A Proverb A Day…

I have recently finished reading a book titled, *The Discipline of Spiritual Discernment*, by Tim Challies. In it, he says a lot about the young Solomon asking God for wisdom and discernment as he was about to follow in his father's (King David) footsteps to become King over God's People, Israel.

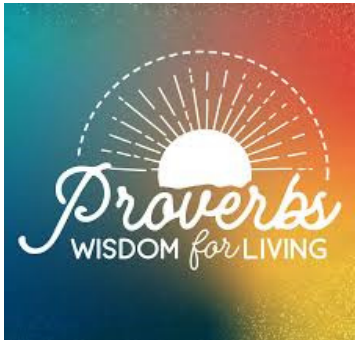
At the end of March, an article popped into my Inbox from the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews: *True Wisdom is Recognizing God*, which again focused on Solomon's request that God would give him wisdom and discernment to lead the nation.

God granted his request in abundance; so much so, that King Solomon *"truly became one of the greatest sources of wisdom for all of us"* [IFCJ].

Then, in July, a visiting speaker to our church gave his sermon from Proverbs 27; during the course of which he told the story of a foolish young man who led a very self-centred and pleasure-seeking life; but tragically ended by losing the most precious thing of all: the eternal salvation of his soul.

And though especially directed towards young people, with the purpose of teaching them to eschew the frivolous ways of the world which lead to eternal death and to choose instead to walk the paths of God which lead to abundant and eternal Life, the Book of Proverbs is essential reading for us all. Mostly written by Solomon, it is full of wisdom and assures the reader that God will never withhold His gifts of wisdom and discernment if we earnestly desire them and seek them from Him.

It teaches us **"to know wisdom** [skill in living, wise dealing, good sense], **instruction** [moral discipline]; **to perceive the words of understanding** [capability to distinguish between true and false, good and bad, what matters most and what does not matter at all] … **justice** [righteousness, conformity to God's law], **judgement** [right behaviour], **equity** [fairness in one's dealings with others] … **knowledge** [the apprehension of reality, and experiential knowledge of God] **and discretion** [the power of formulating and carrying out the right measures] … **The theme of the book is found in Proverbs 1:7, where the means by which wisdom comes is revealed: fearing the LORD** [submission to the LORD and His revelation]**"** *[Proverbs 1:2-4. Sources: KJV Study Bible / Zodhiates].*



A speaker at a conference I attended some years ago noted that there are 31 proverbs – one for each day of the month – and said she had made it her habit to read a proverb daily. That really spoke to me and since then I have tried to read the corresponding proverb for the date of the month, thus reading the entire book around 12 times a year. It doesn't take long to read just one proverb a day, and by following the calendar it's easy to remember which proverb to read next 😊

Elizabeth McDonald,
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(This article is a conflation of two items first appearing in the May-July 2023 and August-October 2023 editions of the Frindsbury Baptist Church magazine)

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