

Benefits of Seeking Wisdom

Text: Proverbs 2

Introduction: What Is Wisdom?

1. Six Hebrew words are translated as “wisdom.”
2. Considered together they reveal two basic principles.
3. The most common word for ‘wisdom’ means, “A pattern of thinking; technical skill” (cf. Exodus 31:1-11).

John 8:44 *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

4. A second definition means, “A choice that distinguishes between good and bad; the power of judgment that results from understanding; prudent decision-making.”
5. Thus, wisdom requires three things:
 - a. A proper knowledge of God
 - b. A proper respect for parents
 - c. A proper understanding of the world

Background: Job 28

1. Job asked, “Where shall wisdom be found?” (28:12).
 2. It is not to be found in the imagination or inventiveness of men (28:1-12).
 3. It is not to be found for purchase by money (28:13-19).
 4. It is not to be found by man’s sight (28:20-21).
 5. It is not to be found in death or among the dead (28:22).
 6. It is only understood and revealed by God, for it is His nature (28:23-27).
 7. Wisdom is found in the “fear of the Lord” (28:28).
 - a. This is a holy fear – respectful, reverential, and submissive.
 - b. It is produced by and responded to with love (1 John 4:16-19).
 8. This is the theme of Proverbs (and the example of the life of Solomon).
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- I. Protection by Walking with God (Proverbs 2:1-9)
 - A. “The question is not whether any would like knowledge or wisdom, but ‘How much do we want it?’” – Franklin Camp
 1. The benefits of wisdom are astounding!
 2. But the price to be paid is steep.
 - B. The Price of Wisdom (vs. 1-5) – *Note the word “IF”*
 1. Reception – *receive my words*
 2. Retention – *hide my commandments*

3. Rising – *incline thine ear*
 4. Relevance – *apply thine heart*
 5. Request – *cry after; lift up thy voice*
 6. Research – *seek; search*
 7. Rejoice – *understand; find*
- C. The Benefits of Wisdom (vs. 6-9)
1. Hearing the Word of God – *communication and communion*
 2. Access to Truth
 3. Protection – *buckler = a shield; guard; hedge about (Isa. 35)*
 4. Understanding
- D. Wisdom allows one to walk with God Who protects both the traveler and his path.
- II. Prevention from Walking with the Wicked (Proverbs 2:10-19)
- A. Wisdom produces discretion – the understanding and ability to plan to avoid evil and sin (cf. Matt. 10:16; 1 Cor. 14:20; Eph. 5:15; 6:11; 2 Cor. 2:11).
 - B. Wisdom produces deliverance – the ability to tear oneself away from the plans and paths of wicked men.
 - C. Wisdom produces direction – to be quickly removed from the flattery and corruption of profane women (cf. chapter 7).
 - D. This passage is summarized in Psalm 1.
- III. Preservation in Walking with the Righteous (Proverbs 2:20-22)
- A. Wisdom grants fellowship with those who are good.
 - B. Wisdom allows travel on paths that are righteous.
 - C. Wisdom enables one to be upright and perfect (complete or entire).
 - D. Wisdom provides a habitation where one both lives and thrives.
 - E. In contrast, the wicked will be violently cut off and torn away from security and salvation.

Conclusion: *Which path in life will you choose? Are you in need of wisdom?* (Matthew 7:13-14; James 1:5)