

The Book of Proverbs

“Wisdom and the Fear of the Lord: Proverbs as a Book on Faith”

Week 20: Proverbs 30, “The Words of Agur”

I. Proverbs 30:1-10, “Agur’s Prayer and Advice”

1. The tone and style shift dramatically here, because it is a different author. We know nothing about Agur, son of Jakeh, and yet why are his words included in Scripture?
2. What other book of the Bible does Agur seem to imitate?
3. How are verses 2b-3 the admission of the lack of what is found in Prov. 9:10? How is this the honest admission of the Christian?
4. Verse 4 speaks to those who think they have succeeded where he has failed. What words does he have for them?
5. How does Prov. 30:4 prove that Christ is called the Son of God even before He became man?
6. What do we rely on when we’ve despaired of our own knowledge and wisdom? (v. 5)
7. What is God’s warning that he connects? (v. 6)
8. What are the two requests that Agur has for God? (v. 8)
9. How is this whole section of 30:1-10 an exercise in Law and Gospel?

II. Proverbs 30:11-33, “Agur’s List Proverbs”

10. The first list is not numbered, but it describes those who are not able to obtain wisdom. Why?
v. 11

v. 12

v. 13

v. 14

11. What is the theme for v. 15-16?

12. The central list is surrounded by other proverbs (v. 17, 20). How are the repetitions of what we hear throughout all of proverbs? What does the list describe?

13. What are the four unbearable things of v 21-23? What do the first two characters have in common? What do the “unloved woman” and the “slave girl” have in common? And, even though the first three are all possible, what about the fourth?

14. What is special about each of the four animals mentioned in v. 25-28?

15. What is the caution that Agur gives in v. 32? How is it related to v. 33?

Memory Verses for Today:

Proverbs 30:5, “Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.”

Proverbs 30:8-9, “Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, “Who is the Lord?” or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.