The Unfolding Revelation of Christ and His Church

Week 8: Covenant Wisdom

October 25th 2026

"Paul is not some abnormal, un-spiritual, Spirit-deficient Christian. He is acknowledging the inescapable tension that lies within the heart and life of every true believer. He is a child of God, but yet marked by frail, fallen flesh. He is an heir of God's glory, but yet encompassed with weakness. He is united to Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, but living in an environment defaced by the devil. He is a sanctified Christian, but is troubled, and at times all but overwhelmed, by indwelling sin. The Christian is an enigma whose only solution can be found in God." (Ian Hamilton)

Introduction

- The wisdom books of the Bible are where Israel's covenant story becomes personal
- Christopher Ansberry describes these books as forms of faith seeking understanding.
    - Proverbs is reverent fear seeking understanding.
    - Job is suffering seeking understanding.
    - Ecclesiastes is human finitude seeking understanding.
    - Song of Songs is desire seeking understanding.

Proverbs

- The Hebrew word usually translated "wisdom," hokmah, can describe skill.
- Proverbs has two main parts. Chapters 1-9 feature dueling parental instruction, chapters 10-31 features short sayings

Job

- Job demonstrates that human wisdom can only go so far in explaining suffering but Christians can take comfort in the fact that Go's providence orders all things

Ecclesiastes

- Ecclesiastes lays everything man takes pride and comfort from; work, wealth, pleasure, intellectual achievement, and public reputation, and demonstrates that they are only truly meaningful if placed in the context a relationship with God

Song of Songs

- Song of Songs reminds us that without wisdom our desires will only be temporary passions rather than lasting gratifying relationships

Conclusion

- Proverbs tells us that there is a path of life and a path of folly. Its recurring question is: Whose voice will you heed?

- Job tells us that following God's path is not an escape from the sorrows of a fallen world. Its question is: Will you trust God when you cannot understand him?

- Ecclesiastes reminds us that even our greatest accomplishments are like breath, impossible to keep by force. Its question is: Will you receive your life as a gift rather than try to rule it as a sovereign?

- Song of Songs tells us that love and desire are part of God's good creation and must be shaped by covenant faithfulness. Its question is: Will your desires become servants of love or masters of your heart?