



# Forest Home Church

Forest Home Church  
1751 Old Natchez Trace  
Franklin, TN 37069

[www.ForestHomeChurch.org](http://www.ForestHomeChurch.org)

January 22nd, 2012

"Sharing, Loving & Exploring Life in Christ"

Send announcements, praises, and prayer requests to: [newsletter@foresthomechurch.org](mailto:newsletter@foresthomechurch.org)

## The Wisdom of Proverbs and Christ as Wisdom

Proverbs is more than a miscellaneous collection of sayings by King Solomon and other wise men. There are themes throughout along with strong images. Two such images picture the opposite paths of wisdom and foolishness in the form of Lady Wisdom versus the seductive, death-dealing Woman of Foolishness (Proverbs 8 & 9). No one is exempt from the necessity of choosing between the two women: Either Wisdom or Folly! Throughout Proverbs, the differences between the two are drawn ever more sharply.

Something of interest is how the Lady Wisdom of Proverbs 8 foreshadows Jesus in significant ways:

- Both existed with God before all things
- Both played some role in creation
- Both descended from heaven to dwell with humanity & were rejected by many
- Both teach heavenly wisdom
- Both call those who listen "children"
- Both lead those who listen to life and immortality
- Both offer blessings in the symbols of food and drink

As Solomon's Woman of Wisdom is a type of Jesus, there are differences in that the One pointed to (Jesus) is superior to the type itself. Ways in which Christ is superior are:

- God gave birth to wisdom, but Christ is the eternal Son
- Wisdom witnessed the creation, but Christ is the Creator
- Wisdom will laugh at the time of judgment, but Christ is the Judge
- Wisdom was begotten by God, but Christ is God begotten eternally

(Thanks to long-time teacher of Proverbs Bruce Waltke for this information)

## Tips from Tremper on Reading Proverbs

Old Testament teacher Tremper Longman wrote a book called, *How to Read Proverbs* (IVP: 2002). He has several good insights which FH readers will find very helpful as they read through Proverbs.

1. Keep in mind the structure of the whole book of Proverbs as you read any part.
2. Reflect on the parallelism of a proverb by asking how the second line of a saying sharpens or intensifies the thought of the first line.
3. Identify the imagery in a passage, then unpack it by asking how the two things compared are similar and how they are different.
4. Think about the source of wisdom of a passage. Does it come from observation, experience, tradition, revelation or any combination of these sources?
5. Since proverbs are not true in any and every circumstance, ask under what circumstance the proverb may or may not apply to a situation. How can you tell?
6. If the passage is addressed to a young man, ask how it applies to you.
7. Try to identify biblical stories or characters who may illustrate the truthfulness of the proverbs you are studying.
8. Think of Christ as the fulfillment of wisdom and how he might illustrate the wisdom of the passage you are reading.

Having taught Proverbs for many years, Longman's reflections on the book are instructive. He says: God has given Proverbs as a gift to his people, and its importance has not diminished by virtue of its antiquity. Life continues to be complicated; every day has issues both great and small. ...

Proverbs can help us navigate those perilous waters. It gives us advice and imparts observations so we might live life with maximum enjoyment and effectiveness. In this way, Proverbs could well be characterized as a self-improvement book.

But this would be a mistake. Proverbs is much more than a collection of well-crafted insights into living. It is a thoroughly theological book, confronting us from the very beginning with the most fundamental of choices: What is or should be the driving force of my life? Will I enter a relationship with Wisdom or Folly? With God or idols? A particular choice faces the Christian reader: In light of the New Testament's teaching on the nature of wisdom, is Jesus Christ, the epitome of God's wisdom, at the center of my life's decisions and actions?





Who Are the Poor? By T.M. Moore

People fall into poverty for various reasons, not all of them just.

“You shall not pervert the justice due to the sojourner or to the fatherless, or take a widow’s garment in pledge...” Deuteronomy 24.17

There will always be poor people in any society, and neighbor-love requires that policies exist to ensure proper care for them according to the teaching of God’s Word.

People fall into poverty for various reasons, some just, and some not. It seems strange, perhaps, to say that there might be “just” reasons for being poor. But let’s keep in mind that a society is just when love for God and neighbor are the defining features, not material prosperity. There will always be poor people in any society, but the presence of poor people does not make that society unjust. A just society will consist of both wealthy and poor alike.

Some people become poor because of deprivation, whether of persons or property. Orphans lose their parents; still, their basic needs must be met. Widows lose their husbands; the early Church was particularly diligent in caring for those who were true widows (cf. 1 Tim. 5.1-16). People whose property is destroyed by fire or storm may temporarily fall into poverty and thus require short-term assistance. Poverty can also befall those who become ill and are unable to work, such as lepers in both the Old and New Testaments. Some may be poor because, being refugees (sojourners), they have been unable to secure steady work.

These are, in Biblical terms, the truly poor. They deserve the love of their neighbors to sustain them during their season of impoverishment, until they can take responsibility for their lives once again. Those who will never be able to attain that state must be cared for indefinitely and ungrudgingly.

Those who become poor because they are unwilling to work to meet their needs, or because they prefer a life of indolence or revelry should not be considered among the poor for whom society has a responsibility. The Scriptures everywhere teach against supporting people in their laziness, indolence, or wastefulness. The word “poverty” must not be regarded as a universal term to describe people whose only common characteristic is a lack of income and wealth. Some who lack income and wealth may have fallen into that condition because of refusing to exercise good stewardship. In a very real sense, they do not deserve to have their status dignified by being referred to as “poor.” Such people must be encouraged to work and take responsibility for their lives; they must not be supported in their continuing disobedience.

The truly poor, however, deserve our compassion and our diligent efforts to establish policies that make it possible for them to have their basic needs met on a daily basis. They do not, however, deserve any kind of “preferential” treatment.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Valentine's Spaghetti Dinner**

For all couples in our church body. An evening to enjoy each other's company while the **youth group** serves you Dinner. At the church building from 6pm to 8pm.

**Branded hosting Sign-ups**

Sign up sheets will start going around to host the **youth group** the last Saturday night of each month from 5pm to 7pm for an evening devotional. Anyone is welcome to host. The host will be responsible for dinner for around 10 and could lead the devo or activity if you want.

**YOUTH GROUP:**

Branded this Saturday from 5pm to 7pm at the church building.

**Book Club**

*Death Comes To Pemberley*  
P.D. James at Lisa  
*Grimenstein's*  
Date and Time: TBA



**2012 Calendar**

- **January 28th** - Branded for the youth from 5pm to 7pm
- **Feb 10th** - Valentine's spaghetti dinner for the body, from the youth
- **EACH MON+THURS 5:30-5:50PM**@church, Intercessory prayer for anyone
- **EACH TUES MORNING - 6:30am**, mens bible study
- **EACH WED - Dinner @ 5:45pm & Women's Bible Study @ 6:15pm**

DATE	NURSERY (Infants-2 yrs old) During sermon only	LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION	WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER
Jan 22	Leah Hickerson	Jan D. McAlister	Jan 25 Pat/Karen
Jan 29	Kacy Pantall	Feb Allen	Feb 1 Pizza
Feb 5	Kathleen Stewart	Mar Boyd	Feb 8 Sarah/Kathleen
Feb 12	Anita Christy	April J. Grimenstein	Feb 15 Liz/Dawn
Feb 19	Ocie Garner	May Gill	Feb 22 Linda/Lois
Feb 26	Barbara Jenkins	June Farmer	Feb 29 Lisa/Wendy
Mar 4	Lynne Daniel	(Sub-Grimensteins) See Jim Grim with questions.	Mar 7 Ocie/Shannon