

A Proverbs Catechism

What is the beginning of knowledge?

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge. (Proverbs 1:7a)

What is a fool?

Fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1:7b)

What part did wisdom play in creation?

“The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His work,
the first of His acts of old.

Ages ago I was set up,

at the first, before the beginning of the earth. . . .

I was beside Him, like a master workman, and I was daily His delight,

rejoicing before Him always,

rejoicing in his inhabited world

and delighting in the children of man.” (Proverbs 8:22–23, 30–31)

What was Solomon’s prayer?

Give Your servant an understanding mind to govern Your people,
that I may discern between good and evil. (1 Kings 3:9)

What did Jesus announce?

One greater than Solomon is here. (Luke 11:31 EHV)

What does this mean?

The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,

but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Jesus Christ is the wisdom of God;

for the foolishness of God is wiser than men. (1 Corinthians 1:18; cf. 1:24, 30)

How do we follow the way of the Lord?

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,

and do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge Him,

and He will make straight your paths. (Prov. 3:5–6)

For what should we ask?

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God,
who gives generously to all without reproach,
and it will be given him.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of lights,
with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason,
full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. (James 1:5, 17; 3:17).

On what is your faith founded?



I know my faith is found - ed On Je - sus Christ, my
God and Lord; And this my faith con - fess - ing, Un -
moved I stand on His sure Word. Our rea - son can - not
fath - om The truth of God pro - found; Who trusts in hu - man
wis - dom Re - lies on shift - ing ground. God's Word is
all - suf - fi - cient, It makes di - vine - ly sure; And
trust - ing in its wis - dom, My faith shall rest se - cure.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, all... Tune: Conventus novi, 1540, Augsburg. Text and tune: Public domain

What, then, should we do with Proverbs?

Anyone who intends to become righteous might well take this book as a handbook or
prayerbook for his daily use, read it often, and ponder his own life in it.

(Luther's Works, 35:258)