

# The Path to Wisdom and its Value | Proverbs 2 | 4/10/16

- How to understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.
  - One of the key verses we looked at last week was Proverbs 1:7 that the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.
  - In chapter 2 Solomon tell us how we can prepare ourselves to understand what it truly means to fear the LORD and to discover the knowledge that God freely gives us.
  - For one to become wise we must make an effort.
    - What this passage of Scripture shows us is that if we want to have the knowledge of God and to become wise then we must put some effort into it.
    - There are certain things that we must do with our hearts and minds so that we may receive and understand the wisdom that God will give us.
    - For example, do think that God would bestow His godly wisdom on someone who has no desire to read His teachings? If one has no desire to have a conversation with God in prayer. Should this person just automatically receive great godly wisdom and knowledge?
    - We must seek a close relationship with God and have a desire to read His holy Word.
  - We must treasure the Word of God | Proverbs 2:1
    - **Read Proverbs 2:1**
    - We must treasure the Word of God and His commands.
      - To treasure the Word of God does not mean that we just look to the Scriptures as a self help book or an advice column that we take with a grain of salt.
      - We must look at the Scriptures for the treasure that they are, we must put them high on a pedestal and give it the respect and adoration that it deserves as God's Word.
    - The contrasting difference between a random possession and a treasure.
      - We all have possessions and we look upon them with different levels of importance.
      - An old \$5 lamp from Walmart isn't going to be considered a treasure.
        - So therefore we don't give it much thought nor care of what happens to it.
        - If the kids break it then oh well, we can get another its not a big deal.
      - But if we have something of greater importance lets say a personal item a loved one that we have lost.
        - This item has a much greater value because it is likely that it cannot even be replaced its value is to high.
        - We would be devastated if this item was stolen or broken because we treasure this item because of the significance that it means to us.
    - The Scriptures, Gods' Word must be our most precious and treasured possession.
      - The Scriptures containing the Word of God is by far greater than any earthly possession regardless of its value or our personal attachment.
      - **When the Christian treats His Word as his most valuable possession then the door of understanding the fear of the LORD and finding His knowledge will be opened.**
    - **If you hold God's Word as a treasure far above your greatest possession, what effect does this have on how you treat the truths that are taught from it?**
  - We must listen with our ears and open our hearts | Proverbs 2:2
    - **Read Proverbs 2:2**

- Once we properly treasure the Word of God then we are ready to open our ears and our hearts to receive its truths.
- We use our ears and eyes to consume the Word of God.
  - We use our ears to hear the message being preached and we use our eyes to read the written Word of God.
  - This must be intentional. We cannot properly take it in if we do not intentionally pay attention to the Word so that we can comprehend and understand its truths.
    - It is difficult to gain knowledge from a class you are in if you do not pay attention.
    - Likewise, if we do not pay attention to what we hear and read how can we come to understanding?
- Once we have heard and read the Word, our hearts must be open to properly receive its truths.
  - A closed or hardened heart is not ready to absorb the truths of God.
    - Matthew 13:20-21
      - “And the one sown on rocky ground—this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy. Yet he has no root in himself, but is short-lived. When pressure or persecution comes because of the word, immediately he stumbles.”
    - But a heart that is ready to receive the Word will show fruit of the wisdom gained from God’s Word.
      - Matthew 13:23
        - “But the one sown on the good ground—this is one who **hears and understands the word**, who **does bear fruit and yields**: some 100, some 60, some 30 times what was sown.”
      - True understanding of the Word will bear fruit.
  - By treasuring God’s Word, it causes us to intentionally listen to His Word and our hearts will be open to His truth and wisdom that He freely gives us.
  - **Describe how being attentive and having an open heart to God’s Word, has differed from a time where you chose not to listen and had a hardened heart?**
- We must ask God for His wisdom and knowledge | Proverbs 2:3
  - ***Read Proverbs 2:3***
  - Something’s in life we can receive if we just simply ask.
  - Scripture tells us that if we truly desire the wisdom of God we should ask for it.
    - James 1:5
      - “Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without criticizing, and it will be given to him.”
  - A Christian who calls out for insight or discernment understands this wonderful gift from God and the Christian desires to be filled with it.
  - As Solomon instead of asking God for wealth and prosperity, we ask God for a wisdom. This is certainly not a worldly request.
  - If we treasure God’s Word, and we listen and read with an open heart we can ask God to give us His wisdom and knowledge.
- We must search for God’s wisdom as a precious hidden treasure | Proverbs 2:4
  - ***Read Proverbs 2:4***
  - So not only do we treat Gods’ Word as a treasure, but we also seek it as a valuable hidden treasure that we must find.

- Archeologists of modern day and pirates of the past all seek and have sought hidden treasure.
  - The archeologist earnestly seeks and spend their entire lives looking for hidden treasures that have been long since buried.
  - The pirate longs for the buried treasure at the end of his treasure map.
- We must also seek God’s Word and His truth as if it is the most precious hidden treasure.
  - Example
    - Think of a time when you were on a hunt for some “item” that you wanted desperately. You searched and searched until you finally found it, because it meant a lot to you.
    - This is the same way that we **MUST** treat the Word of God.
  - Matthew 13:44
    - “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and **sells everything** he has and buys that field.”
  - Jesus tell us that this man sold EVERYTHING that he had because it was that precious to him.
  - **This is how Christians must treat the Word of God. It is that precious treasure that we will seek above all else because it is the most important thing in our lives.**
- Having done these things, the Christian will understand the fear of the Lord and discover His knowledge | Proverbs 2:5-6
  - **Read Proverbs 2:5-6**
  - Having treated God’s Word as a treasure, by intentionally listening and having an open heart, by calling out to God for His wisdom and by seeking it as the most valued treasure then we have put God’s truths in its proper place and can receive it.
  - True wisdom can only come from God.
    - 2 Peter 1:20-21
      - “First of all, you should know this: no prophecy of Scripture comes from one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit”
- **How does God’s view of seeking wisdom differ from perhaps your average picture of a Christian today and how they seek God?**
- The results of God’s wisdom in the heart of a Christian | Proverbs 2:7-15
  - Having sought God’s wisdom and received it, there are immediate benefits to the Christian.
  - God is a shield | Proverbs 2:7-8
    - **Read Proverbs 2:7-8**
    - God will be a shield and a protector for the believers who seek to love and obey Him.
      - Those who seek His wisdom and knowledge, He will be a shield for them.
      - This is not to say that if you are not a spiritually mature person that God does not care about you,
      - **But there is wisdom in His teachings that are there to protect you.**
    - His shield of protection is realized upon our obedience.
      - **If we do not obey the teachings of God how can they be shield to us?**
      - For example, if a parent tells a young child to not put their hand on a hot stove.

- They do this because the parent knows that the stove is hot and if they touch it it will burn them and cause them pain.
- The wisdom of the parent is given to the child and the parent desires for the child to listen and to obey it.
- But if the child disregards the advice of the parent and touches the stove anyways they get burned and experience pain.
  - But this would have been avoided if they would have accepted the wisdom given by their parents.
- God’s wisdom must also be obeyed for His shield to protect us.
  - This same simple example applies to the wisdom of God that is given to His children.
  - His Word is full of wisdom of how to live our lives, and He tells us how to stay away from sin.
  - God does this because He loves us and He desires that we stay under His protection.
  - **But if a Christian chooses to disregard His wisdom and disobey God then we are intentionally moving God’s shield of protection away and choosing to get hurt.**
  - **Why do Christians intentionally throw aside God’s shield of protection by neglecting His wisdom?**
- Having the wisdom of God allows us to see sin for what it is. | Proverbs 2:9-19
  - ***Read Proverbs 2: 9-19***
  - While we lacked Godly wisdom and we lived for the world, the sins and evil may not have always been so obvious.
    - When we live for ourselves we walk in darkness we choose say perverse things and to do evil, because it feels good.
    - It is very easy for us walk with those who entertain evil because we want to fulfill our selfish desires.
    - It is to easy to be taken captive by the seductive grip of a forbidden woman or man without God’s wisdom.
  - But when we have the wisdom of God it will guide us and give us the discernment to see sin for what it is.
    - With God’s wisdom we can see our previous paths of darkness that we took.
      - We know recognize our sin for what it is and we are ashamed.
      - We can now remove it from our lives.
      - We can see when others are on a path that is contrary to God and we have the knowledge and understanding to stay away from it.
    - Godly wisdom keeps us on the path of light instead of darkness.
      - Ephesians 5:8-11
        - “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light – for the fruit of the light results in all goodness, righteousness, and truth—discerning what is pleasing to the Lord. Don’t participate in the fruitless works of darkness, but instead expose them.”
    - The wisdom of God will show us that we must turn from our sin and instead to live a life in obedience to God that is righteous, just and with integrity.
      - Proverbs 2:9

- “Then you will understand righteousness, justice and integrity— every good path.”
  - **How has Godly wisdom allowed you to see sin for what it is in your own life? Have you seen this change with spiritual maturity?**
- We must persevere in God’s wisdom to live our lives upright | Proverbs 2:20-22
  - ***Read Proverbs 2:20-22***
  - Then we must persevere and always follow the path of the righteous.
  - This commitment to walking in the truth of God and abiding by His wisdom is not a one-time occurrence.
  - Satan will try very hard to tempt us to mute the wisdom of God that is inside of us.
  - It is in these time that we must rely upon the wisdom of God and put aside our fleshly sinful desires that is contrary to God.