

Diligently Seeking Wisdom

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Prov. 2:1-22

The purpose in having wisdom.

In chapter one of Proverbs, we note the purpose of the book.

Prov. 1:1-6, *“The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.”*

The theme of Proverbs, how the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Prov. 1:7, *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*

The value of listening to one’s parents. Prov. 1:8-9, *“My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.”*

The danger of evil companionship. Prov. 1:10-19, *“My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse: My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives. So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.”*

The importance of listening to wisdom while there is opportunity. Prov. 1:20-33, *“Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying, How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will*

laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.”

The benefits of seeking after wisdom.

The second chapter of Proverbs describes the benefits of seeking after wisdom with an admonition to search for wisdom with diligence. Prov. 2:1-4, *“My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;”*

With a list of benefits that will come from such a search. Prov. 2:5-22, *“Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path. When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness; Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked; Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths: To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words; Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God. For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead. None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life. That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous. For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it. But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.”*

The benefits of seeking after wisdom are found only if we seek with the proper disposition.

Qualities of a diligent search for wisdom.

As explained by Solomon:

It requires a willingness. Prov. 2:1, “*My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;*”

- To be receptive to the words of others.
- To treasure (highly value and remember) commands of wisdom.

It requires an engagement. Prov. 2:2-3, “*So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;*”

- Of the ear (willing to hear wisdom).
- Of the heart (willing to understand).
- Of the mouth (willing to cry out for discernment and understanding).

It requires a high estimation. Prov. 2:4, “*If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;*”

Seeking and searching with the same fervor as seeking for silver and other hidden treasures. Thus a diligent search for wisdom requires an “all out” effort on our part.

As experienced by Christians today.

It requires hearing the Word of God. Prov. 2:2, “*So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;*”

Listen to preachers and teachers carefully (with all readiness). Acts 17:11, “*These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*”

It requires studying the Bible on your own (searched the Scriptures daily). Acts 17:11, “*These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*”

It requires meditating upon the Word of God. Prov. 2:2, “*So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;*”

Take time to reflect and ponder on the Word. Phil. 4:8, “*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*”

Like the Psalmist sung of his meditations. Psalms 119:97-100, “*O how I love thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.*”

It requires diligent prayer for wisdom. Prov. 2:3, “*Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;*”

We must ask in prayer with faith. James 1:5, “*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*”

We must persist in our asking. Matt. 7:7-11, “*Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*”

It requires the same effort others expend seeking for material wealth. Prov. 2:4, “*If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;*”

In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Col. 2:3, “*In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*”

Here’s a simple test to see if you are expending the proper effort to seek wisdom: If you worked as hard for your employer as you do seeking for God’s wisdom, would you have your job very long?

Finding God’s wisdom today requires the same diligence it did in Solomon’s day. Is the effort worth it? Let’s go now to Prov. 2:5-22 and find out what are the...

Benefits of a diligent search for wisdom.

Knowledge of God and His protection.

You will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. That fear of the Lord which is the beginning of knowledge.

- Prov. 2:5, “*Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*”
- Pro 1:7, “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*”

That knowledge of God, whose storehouse of wisdom and understanding He gives to the upright. Prov. 2:5-7, “*Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.*”

You will have God’s providential protection guiding your life.

He is a shield to those who walk uprightly.

- Prov. 2:7, “*He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.*”
- Prov. 30:5, “*Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.*”

He guards the paths of justice (which the righteous take).

- Prov. 2:8, “*He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.*”
- Psalms 23:3, “*He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.*”

He preserves the way of His saints.

- Prov. 2:8, “*He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.*”
- Psalms 121:5-8, “*The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall*

preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

What a blessing to go through life with God at your side!

Moral discernment for living.

You will have great understanding.

Of righteousness and justice. Prov. 2:9, *"Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path."*

Of equity (fairness) and every good path. Prov. 2:9, *"Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path."*

David's prayer, Psalms 143:8-10, *"Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee. Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me. Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness."*

You will have great discretion...

Once wisdom enters your heart and knowledge is pleasant to you. Prov. 2:10, *"When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul,"*

They will preserve and keep you.

- Prov. 2:11, *"Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:"*
- Prov. 6:22-23, *"When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life."*

What a blessing to go through life with God's wisdom at your disposal!

Deliverance from evil men.

Who speak perverse things.

- Prov. 2:12, *"To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things,"*
- Acts 20:30, *"Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."*

Who leave upright paths, walk in the ways of darkness.

- Prov. 2:13, *“Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;”*
- 2 Pet. 2:20-22, *“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”*

Who rejoice in doing evil, delight in the perversity of the wicked.

- Prov. 2:14, *“Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;”*
- Prov. 10:23, *“It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.”*

Whose ways are crooked, and devious in their paths.

- Prov. 2:15, *“Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:”*
- Prov. 1:10-19, *“My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse: My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives. So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.”*

Wisdom can deliver us from evil men and their evil ways!

Deliverance from immoral women.

The seductress flatters with her words.

- Prov. 2:16, *“To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;”*

- Prov. 7:5-21, *“That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words. For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house, In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart. (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed. With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.”*

The adulteress who forsakes her husband and covenant with God.

- Prov. 2:17, *“Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.”*
- Mal. 2:14, *“Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.”*

Whose house and paths lead to death, and the place of no return.

- Prov. 2:18-19, *“For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead. None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.”*
- Prov. 9:13-18, *“A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing. For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city, To call passengers who go right on their ways: Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.”*

Wisdom can deliver us from immoral women and their destructive ways!

Enablement for righteous living.

To walk in the way of goodness and keep to righteous paths.

- Prov. 2:20, *“That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.”*
- Psalms 23:3, *“He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”*
- Psalms 23:6, *“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.”*

To be upright and blameless, to dwell and remain in the land.

- Prov. 2:21, *“For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.”*
- Psalms 37:3, *“Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.”*

Unlike the wicked and unfaithful, cut off and uprooted from the earth.

- Prov. 2:22, *“But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.”*
- Psalms 37:37-38, *“Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.”*

Wisdom can empower us to live more blessed, if not longer, lives on this earth!

Conclusion.

Are not the benefits of wisdom worth the effort necessary to obtain it?

- To know God and enjoy His providential care?
- To obtain discernment for making the right moral choices?
- To be delivered from the shenanigans of evil men?
- To be delivered from the seductions of immoral women?

- To be able to walk in goodness and righteousness, living lives blessed by God?

And what is the effort required to obtain God's wisdom?

- To hear the word of God (*"incline your ear to wisdom"*).
- To meditate on the word of God (*"apply your heart to understanding"*).
- To ask in faith for wisdom (*"cry out for discernment...lift up your voice for understanding"*).
- To highly value its worth (*"seek her as silver...as for hidden treasures"*).

With such effort, one will not only find wisdom for daily, practical living, but will also find Jesus Christ. Col. 2:3, *"In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."* He is indeed the greatest benefit of diligently seeking wisdom!

