

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity
October 22, 2023 | “Averting Disaster” | Proverbs 1:1-19

Five ways to avert disaster in your life:

1. Get _____ (1:1-6)
2. Fear _____ (1:7)
3. Heed spiritual _____ (1:8-9)
4. Ignore _____ (1:10-16)
5. Watch and _____ (1:17-19)

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Proverbs 1:1-6. What is the purpose of the book of Proverbs? Why did the author write this book? Are there any items listed in Proverbs 1:1-6 that you are lacking in your life (e.g. wisdom, instruction in wise dealings, prudence, learning, guidance, etc.)?

Explain how Proverbs 1:7 functions as a theme verse for the book of Proverbs. Is there anything to be gained from this book if we do not have a “fear of the Lord?” What do we stand to gain if we do have it?

GET PERSONAL

Read Proverbs 1:8-19. Who are the spiritual authorities in your life? Are you receptive to their instruction? If they had something difficult to communicate to you, would you receive it? Have you sought out their counsel when you are dealing with difficult matters in your life?

What are some ways that you are enticed to sin every day? Who are some individuals that Satan uses to entice you? What are some safeguards that you have in place to battle that enticement? Who are some individuals in your life that help you battle the pull of temptation?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Explain how enticement to sin can become enslavement to sin. Are there any sins that you are enslaved to right now? If so, get with an accountability partner (or partners) and develop a “fear of the Lord” wisdom strategy to free yourself. Consider 1 Corinthians 10:13. Are there any temptations we encounter that are unique to us? Are there any temptations that God does not expect us to overcome or that we are simply unable to escape?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Who is the original audience of this book? What is significant about the statements concerning “my son” (1:8, 10) and “the simple” (1:4)? What does Solomon say about those who are already “wise” (1:5)? What does Proverbs have to offer them?

Proverbs 1:7 says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” But Proverbs 9:10 says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” What’s the difference between these terms: wisdom and knowledge? Are they being used interchangeably in Proverbs? How is the fear of the Lord the origin of both?