, the home of the prophet Aros, Another

of a "wise woman" in the city of Abel, who found out why Joab was besieging her home city and persuaded the folks in it to give up the one man he wanted there, thereby saving the city. (II Samuel 20:14-22). King

5. King Solomon, of course, is the outstanding wise man among the Israelites. His prayer for an understanding heart, his clever decisions, his know-how in dealing with the kingx Queen of Sheba, all add up to make him the most conspicuous representative of Israel's wise men. His biographer in I Kings 4:29-34, wrote of him, "And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and largeness of mind like the sand on the seashore, so that Solomon's wosdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east. and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all other men, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all the nations round about. He also uttered three thousand proverbs; and his songs were a thousand and five. He spoke of trees from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that gows out of the wall;

Provocat 8, 32-30

of a "wise woman" irethe dity of Abel, who found out why John was besteging her nome city and persuaded ine folks in it to five up the one man he wanted there, hereby saving the city. (II there, hereby saving the city. (II there) the city.

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he spoke also of beasts, and of birds, and of reptiles, and of fish. And men same from all peoples to hear the wisdon ofSolomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom! We know that Solomon made so many foolish mistakes that it is hard to understand how such praises could be keaped upon hom. His faults must have been forgotten early, and in the course of time his reputation grew to such an extent that his name became associated with works of wisdom, Like Proverbs, for centuries to come. He is considered to have written a great many, but not all, of the present book, and we have reason to think he really did.

o. The wise man of ancient Isreael worked and thought individually, giving forth his advice publicly at the town gate, and privately to whoever came to him for instruction. The teaching of the wise men was directed to the youth of the nation much of the time; and thus the term "my son" is used of ten at the beginning of some saying or teaching.

7. A Proverb is usually thought of as a short saying which contains a general and popular truth. One

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7. A roverb is usually blought of as a short saving which contains a smort saving which contains a special and popular truin.

Hebrew word translated into our English word "Proverb" very definitely means the same thing. Another Hebrew idea of the word Proverb is that of "parable or "allegopy". The Hebrew word for

"Proverb" means poem, essay, the final and peerless product of the wise man's great skill.

8. There are several types of proverbs. There is the wise waying, the riddle, the fable. For the Hebrew, window was always a practical thing, not just speculative or philosophical. Yet, he knew that even this practical wisdom was not something that just he developed, but that it came from the Lord. Thus, in his everyday matters, the Hebrew was always aware of God near by. Israel did make much use of the

pagan wisdom around her, but she made it God-centered. xxx "I have taught you the way of wisdom;

I have led you in the paths of uprightness".(4:11)

"The fear of the Lord is the sum of wisdom,

And in all wisdom the Law is fulfilled"

Such is the chief spirit of Israel's

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Proverbs and other wisdom writings.

9. Many of the writings about wisdom, as given in Proverbs and other Bible writings%, almost give personality to the things around them:

"the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into sing-ing.

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands" (Isa.55:12

Also, often wisdom itself is personified. The first 9 chapters of Proverbs have much that is said as if "wisdom" itself is a person talking. Our Scripture for today is like that. Early in Proverbs we read:

"Wisdom cries aloud in the street; in the markets she raises her voice:

on the tops of the walls she cries

out; at the entrance to the city gates

she speaks;
"How long, O simple ones, will you

"How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?

*How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?"

(1:20-22)

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their scoffing their soling

In some cases wisdom is almost identified with God:

"For wisdom is a kindly spirit, And will not acquit a blasphemer of what he says,

For God is a witness of his heart, And a truthful observer of his mind, And a hearer of his tongue.

For the spirit of the Lord fills the world,
And that which embraces all things

knows all that is said."
(1:6-7).

Wisdom is considered the key to life eternal, even, in at least small parts of Proverbs:

"And love for her is the observance of the laws.

And adherence to her laws is assurance of immortality,

And immortality brings men near to God".(6:18-19..Amer.Trans.)

you can find outself for yourself by repeated and careful study of Proverbs, that it ixxx is composed of about 7 sections. Section Ixxxx (1:1-9:18) presents most of the discussion about

the merits of wisdom, tells of the dangers of associating with an

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Proverbs 8:32-36

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adulteress who lures men to their destruction with her enticing words and actions, and presents wisdom as almost a person. Chapters 8 & 9 of this arex considered the oldest parts of Proverbs, and almost without doubt

as having been written by Solomon.
Section II (10:1-22:16), the core
of the book, is full of the two-line
Proverbs. These couplets may have
both lines agreeing, carrying the
same thought; or one line may give
a thought and the other the opposite
of it; or they may present the same
thought in different, or synonymous

"Does not wisdom call, does not understanding raise her voice" (8:1).

is a synonymous verse or Proverb.

"A son who gathers in summer is prudent, but a son who sleeps in harvest brings

shame" (10:5) is an anthithetical type proverb.

"My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent,

If one gives ander before he hears, it is his folly and shame" are synthetic proverbs.

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Hate "He who conceals hatred has lying lips. and he who utters slander is a fool". (10:18)Advice "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes. but a wise man listens to advice". (12:15)Wealth "One man pretends to be rich, yet has nothing: another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth." (13:7). Anger "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger " (15:1).Self-Esteem "All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit." (16:2)Gossip: "A perverse man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends". (16:28). Understanding "A fool takes no pleasure in understanding.

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Understanding.
"A fool takes no pleasure in understanding.

Proverbs

but only in expressing his opinion". (18:2).

Quarreling

"It is an honor for a man to keep aloof fro, strofe¢

bit every fool will be quarreling". (20:3).

Buying
"It is bad, it is bad," says the buyer;
but when he goes away, he boasts.
(20:1)

Borrowing & wealth
"The rich rules over the poor,
and the borrower is the slave of
the lender". (22:7)

Women

"A continual dripping on a rainy day and a contentious woman are alike; to restrain her is to restrain the wind or to grasp oil in his right hand". (27:16-16

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byt only in expressing his opinion" (18:2).

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"It is old, it is old," sits the action of the constant when he cos sent, he cossis.

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The continual or applies on a content on a content on woman are alike; to rearrain the wind or to great oil in his right band. 197:15-10

impressed with the high ethical standard of its teachings. The highest type of family life is held up; monogamy is taken for granted; the respect for mother and wife is emphasized; chastity and marital fidelity are taught; The glutton, drunkard, and sluggard, the robber and oppressor of the poor, are all roundly condemned. Those who live in accordance with wisdom's laws are prosperous and happy. A belief in the one true and living God who rewards the righteous and punishes the wicked is strong throughout the book.

In spite of its high standard of ethics, Proverbs presents goodness as being caused almost always by an

interest in personal success.

about life eternal, but something.
"Sheol" is the dismal abode of the
departed. Yet Sheol is before the
Lord, indicating that he is in some
way concerned with the world hereafter
and its inhabitants.

II. The significance of Proverbs for us:

Provont 1:32.36

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12. Augone who reads rowerds the consens of its teachings. The niceast two of teaching life is need up; monorany in faces for custed; the respect for mother and wile is emphasized; ones.

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he significance of reveres for

- ders how much was they meant to Christ and the early Christians. Such information can be a clue to how much they should mean to us. The quotations taxkwarks from Proverbs in the New Testament are few, and hard to identify but there are some.
- "Be not wise in thine own eyes" (Prov. 3:7a) in the New Testament is "Be not wise in your own conceits" (Roml2:16b).

"For love covereth all transgressions" (Prov.10:12b), is in the N.T.:
"For love covereth a multitude of sins" (I Peter 4:8b), as. 5:20).

There are others. There are many proverbs which are the basis of New Testament passages but which are not actually quoted. Christ links himself with the wisdom of the Old Testament when he say "The queen of the South will arise at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them; for she came from the ends of the earth to hear Extense the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than

Solomon is here"(Luke 11:36, Matt.12:42

MIT-SE: Williams -now arise added as eight eneval . I define of one m. william to do ened and the early Undellans, Duch They should meet to us. The quotetions "ed ament are few, and hard to abent ay but there are some, Tool: Small ..T.W end mi at . (off: Off. vord) Seter 11.90), 'es. 5-20). -crowning are short, thorogenerated on do by licement exact Jar 10 . become hear xxxxxxxx (he wisdom of Tolomon, and behold, something medicin than Colomon is never (Luxe 11:36, Matt. 12:16

2. All of this added together tells us that wisdom is the revelation of God's orderly plan in the universe and lives of men, rather than the accumulation of intelligent observations on life down through the ages. That is, the wisest sayings and actions of life are those which put God at the center, which axaexxists give life an order and dependability, and which help one adapt well to others and to the circumstances of life.

Conclusion:

- l. Our study shows us that Proverbs is an outstanding collection of Godgiven wisdom which offers common sense advice for everyday living.
- 2. Perhaps you heard about the doctor who told his patient, "Let me know if this prescription works. I'm having the same brouble myself".

 (Scandal Sheet, Graham, Tex., Rotary).
- 3. The reason the book of Proverbs has been preserved is because most of the wathwaks lessons in it are easy to remember and they work well. They prove that wisdom is simply common sense; and that the best common sense is God-centered.

2. All of injs added together tells that that we adom is the revelation of ideas of men, rether than the accumblistion of intelligent corervations on lation of intelligent corervations on the wisest sayings and actions of late are those watch out God at the center, and the memoriality, and which help and order and devendablity, and which help of core adapt well to others and to the circumstances of life.

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