

# Wisdom & Folly

## INTRODUCTION

The books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes contain the wisdom of Solomon, son of David and king of Israel. After Solomon had been made king, he asked the Lord for an understanding mind, so it is no surprise that we find the truths of the doctrines of grace in his writings. In this lecture, Dr. Lawson highlights the depravity of man and the sovereignty of God in the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes in order to establish that God alone has the authority to bring about His saving purposes in the hearts of sinful men.

## LEARNING GOALS

When you have finished this lesson, you should be able to:

- Understand basic literary features of the book of Proverbs
- Recognize how the sovereignty of God is fundamentally a doctrine of comfort
- Explain important verse in the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes

## KEY IDEAS

- The book of Proverbs makes a sharp distinction between the righteous and the wicked, which provides a basis for many of the proverbial sayings therein.
- The sovereignty of God extends to the most minute details of life, and His providential rule extends even over the human heart.
- The emphasis on God's sovereignty in the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes is a source of great comfort in the Christian life.

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## REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Before the Video

#### *What Do You Think?*

Take a moment to answer the following questions. They will prepare you for the lecture.

- Do you use the book of Proverbs as measure and rule for your behavior?
- How much of your day thus far would you say has been ordained by God?
- If you could place every person into two main categories of people, what would they be?

#### *Scripture Reading*

*The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

—Proverbs 1:1-7

- What is the purpose of the book of Proverbs according to this passage? How will the wise respond to the wisdom found in the book of Proverbs? How will the foolish?

### During the Video

Answer the following questions while you watch the video. They will guide you through the lecture.

#### *The Book of Proverbs*

0:00-15:10

- What is the most basic contrast in the book of Proverbs?
- What does Proverbs 16:1 remind us about concerning God's sovereignty?

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- Is the practice of casting lots based on chance? If not, what is it based upon?

*The Book of Ecclesiastes*

15:10–24:24

- Ecclesiastes 3:1 reads, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” What does this verse imply?
- Ecclesiastes 3:15 reads, “That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been.” How does Dr. Lawson explain this verse?

After the Video

Answer the following questions after you have finished the lecture. They will help you identify and summarize the major points.

- What is man’s fundamental problem? Why do the wicked speak and do evil?
- Proverbs 21:1 reads, “The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.” How did Dr. Lawson explain the imagery of this verse? Why does Dr. Lawson consider this a comforting verse?
- What has been the most difficult teaching to fathom related to God’s sovereignty in the book of Proverbs?

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## PRAYER

Commit what you have learned from God's Word in this lesson to prayer.

- Praise God for His eternal knowledge of the beginning and the end.
- Confess ways in which you have doubted God because of the nature of this world.
- Thank God for revealing to you His all-wise and sovereign control of all His creation.
- Ask God for wisdom, knowing that God has promised it to those who ask (James 1:5).