

June 6 Answers

- 1) The wise sayings and proverbs of Solomon. What is a proverb? A proverb is a short statement that expresses a time-tested **truth**. Yet the book of Proverbs is not simply a collection of pithy sayings; it also consists of **speeches** and **discourses**. Proverbs uses a variety of literary tools to communicate **wisdom**. What is wisdom? The word “wisdom” is general term that is packed full of meaning and nuance, but you can boil it down to this: wisdom is seeing life from God’s **perspective** and then making the **choices** that please Him. How do you get wisdom? The book of Proverbs begins with the claim: “The **fear** of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (1:7). **God** is the source of wisdom, and wisdom is found in a **relationship** with Him! Solomon’s proverbs reflect his long years of **experience** and his keen **insight** into human behavior, and they continue to inspire and instruct to this day. But more than that, his proverbs and wise sayings were **inspired** by the Holy Spirit. The author of Hebrews asked, “Have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as **sons**?” (Heb 12:5), and then he quoted Proverbs 3:11–12. This means we should read Proverbs as though it was a personal **letter** from God. When Solomon says, “Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and forsake not your mother’s teaching,” the voice we’re hearing is God’s. What a marvelous **privilege**! God is sharing with us the same wisdom that made Solomon the greatest king of his day! Today’s reading urges us to **listen** to God’s voice and **obey** His instruction. God told us to seek for wisdom like **riches** and to treasure His commands in our hearts. His wisdom will give us discernment for living. It will guard us from the **wicked**, it will protect us from the **adulteress**, and it will enable us to **live** righteously. The **quest** for wisdom is the grand calling of our lives! Are proverbs always true? Well, it depends. Some are **always** true, some are true only in certain **circumstances**, some are true with respect to **eternity** but not always with respect to this **earthly** life, and some are true in **general** but not in every **case**.