**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: 7** ¶ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

**Rich Turner paraphrase of the Motto:** **Jesus Christ** himself is the beginning of wisdom and you will never grow wise unless you humble yourself before the God man, Jesus Christ.

**Paul said it this way to the church in Corinth:**

“**7** But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. **8** None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” (1Co 2:7-8 ESV)

Today we are back in the **first section** of Proverbs, it begins with the introduction, in chapter 1 and goes all the way through chapter 9. In this first section we have the **introduction** followed by **ten speeches, ten monologues**, or **ten teaching sessions** from a **Father to his son**... The **phrase “my son”** is used **15 times** in the **first nine chapters**.

We also have four speeches from Lady Wisdom in this first section. So are we have looked at the first speech from the Father and the first Speech from Lady Wisdom.

This morning, we come to the 2nd Speech, the 2nd lecture from a Father to His Son.

As we come today to Proverbs chapter 2. This entire chapter is the father’s second speech to his son. It is more encouraging (and not quite as bloody as the first speech). But the father’s tone is still urgent. You will see this the very moment we get started.

This is **one sentence in Hebrew**, **22 verses in our English Bibles** that has to do with warning a son about wisdom and the protection from the wicked.

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

Wisdom can and will (if we will receive it, if we will listen) it can and will keep us from foolish and destructive decisions. Again, we will look at the list, but let me just give you one here: It will according to vs 16 wisdom will: “Deliver us from the forbidden woman.”

**So that is enough by way of introduction, let’s get at it!**

**We will break this Proverb down into three sections:**

1. **Verses 1-5 – The Promise of Wisdom**
2. **Verses 6-11 – The Protection of Wisdom**
3. **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**My son, if you receive my words
    and treasure up my commandments with you,
**2**making your ear attentive to wisdom
    and inclining your heart to understanding;
**3**yes, if you call out for insight
    and raise your voice for understanding,
**4**if you seek it like silver
    and search for it as for hidden treasures,
**5**then 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 then son.

Listen to all of these **conditional statements**: Listen to 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….**

Now before we unpack the **then**, let’s consider what the writer is saying.

**Who would like to paraphrase the Father’s if?**

You and I should **seek to know**, to **understand**, and to **submit to God’s word** and to **submit to God’s will**.

**Then** what will happen is you will grow to **understand the fear of the Lord** and you will **find the knowledge of God!**

**Receiving, treasuring up, listening, tuning our hearts, searching for wisdom, these are the things that lead to understanding the fear of the Lord, which is a synonym for knowing God.**

**We will only know the true and living God from His word… Seek, listen, tune, search…**

Then, the knowledge of God or knowing God.

But we must hear the ifs. The knowledge of God, knowing God, is not found by accident. Quite the opposite, it is found with **great effort and purpose**.

If you are saved, I suspect you could target not to grow spiritually and know as little as possible, **but who would want to target that**?

I want to know more and more about Him, I want to be more and more like Him. But it takes **serious effort!**

**This is the Promise of Wisdom. It can be found, it can be acquired, and it leads to the very knowledge of God.**

**In Vs 6-11** Solomon outlines the **Protection of Wisdom**. He tells his son that the Lord gives this wisdom. The he begins outlining what this wisdom will do. **Let’s get at it!**

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

**6**For the Lord gives wisdom;
    from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
**7**he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
    he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,
**8**guarding the paths of justice
    and watching over the way of his saints.
**9**Then you will understand righteousness and justice
    and equity, every good path;
**10**for wisdom will come into your heart,
    and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
**11**discretion 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).

**Vs 7b –** He is a **shield**, a **guard**, a **protector** to those who walk in integrity (possess wisdom).

**Vs 8 –** He guards the path of the just, he watches over his saints (This is the protection of **living by wisdom**).

**Vs 9 -** Wisdom will enable you to understand **righteousness**, **justice**, and **equity** as well as **every good path**. (The protection of wisdom)

Wisdom will cut a trail in your life and help you walk in it and it will protect you.

**Vs 10 -** Wisdom will **come into your heart** and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

 **Vs 11 -** Discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you. (The Protection of Wisdom)

**Who would like to paraphrase the Protection of Wisdom?**

**Verses 12-22**: There’s a lot of imagery here about the **landscape of good or evil paths**. The father warns about **two very specific dangers** on the journey: you are going to encounter people who take shortcuts in life at the expense of others (**wicked men**), or who tempt you to break your marriage covenants for easy sex (**the adulterous woman**).

These people may seem **thrilling at first**, but their cheap, twisted, “dark ways” will lead us to misery, or, as the father says, on **“paths to the departed.”** Yikes, the **paths of the dead**!

**Verses 12-22 – The Deliverance of Wisdom – From the Wicked**

**Here we encounter those who live life without wisdom, they who reject the fear of the Lord and thus the knowledge of God.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Vs 12 –** There is a path of the evil a way of evil, there is a path of men of perverted speech.

**Vs 13 –** These paths are populated by those who forsake the path of righteousness, and walk in the way of darkness.

**Vs 14 –** These paths are populated by those who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil.

**Vs 15 –** The people who tread these paths are on crooked paths and are devious in all their ways.

Wisdom will help you and I say no to the wicked man, even when it is our old man.

**Wisdom (chomah)** can deliver you 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.

**Vs 16 –** There is the forbidden woman, the adulteress who speaks words as smooth as silk, she flatters and men who lack wisdom can fall into her web. **Vs 17** that she forsakes the companion of her youth and she forgets the covenant with her God (her marriage vows).

**Vs 18 –** She may live in a beautiful home, but it sinks down to the dead and her **path is the path of the dead**.

**Vs 19 -** none who go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life. There are few things in life than can destroy a man and his ministry like illicit sex.

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

**In Closing…**

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

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

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

**Vs 20 -** But wisdom can **keep you out of the dark** and off the **dark paths**, and keep you on the **paths of righteousness**.

You see, Wisdom isn’t holding anything that is truly desirable back. It is instead pointing you away from those things that would steal your soul!

**Vs 21 –** It is the upright, it is the righteous who will abide in God’s kingdom.

**Vs 22 -** The wicked will be **cut off** and they will be **cut down**. The treacherous will be rooted out of the land.

That is a very **graphic picture.** The wick will be snatched out of the earth like you would snatch a weed from the soil.

**Therefore pursue wisdom, for in pursuing wisdom you are choosing the good life! You are choosing a path where God can bless you.**

**Choose the Reverence of the Lord for in so doing you are choosing to know God. And having made this choice, set it as your all to live by wisdom for God gives it freely to those who seek it.**

**Wisdom begins with Christ and James would remind us:**

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” (Jas 1:5 ESV)

**Proverbs chapter 2**