

Scripture Reference: Proverbs 20:27

Date: January 20, 2013

Title: "Need a Light?"

Focus: Humanity needs God to fully understand himself.

Intro:

1. Proverbs are truths one person makes after observing another's actions and experiences. That people exercise inductive reasoning speaks to man's uniqueness.
2. We take for granted the ability to reason, figure, deduce, and induce. This is not a universal function. It is an aspect of man that reflects him being in God's image.

Body:

"The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD...."

"The spirit of a man..." Most people and cultures recognize humanity exceeds a physical presence. Men and women possess not only a body, but also a spirit.

- More than fingerprints and DNA, it is this aspect of humanity that causes people to be distinct creatures.
- The spirit does not spontaneously come into existence. It is not the product of biological process. God endowed it.

Genesis 2:7 *"YHWH God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."*

- God fashioned man's spirit in His image giving humanity a distinct capacity to relate to Him and reflect His nature. (Gen. 1:26-27)

"... is the lamp of the LORD."

- Man's spirit in God's image, a distinct possession, gives humanity the capacity for understanding.
- Job is the oldest book in the Bible. In it, Elihu, a young friend of Job, says something that enlightens this Proverb.

Job 32:8 *"It is a spirit in man, And the breath of the Almighty gives them understanding."*

- Possessing the image of God, Elihu recognized humanity also possess the capacity to reason, to learn and grow.

NOTE: While it is accurate to think of man as a reasoning creature, this capacity is not limitless. When understanding fails, God keeps a person anchored to truth. (Psalm 111:10)

"... searching all the innermost part of his being."

- God is necessary for a person to understand fully him or herself.
- Solomon points this out within this chapter:

v. 5; *"A plan in the heart of a man is like deep water, But a man of understanding draws it out."*

v. 9; *"Who can say, 'I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin?'"*

v. 24; "*Man's steps are ordained by the LORD, How then can man understand his way?*"

- To understand yourself and to live life as God intended necessitates a relationship with God.

Closing:

1. Humankind is understood out of context when God is not considered.

2. Only in relationship with God do people come to know fully who they are, the meaning for their lives, and accept the mysteries of existence.