

Path to Discipleship – Seeking Wisdom | 10/15/17

- Introduction
 - A disciple will seek Godly wisdom.
 - We have discussed several traits of a disciple such as being obedient and having full trust in God. Another equally important trait is for the disciple to have and seek the wisdom of God.
 - David's son Solomon was a man similar to his father in that he had a heart that sought God and was blessed even though he wasn't perfect. But God sought to use him as a way to convey Godly wisdom and Christian character.
 - God used Solomon to convey God's wisdom to us in the book of Proverbs.
 - A disciple of Christ will seek to live out these words of wisdom throughout their lives.
 - What is a Proverb?
 - **A proverb is usually a very concise and brief saying, that teaches a fundamental truth of godly wisdom.**
 - They speak a lot of truth in such short sayings that make you really think and ponder on their meanings.
 - They are to how a picture is worth a thousand words, because you can take one and expand upon it indefinitely. Whole sermons can be preached on their foundation.
 - The Book of Proverbs is God's book of wisdom that He inspired through King Solomon to give to the world.
 - It is full of Godly wisdom and advice for all aspects of life.
 - But perhaps most importantly this wisdom is not just advice on how to live a good or fruitful life, **but how to live a Christian life in the eyes of God.**
 - By obeying these teachings of God, we will become wise with Godly wisdom.
 - Psalms 19:7 (HCSB)
 - "The instruction of the LORD is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy, **making the inexperienced wise.**"
 - We will be wise because the instruction of the Lord is PERFECT.
 - Unlike the advice of man there is NO error in God's wisdom. It is always perfect.
 - **God's wisdom does not change in time or with the culture. It is never changing and it is always true.**
 - Does the wisdom and advice from the world change along with the culture?
 - Do you see how people's perception of right and wrong also change?
 - **Proverbs contrasts godly wisdom with that of an unbelieving fool throughout.**
 - Authorship of Proverbs
 - The majority of the book of Proverbs was written by King Solomon.
 - Proverbs 1 – 22:16
 - Proverbs 25-29 – Written by Solomon but compiled by the "men of Hezekiah"
 - The remaining chapters however were written by other individuals.
 - Sayings of the wise – Proverbs 22:17-24:34
 - The identity of these men are unknown, but it may have been that Solomon copied their works or perhaps added by someone else.
 - Agur and King Lemuel – Proverbs 30-31
 - Not much is known of their identities.
 - King Solomon
 - Solomon was the son of King David

- Proverbs 1:1
 - “The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:”
 - Solomon composed 3000 proverbs and 512 of them have been recorded for us.
 - 1 Kings 4:32
 - “Solomon composed 3,000 proverbs, and his songs numbered 1,005”
 - Solomon also authored the Songs of Songs and Ecclesiastes
 - Solomon’s wisdom was greater than anyone else who has ever lived.
 - 1 Kings 4:29-30
 - “And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore, so that Solomon’s wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt.”
 - Solomon was given great wisdom because of the condition of his heart. | 1 Kings 3:7-15
 - **Read 1 Kings 3:7-15**
 - Solomon was unique, God will never bestow this level of wisdom to anyone ever again.
 - Solomon’s example of requesting wisdom from God shows where his heart truly was.
 - Solomon didn’t ask God for wealth and power, he asked God for wisdom so that he could properly govern the people of Israel according to God’s will.
 - This he did at the age of about 20.
 - This should be the condition of the heart of all Christians, that when given an opportunity to ask for anything we seek to do his will.
 - Godly wisdom is a wonderful gift from God that will serve us better than any material possession.
 - **What does Solomon’s request for wisdom and God’s response tell us about its importance in the life of a Christian?**
- The purpose of Proverbs | Proverbs 1:1-7
 - **Read Proverbs 1:1-7**
 - **The overall purpose of the Proverbs is to live a godly life through wisdom and instruction.**
 - The wisdom on the pages isn’t worldly, but it is from God.
 - They are vital for the Christian to take to heart so that they can become a true disciple.
 - To know wisdom and instruction
 - Wisdom is not the same thing as knowledge.
 - **Why is that? What is the difference?**
 - One can be very intelligent and have lots of knowledge, but be very unwise.
 - **This is because wisdom has to do with the application or discernment of knowledge.**
 - In the Biblical sense wisdom is living a life and making decisions that are godly.
 - Deuteronomy 4:5-6b
 - “See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding...”
 - **Godly wisdom is obediently applying the knowledge and instruction that God has given us.**

- We should never get to a point where we think we know enough, that we have enough godly wisdom and knowledge and there isn't any reason to grow. It must be a lifelong objective.
 - To understand the proverbs
 - By our study of the Book of Proverbs and applying God's truths we will grow in wisdom and will have a greater understanding of their meanings.
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge | Proverbs 1:7
 - **Read Proverbs 1:7**
 - In a very profound verse we see that the beginning of knowledge is the fear of the Lord.
 - This statement presented to a worldly philosopher who denies God would seem absolutely absurd.
 - In their eyes knowledge comes from man's own ability to discover the world in which we live, to find truth based on man's insights.
 - **But even to the Christian who believes in God this statement can cause one to pause at its meaning.**
 - How can fearing God be the beginning of knowledge?
 - The answer to this lies in what it means to fear the Lord.
 - **To fear the Lord is to show Him reverence and admiration.**
 - This is not to fear Him like a child is afraid of the dark or a monster underneath their bed.
 - It is to show the utmost respect and submissiveness because of who He is.
 - A submissive fear in that we knowing He is God Almighty will do whatever it is He commands.
 - If we fear Him, we will obey Him.
 - One cannot properly learn anything if we do not start at the right place.
 - One cannot learn how to be a brain surgeon if they do not learn the fundamentals of how the human body works.
 - One cannot become a supreme court justice if they have never practiced law in a court room.
 - **One cannot properly learn and understand the knowledge of God if we do not begin studying His truths with our hearts and minds in the right place.**
 - If we do not love, worship or obey God how can we learn His perfect and pure knowledge?
 - **This is why to fear the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, because once we have done this then all of God's wisdom can be received and understood.**
 - God's truths are revealed to one who has their heart in the right place.
 - Job understood that wisdom cannot be found without the fear of God.
 - Job 28:20-28
 - *"The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom"*
 - *"To turn away from evil is understanding"*
 - **If we have God's wisdom and we understand it the natural result is to turn from evil.**
 - Solomon final conclusion was the same in the Book of Ecclesiastes
 - Ecclesiastes 12:13
 - "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."
 - In contrast to having wisdom and being wise we have the fool.

- The word “fool” is used over 300 times in the Bible to describe one is ungodly and unwise.
 - This is the opposite of one who has godly wisdom.
 - This “fool” could be an intellect and highly educated, but if that person does not fear God then they are a fool who reject true knowledge and wisdom provided by God.
- **What does “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge” mean to you?**
 - **Can you relate to the contrasting differences between one who fears God and has wisdom as opposed to the fool who rejects His wisdom and relies on their own understanding? Have you been the fool?**