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Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

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## **Jesus' Wisdom Greater Than Solomon's**

### **Proverbs 8**

It was one of the most unforgettable moments in the history of Jerusalem...

The city gates opened wide, an amazing entourage enters the city... the Queen of Sheba entered with her retinue; camels heavy-laden with exotic riches

Sheba was in modern-day Ethiopia, and the journey to Jerusalem would have been exceptionally arduous... as much as 1200 miles, much of the journey would have been across desert sands

Why had she come? A thirst for wisdom!! A quest for knowledge!! She was a seeker of the truth, and was willing to spend lavishly and travel a long distance and even undergo a certain amount of deprivation and suffering to receive it. She was also perhaps a little skeptical... she wanted to TEST Solomon, to see if he was really up to his reputation

A report had come to her of a certain king in the land of Judea... a king named Solomon. His reputation was extraordinary...

He could describe plant life in detail and explain it accurately from root to leaf to fruit; he understood the cedar of Lebanon, and the hyssop that grew out of walls... even something that minor occupied his attention

He also taught accurately about different species of animal life—wild beasts, livestock, creeping creatures of the night. No man in history could describe the ways of an animal like this one king, this Solomon, living in Jerusalem.

He described birds of all sizes, from the soaring eagles and hawk to the vulture to the fluttering sparrow and darting swallow; he had studied their plumage and their manner of flight and understood it completely.

Solomon also understood reptiles and fish... reptiles living under rocks, crawling on the hot sand... various fish swimming in the deep blue sea, or fresh water in streams...

Best of all, Solomon understood HUMAN LIFE... his wisdom flowed out in proverbs and sayings that gave insight into the most perplexing aspects of daily existence: relationships between husband and wife, father and son, neighbor and neighbor, judge and criminal, king and subjects

Questions of money and possessions, questions about work and play, questions about life and death

By the time the report reached the Queen of Sheba, many other kings had already made the pilgrimage she was contemplating... those kings always came away impressed... no one who came to listen to Solomon's wisdom went away disappointed

So the Queen of Sheba had decided to make the journey and to test Solomon with the hardest questions

She loaded up her camels with gifts of spices, gold, precious stones, and rare wood... if Solomon met her expectations, she would lavish these gifts on him and make him wealthy; what she didn't realize was that the stream of kings who came to Solomon had already made gold as common as the stones of the ground in Jerusalem by that time

Well, you know the outcome of the visit. Solomon welcomed her to his palace... he sat down at table with her and listened to her speak about all the questions on her mind

***1 Kings 10:3-9 Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. <sup>4</sup> When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, <sup>5</sup> the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed. <sup>6</sup> ¶ She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. <sup>7</sup> But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. <sup>8</sup> How happy your men must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! <sup>9</sup> Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king, to maintain justice and righteousness."***

Solomon was the wisest man that had ever lived up to that moment...

But a thousand years later, one of Solomon's descendents was born—twenty-six generations later; he was supposedly the son of a carpenter, and was a carpenter himself; he went around teaching and proclaiming the Kingdom of God

His name, of course, was Jesus... and one day He made this claim:

***Matthew 12:42 The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here.***

Jesus claimed to be GREATER than Solomon...

Today, I want to compare the wisdom of Jesus with the wisdom of Solomon

I want to show how BOTH are helpful for the Christian life... but to make the assertion that Christ is the wisdom of God, an eternal source of salvation for the desperate sinner

## I. The Greatness of Solomon's Wisdom

### A. An Origin in Humility

#### 1. A young man feels overwhelmed

- a. We don't know for certain how old Solomon was when he came to the throne, now ruler of the people of God, Israel
- b. Following the greatest King Israel would ever have... his daunting father, David
- c. Now ruling, feeling inadequate; he felt he did not have what it took to rule; he felt intensely his inexperience and was ashamed of himself

#### 2. Offering sacrifices to God

***1 Kings 3:4 The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.***

#### 3. An astonishing offer... made in a dream

***1 Kings 3:5 At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."***

#### 4. A wise reply

***1 Kings 3:6-9 Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. <sup>7</sup> "Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. <sup>8</sup> Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. <sup>9</sup> So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"***

a. At core, this is HUMILITY... Solomon is a spiritual beggar here, knowing he doesn't have the resources to govern Israel wisely

b. King David had said of him

***1 Chronicles 22:5 David said, "My son Solomon is young and inexperienced***

c. Solomon wisely assessed himself the same way

d. The wisest thing any of us can do is recognize our own lack of wisdom... to humble ourselves and ask God for wisdom

## B. A Supernatural Gift

1. God's reaction

***1 Kings 3:10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.***

2. God's promise... in three parts

a. Wisdom... unconditional

***1 Kings 3:11-12 So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, <sup>12</sup> I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.***

b. Wealth and honor: unconditional

***1 Kings 3:13 Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for-- both riches and honor-- so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.***

c. Long life: conditional

***1 Kings 3:14 And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.***

3. God's gift

***1 Kings 4:29 - 5:1 God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. <sup>30</sup> Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. <sup>31</sup> He was wiser than any other man, including Ethan the Ezrahite-- wiser than Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. <sup>32</sup> He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. <sup>33</sup> He described plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. <sup>34</sup> Men of all nations came to***

***listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.***

This and the account of the visit of the Queen of Sheba establishes the greatness of Solomon's wisdom

Even more does the Book of Proverbs... over eight hundred of Solomon's 3000 proverbs are recorded here... incredible insights!!

One chapter of Proverbs celebrates the antiquity of wisdom itself... Proverbs 8

Three questions as we come to this magnificent and mysterious celebration of the wisdom of God displayed in creation:

- 1) What does Proverbs 8 say? What does it teach us about the wisdom of God displayed in creation?
- 2) Why is wisdom personified as if it were SEPARATE from God the creator? What does that mean?
- 3) How does Proverbs 8 relate to Jesus Christ?

## II. The Ancient Existence of Wisdom—Proverbs 8

### A. The Wisdom of God in Creation

#### 1. Wisdom personified in Proverbs 8

***Proverbs 8:1-6 Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? <sup>2</sup> On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; <sup>3</sup> beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud: <sup>4</sup> "To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind. <sup>5</sup> You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding. <sup>6</sup> Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right.***

- a. Solomon is arguing for the value of wisdom as worthy of human desire since God possessed wisdom from the beginning of creation
- b. Proverbs 8:22-31 describes wisdom's role in creation

### B. Wisdom's Origin: Before Creation (Proverbs 8:22-26)

***Proverbs 8:22-26 "The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; <sup>23</sup> I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. <sup>24</sup> When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; <sup>25</sup> before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, <sup>26</sup> before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world.***

1. Wisdom celebrated as ancient... from the beginning of creation
2. Verse 22 the key: “The Lord [possessed... or acquired... or brought forth] wisdom as the first of his works
  - a. Best way to understand: the wisdom that Solomon is celebrating here is ANCIENT... it pre-exists creation
  - b. Wisdom is thus NOT a human creation, nothing crafted by man
  - c. Rather it was BY WISDOM that God created all things
3. Again, wisdom is “skillful living” or discernment of the best way of doing things
4. Solomon is arguing that God used wisdom in arranging the earth in all its marvelous and complex systems
  - a. Before the oceans
  - b. Before the springs
  - c. Before the mountains
  - d. Before the earth, fields, or dust

Often we use the expression that something is “older than dirt”... Solomon is claiming that wisdom is “older than dirt”

5. Wisdom is about making right choices, right selections from an array of options: God SELECTED from an infinite number of possible worlds this particular creation
6. So, wisdom is ANCIENT, predating the universe... it is therefore a WORTHY object of human desire and ambition

#### C. Wisdom’s Presence and Celebration During Creation (Proverbs 8:27-31)

***Proverbs 8:27-31 I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, <sup>28</sup> when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, <sup>29</sup> when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. <sup>30</sup> Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, <sup>31</sup> rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.***

1. Wisdom, speaking in the first person, claims her presence when God made the heavens

2. Wisdom SOARS up into the cosmos, to speak of the realm where God made the sun, moon, stars and set them in perfect order
  - a. The wisdom of God in this is seen in amazing ways
  - b. Some scientists who believe in creation have written of the perfect arrangement of the solar system... with the earth just the right distance from the sun, with the earth's tilt and rotational speed just the right amount ... everything designed for LIFE... the delicate balance of LIFE
  - c. So also wisdom was involved in the careful crafting of the earth's atmosphere

***Proverbs 3:19 By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place***

One scientist said this:

Earth's biosphere is poised between a runaway FREEZE-UP and a runaway EVAPORATION. If the average temperature of the earth's surface cools by even a few degrees, more snow and ice than normal will form; snow and ice reflect solar energy more efficiently than other surface materials, which would result in lower temperatures and even more snow and ice... a downward spiral to a total freeze.

Conversely, if the average temperature of the earth's surface warms just a few degrees, more water vapor and carbon dioxide collect in the earth's atmosphere, resulting in a much stronger greenhouse effect... this would in turn cause the earth's temperature to rise even higher, resulting in more water vapor and carbon dioxide... this would cause an upward spiral to runaway heat on the earth.

3. Wisdom also seen in the boundary of the oceans... God setting a limit for them so that they cannot inundate the earth
4. Wisdom personified DELIGHTS in what God has made

***Vs. 30-31 Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, <sup>31</sup> rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.***

- a. Wisdom speaks of herself as a CRAFTSMAN... making and shaping and crafting things
- b. However, we understand there is NOTHING CREATED that God did not make
- c. So all Solomon is saying is that the creation itself displays the wisdom of God

D. Wisdom's Final Invitation and Warning (Proverbs 8:32-36)

***Proverbs 8:32-36 "Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. <sup>33</sup> Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it. <sup>34</sup> Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. <sup>35</sup> For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the LORD. <sup>36</sup> But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death."***

1. Wisdom concludes by making an APPEAL to human beings
  - a. Blessing for listening to and keeping wisdom's ways
  - b. A Curse for all who don't
2. Wisdom begs for careful attentiveness: blessed is the man who watches carefully for wisdom, and who looks for it daily
3. Wisdom bestows LIFE; failure to follow results in DEATH
4. The highest blessing in life: favor (goodwill, acceptance) from the Lord
5. According to wisdom, it is suicide to ignore her... to live apart from wisdom is to LOVE DEATH

**So, this is what Proverbs 8 says... HOW DOES IT RELATE TO JESUS Christ???**

E. Clearing Up the Arian Error

1. In the fourth century A.D., a monk named Arius, came up with the concept that Jesus is actually a CREATED BEING... the first and greatest of all God's creations
2. He cited many verses, including

***<sup>ESV</sup> Colossians 1:15-16 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.***

***For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible***

3. BUT ESPECIALLY he cited Proverbs 8... proof that God CREATED Jesus
  - a. Vs.22 "The Lord brought me forth as the FIRST OF HIS WORKS..."
  - b. Vs. 27 "I was there when He set the heavens in place..."
  - c. Vs. 30 "I was the craftsman at His side..."

These verses seemed to Arius to be speaking of Christ

The Bible reveals that through Christ God made the universe:

***John 1:3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.***

Proverbs 8 seemed to Arius to be a perfect description of how God made the universe: FIRST, He created Jesus; Second, Jesus worked with God to create all things

4. Arius's main slogan:

"There was when he was not."

In other words, there was a time when Christ did not exist... Christ is a created being

5. Arius was very successful in getting his views accepted among the Roman leaders after Constantine... Arianism, for a while, was heading toward being accepted as the orthodox Christian view
6. God raised up a hero, Athanasius, who for a period of time stood against the world in His conviction that Christ was no created being, but was eternally begotten from the Father

Nicene Creed:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

7. Athanasius taught us that Proverbs 8 CANNOT be teaching that Jesus is a created being
8. Modern-day revival of this ancient heresy: Jehovah's witnesses

F. WHY Is Wisdom Personified here as though it is SEPARATE from God?

1. The Bible reveals that NO ONE BUT GOD created the universe... that no one was with Him when He did it:

***Isaiah 44:24 "This is what the LORD says-- your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,***

2. But the Bible reveals that Jesus Christ was WITH God when He made all things... this can only mean that Jesus and the Father are ONE
3. Therefore, Jesus was no created being but actually God the Son working with God the Father to make all things

4. I think that Solomon personifies wisdom in creation because it is BY ACTIONS that wisdom is DISPLAYED... God brought forth wisdom on DISPLAY by HOW He made the universe
5. Jesus said this about wisdom:

***Matthew 11:19 wisdom is proved right by her actions.***

6. So creation JUSTIFIES THE EXISTENCE OF WISDOM

### III. Jesus' Wisdom Greater than Solomon's

#### A. Solomon's Foolishness

1. Solomon, like so many other wise men, did not practice what he preached
  - a. Solomon began the Book of Proverbs with this central assertion

***Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.***

- b. He goes on to mention the fear of the Lord TEN MORE TIMES in Proverbs
- c. He carefully tells us what it means to fear the Lord

***Proverbs 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.***

***Proverbs 8:13 To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance***

- d. The word "Lord" is YAHWEH, the covenant God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob... the God who gave the Ten Commandments to Moses
- e. "Evil" is anything contrary to the commands of God
- f. Interestingly, the Book of Proverbs says very little about the written word of God, about the commands of God... it speaks a lot about commands from a father to a son... but there are NO overt references to the written word of God in the Proverbs of Solomon...
- g. BUT Solomon rejected the commands of God and followed his foreign wives into the grossest form of idolatry

***1 Kings 11:4-10 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. <sup>5</sup> He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. <sup>6</sup> So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done. <sup>7</sup> On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh***

*the detestable god of Moab, and for Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites.* <sup>8</sup> *He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.*

2. Thus Solomon, for all his wisdom, became a fool
3. Thankfully for him and for the whole human race, centuries after Solomon came someone infinitely greater than Solomon

#### B. Jesus' Statement

***Matthew 12:42 The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here.***

1. Solomon was known for his incredible wisdom, for his observations on living things—like plants and animals; his reputation had spread around the world
2. And yet, Jesus said He was greater than Solomon
3. He said that the Queen of the South would rise at judgment day with the people of Jesus' own generation because she recognized Solomon's wisdom both from afar, by making the long journey, and close up, by saying that the reality FAR EXCEEDED his reputation... but the Jews of Capernaum, indeed of the whole Jewish nation, grossly underestimated Christ and thought little of Him

#### **4. In what way was Jesus greater than Solomon?**

- Solomon studied and described plant and animal life: Jesus made them, and rules over them
- Solomon's kingdom was wealthy beyond anything the Queen of Sheba had seen: Jesus owns the entire universe
- Solomon's wisdom penetrated great mysteries; Jesus is omniscient
- Solomon's glory was great but temporary; Jesus' glory is ultimate and eternal
- Solomon worked his people close to death; Jesus' yoke is easy and His burden light... He gives His people eternal life
- Solomon became an idolater and committed spiritual adultery against the living God; Christ died for Solomon's sins
- Solomon died and was buried, and his Kingdom was torn from his son because of Solomon's sins; Jesus died and rose again on the third day, and His Kingdom will continue to increase eternally.

### C. Paul's Statements

***1 Corinthians 1:30 Christ Jesus, ... has become for us wisdom from God-- that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.***

***Colossians 2:2-3 Christ, <sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.***

1. In these two verses, Paul identifies Christ first as "wisdom from God"
2. This is similar to Jesus' statement about Himself:

***John 14:6 "I am the way and the truth and the life..."***

Jesus does not merely TEACH the truth... He IS the truth; Jesus is the beginning and the end of all truth, and all truth points to Him

So it is with wisdom... Jesus did not merely TEACH wisdom, or SPEAK wisdom, or DISPLAY wisdom... He IS wisdom from God

### D. Jesus: The Wisest Man that Ever Lived

1. According to Paul, Christ IS wisdom from God
2. At least that means that Christ lived a wise life... I think it means far more than that... but Christ was Solomon's wisdom EMBODIED
  - a. Solomon's Proverbs display a practical worldly wisdom that is essential to skillful living... these are wise precepts to follow
  - b. For most of us, wise words are mostly ideals... something we would LIKE to live up to... Jesus lived them all perfectly... he didn't merely SPEAK these words of wisdom, He also lived them out
    - i) Solomon spoke of the ideal king:

***Proverbs 16:12 Kings detest wrongdoing, for a throne is established through righteousness.***

Jesus WAS that King... for His throne is established in righteousness

***Hebrews 1:8-9 "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."***

- ii) Solomon commanded sons to obey their fathers; Jesus' perfect life was lived in constant obedience to His Father

***Proverbs 23:24 The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him.***

Jesus Christ lived out obedience:

***John 8:29 I always do what pleases him.***

***John 14:31 the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me***

And of His Son, God the Father said:

***Matthew 3:17 "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."***

- iii) Solomon spoke of worldly treasures and wealth, how to get money and keep it and make it grow; Jesus pointed to a higher wealth worth more than all the money in the world

***Proverbs 18:11 The wealth of the rich is their fortified city; they imagine it an unscalable wall.***

Jesus said:

***Matthew 13:44 The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.***

Jesus said to the rich young ruler:

***Matthew 19:21 "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."***

And Jesus lived that out Himself:

***2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.***

- iv) Solomon spoke of the danger of the tongue, and urged people to be careful with what they said; every one of Jesus' words was perfect
- v) Solomon said that holding on to his own words led to a wise and prosperous life; Jesus said that believing His words led to eternal life

***John 5:24 whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.***

- vi) Solomon's wisdom is compared to a bubbling brook (Proverbs 18:4), but Christ told the Samaritan woman

***John 4:14 whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."***

- vii) Solomon spoke of a protected tower to which we can run for safety; Jesus is the perfect fulfillment of that... a safe refuge from the wrath of God

Solomon:

***Proverbs 18:10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.***

Of Jesus:

***Romans 10:13 Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."***

- viii) Solomon's wisdom calls for OBEDIENCE... but Jesus actually transforms His followers and MAKES them obedient
- ix) Solomon's wisdom commanded that we feed our enemies; Jesus actually DIED FOR His enemies

E. Wisdom from God: Christ as our Savior

1. When Paul says that Christ has become for us wisdom from God, he is not merely saying that Christ spoke wisdom, or that He teaches us how we can be wise
2. No, the ultimate wisdom we can ever have is to realize WE HAVE NO ULTIMATE WISDOM!!!
3. It is to realize

***Christ has BECOME FOR US wisdom from God—that is our righteousness, holiness, and redemption***

The gospel does not come to us and command us to be wise

Christ came and lived a perfectly wise, perfectly righteous life, and offers to GIVE US THAT COMPLETE wisdom and righteousness as a GIFT... His name is Christ!!!

It's not that Christ is a little better teacher than Solomon, and His advice is just a little more helpful in showing you how to live

NO... it's that HIS PERFECTLY WISE LIFE can be credited to your account as though you lived it yourself

4. The purpose of Scripture, then, is to point you to this kind of wisdom

***2 Timothy 3:15 the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.***

#### IV. Application: Wise for Salvation

A. The Real Wisdom from God: Salvation through Christ

B. Embracing BOTH Solomon's Wisdom AND Jesus AS Our Wisdom

1. One commentator: YES, Jesus is infinitely wiser than Solomon, and His words point to an infinitely higher reality
2. BUT that doesn't make Proverbs worthless

Just because you have a \$100 bill in your wallet, should you throw out the \$5 bill you also have?

3. Soak in Solomon's earthy, gritty, practical wisdom... But be **SAVED BY Christ AS your wisdom from God**

C. Study Proverbs AS CHRISTIANS

1. Understand that following these Proverbs will not make you any wiser in God's sight
2. If you are a Christian, you are **ALREADY SEEN IN Christ...** as wise as Him
3. Rather, absorbing Solomon's wisdom
  - a. about parenting will help you raise your children to believe in Christ to the glory of God
  - b. Learning from Solomon about money, will help you use every dollar maximally for Christ's Kingdom
  - c. Learning from Solomon about the fruit of the tongue will help you speak only what will glorify Christ and advance His Kingdom
  - d. Learning from Solomon about the sluggard's ways will help you redeem the time for Christ, for the days are evil
  - e. Learning from Solomon about the dangers of alcohol will help you avoid that trap and avoid bringing dishonor to the name of Christ
  - f. Learning from Proverbs about the virtuous wife will help a Christian man know what to look for in a wife, and it will help a Christian woman know what to aim for **AS A WIFE**

- g. Learning from Solomon about the dangers of the wayward woman will help warn all Christians in this dangerous sex-crazed age how to be morally pure... it will help Christian women dress modestly, and it will help Christian young men going off to college to avoid the trap of a loose woman
4. EACH of Solomon's Proverbs is transformed and elevated by the Holy Spirit into Kingdom wisdom through the shed blood of Christ