An Expositional Study Through the Proverbs – Lesson #3

**Chapter 2: Pursuit of Wisdom and the Protection from the Wicked**

**By way of reminder, we find the motto of the Proverbs in 1:7: *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”***

This morning, we come to the 2nd Speech, the 2nd lecture from a Father to His Son. This is **one sentence in Hebrew**, **22 verses in our English Bibles** that has to do with expounding the need for wisdom and the protection it offers from the wicked.

The **good news** is that God is pleased to give wisdom **חכמה (chokmah)** to people who seek it, so get ready for the most important **treasure hunt** of our entire lives!

We will break this Proverb down into three sections:

* **Verses 1-5 – The Promise of Wisdom**
* **Verses 6-11 – The Protection of Wisdom**
* **Verses 12-22 – The Deliverance of Wisdom**

Here In verses 1-5 the father tells the son how wisdom can be found, and the amazing promise associated with **finding wisdom**. Let’s take a look!

**Verses 1-5 – The Promise of Wisdom**

***2:1 My son, if you receive my words  
    and treasure up my commandments with you,  
2making your ear attentive to wisdom  
    and inclining your heart to understanding;  
3yes, if you call out for insight  
    and raise your voice for understanding,  
4if you seek it like silver  
    and search for it as for hidden treasures,  
5then you will understand the fear of the Lord  
    and find the knowledge of God.***

Notice first, **my son.** This is a monologue from a **loving father** to his son. The son whom he loves with all his heart. Men if you have children, you should be able to put yourself in the shoes of both the father and the son.

Listen to all of these **conditional statements**: Observe how the **“ifs”** **pile up**.

* **Vs 1 -** If you **receive my words**. We must accept and internalize Biblical wisdom.
* **Vs 1b -** If you **treasure up my commands**. You deeply desire them.
* **Vs 2 -** If you **listen**, if you will **tune your ear** to hear wisdom.
* **Vs 2b -** If you **incline your heart**, if you will set your heart to a **life of understanding**.
* **Vs 3 -** If you **cry out for insight**. Make insight a primary goal.
* **Vs 3b -** If you **lift up your voice to understand**.
* **Vs 4 -** If you will **search for it like an adventurer** on a treasure hunt for a precious treasure.
* **If you will do these things, then….**

You and I should **seek to know**, to **understand**, and to **submit to God’s word** and to **submit to God’s will**. **Then** we will grow to **understand the fear of the Lord** and we will **find the knowledge of God!**

**Verses 6-11 – The Protection of Wisdom**

***6For the Lord gives wisdom;  
    from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;  
7he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;  
    he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,***

***8guarding the paths of justice  
    and watching over the way of his saints.  
9Then you will understand righteousness and justice  
    and equity, every good path;  
10for wisdom will come into your heart,  
    and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;  
11discretion will watch over you,  
    understanding will guard you,***

Verses 6 and 7a continue to develop the amazing **Promise of Wisdom** before shifting to the **Protection of Wisdom**:

**The Lord gives wisdom to those who seek it, from his very mouth comes knowledge and understanding, to those who seek it out.**

He stores up sound wisdom for the upright (those who seek it out).

Notice all the ways protection is described in these verses.

**Verses 12-22 – The Deliverance of Wisdom**

***12delivering you from the way of evil,  
    from men of perverted speech,***

***13who forsake the paths of uprightness  
    to walk in the ways of darkness,***

***14who rejoice in doing evil  
    and delight in the perverseness of evil,***

***15men whose paths are crooked,  
    and who are devious in their ways.***

***16So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman,  
    from the adulteress with her smooth words,***

***17who forsakes the companion of her youth  
    and forgets the covenant of her God;***

***18for her house sinks down to death,  
    and her paths to the departed;***

***19none who go to her come back,  
    nor do they regain the paths of life.***

**Wisdom -** can deliver us from these paths. But look at **Vs 16** not only will wisdom help us not to fall in with the wicked, but it will help with another danger, look at verse **Vs 17**.

**She is a black hole** that sucks life out of **everything that falls into her sway**. She brings destruction and death to any who **meddle with her.**

**In Closing…**

***20So you will walk in the way of the good  
    and keep to the paths of the righteous.***

***21For the upright will inhabit the land,*    and those with integrity will remain in it,**

**22but the wicked will be cut off from the land,  
    and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.**

**Vs 20 -** Wisdom can **keep us out of the dark** and off the **dark paths**, and keep us on the **paths of righteousness**.

Therefore, **pursue wisdom**, with all that you have! For in pursuing wisdom, you are choosing the good life! You are choosing a path where God can and will bless us.