

THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

PART 2: THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Introduction:

1. Three things are necessary to possessing true wisdom:
 - a. A proper knowledge of God
 - b. A proper respect for parents
 - c. A proper understanding of the world
2. Job asked, "Where shall wisdom be found?" (Job 28:12).
3. It is not to be found in the imagination or inventiveness of men (Job 28:1-12).
4. It is not to be found for purchase by money (Job 28:13-19).
5. It is not to be found by man's sight (Job 28:20-21).
6. It is not to be found in death (Job 28:22).
7. It is only understood by God, for it is His very nature (Job 28:23-27).
8. God declared to man the answer: "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding" (Job 28:28).
9. By revelation, Solomon understood this truth and emphasized it in the book of Proverbs.

I. The Fear of the Lord

- A. This phrase refers to a holy fear, a reverential respect for Jehovah.
- B. It is not the fear of an angry tyrant or an abusive parent.
 1. God's love for His children is benevolent (Matt. 7:7-11).
 2. God's love sacrificed greatly for man (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8).
- C. In response to the love of God, man expresses his love in reverence and humble submission (1 John 4:16-19).
- D. Thus, he will listen to God's Word, study it deeply, apply it in his life, and live according to its instructions.
- E. By so doing, he will grow in both knowledge and wisdom.

II. The Fear of the Lord Produces Wisdom (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 15:33)

- A. True knowledge and wisdom begin with a reverence for Jehovah (1:7; 9:10).
- B. One who fears the Lord will also trust Him and seek out, learn, and obey His will (cf. Prov. 3:5-6; Rev. 1:3; 2:7).
 1. One who doubts the existence of God will not (cf. Psa. 14:1).
 2. One who disbelieves in the love of God will not.
 3. One who is apathetic about God will not.
 4. One who is prejudiced or deceived about God will not.
 5. One who is proud will not.
- C. The fear of the Lord demands humility (15:33; cf. Isa. 6:5; Matt. 5:3-6; 18:3).
- D. Without the knowledge of God and His Word, one is left with only human wisdom – which is utter folly (cf. mythology, idolatry, occultism, etc.).

III. The Fear of the Lord Grants Forgiveness (Proverbs 16:6; 8:13; 1:29)

- A. It is by God's mercy and truth that man's sins may be atoned for (purged).
- B. The fear of the Lord brings one to a knowledge of God, His character, and His will; then produces a desire to depart from evil (cf. 2 Cor. 7:10).
- C. A reverence for God causes one to hate evil (8:13).
- D. Those who do not fear the Lord face destruction and death (1:27-30).

Proverbs 1:7

- IV. The Fear of the Lord Gives Life (Proverbs 14:27; 10:27; 15:16; 19:23)
- A. Reverence for Jehovah will lead one to the fountain of spiritual life (14:27).
 - B. It is a life devoted to the pursuit of wisdom and righteousness (2:1-5).
 - C. It is a life prolonged by avoiding that which is evil and deadly (10:27).
 - D. It is a life contented with spiritual blessings instead of material possessions (15:16; cf. Mark 10:24-25; 1 Tim. 6:6ff).
 - E. It is a life free from envy and lived in hope (23:17-18; 31:30).
 - F. It is a life of righteous action (14:2).
 - G. It is a life of abundant blessings (19:23; 22:4).
 - H. It is a life of spiritual security (14:26; 28:14).
 - I. It is a life of stability (24:21-22).

Conclusion:

- 1. Let us all seek to have a reverential and respectful fear of the Lord.
- 2. Then, and only then, can we find the wisdom needed to live a godly life.