

I WANT TO KNOW MY BIBLE

Living Wisely in the Kingdom

TEXT: Proverbs 1-20

INTRODUCTION: When God appeared to Solomon in a dream and invited him to name one thing for the Lord to give him, Solomon did not ask for long life or riches. He asked God for wisdom. And it says in

1 Kings 4:29-34 ²⁹ And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. ³⁰ Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. ³¹ For he was wiser than all men—than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. ³² He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five. ³³ Also he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish. ³⁴ And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon.

You and I are blessed that God put it in the heart of this wise man to record much of the wisdom God granted him, whether he himself first voiced it or he heard it from another. The Book of Proverbs begins with the words, "The proverbs of Solomon," which does not mean that he wrote them all or even that he was their sole compiler. But Solomon was the primary human force used of the Spirit of God to write down the "**Meshalim**" or "**Proverbs**" for our good and God's glory.

And why did God have Solomon write it down? He tells us at the very beginning of the book. **Proverbs is no mere anthology of cute or even wise sayings. It is a textbook.**

Proverbs 1:1-5 ¹ The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

- ² To know wisdom and instruction,
- To perceive the words of understanding,
- ³ To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity;
- ⁴ To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion—

- ⁵ A wise *man* will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,

The purpose of Proverbs is to instruct us all in the way of wisdom.

I. WHAT IS WISDOM?

A. A definition

1. **Webster's New World Dictionary defines wisdom as "good judgment, based on knowledge."** While **this definition** reflects a common understanding of what wisdom is, it is **inadequate to define wisdom as the Bible speaks of it**. This inadequacy can be seen as we examine the source of wisdom.

The source of wisdom is identified in Proverbs 2:6-7 ⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding; ⁷ He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; *He is* a shield to those who walk uprightly;

2. What is that source of wisdom? Proverbs 2:6-7 answers clearly.
 - a. **Wisdom comes from God.**
 - b. **Knowledge and understanding come from God.**
 - c. **God has "stored up" sound wisdom.**
 - d. **That wisdom is available to the "upright."**

B. Where is this "stored up" wisdom?

1. Deut. 4:5-6 ⁵ "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to *them* in the land which you go to possess. ⁶ Therefore be careful to observe *them*; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people.'

Moses is telling the people that they will have wisdom and understanding if they keep and do the statutes (commandments and ordinances) of the Lord.

2. Psalm 111:7-10 ⁷ The works of His hands *are* verity and justice; All His precepts *are* sure. ⁸ They stand fast forever and ever, *And are* done in truth and uprightness. ⁹ He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded

His covenant forever: Holy and awesome *is* His name. ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*. His praise endures forever.

The Psalmist says God's precepts are trustworthy. They are established (for how long?) forever.

Who has wisdom and good understanding? Those who fear the Lord and practice His precepts.

C. A Re-definition of Wisdom

Because the source of wisdom is God Himself, and He makes it available through His precepts (principles, commandments, ordinances, teachings), we can offer a **Biblical definition of true wisdom:**

1. **Wisdom** is good judgment based on the knowledge of God's principles.
2. **Wisdom** is seeing life from God's point of view.
3. **Wisdom** is seeing the relationship between our problems and God's principles.

II. HOW DO WE GET WISDOM?

Proverbs 1:29-30 ²⁹ Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, ³⁰ They would have none of my counsel *And* despised my every rebuke.

Wisdom is not something we possess because of innate "intelligence." True wisdom is something we choose to have. Proverbs 2 gives an excellent summary of how to get wisdom.

A. The Conditions

Proverbs 2:1-4 ¹ My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, ² So that you incline your ear to wisdom, *And* apply your heart to understanding; ³ Yes, if you cry out for discernment, *And* lift up your voice for understanding, ⁴ If you seek her as silver, And search for her as *for* hidden treasures;

Three conditions are listed, beginning with "if."

1. **If you receive My words and treasure My commandments.**
2. **If you cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding.**

3. If you seek it and search for it.

To summarize: If we

1. Read, believe, and cherish the Word of God.
2. Ask the Lord for good judgment based on His principles.
3. Seek His truth in His Word.

B. The Result

Proverbs 2:5-8 ⁵ Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. ⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; ⁷ He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; *He is a shield to those who walk uprightly;* ⁸ He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints.

**Then... you will understand.
For... the Lord gives wisdom.**

C. The Benefits

Proverbs 2:9-22 ⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path. ¹⁰ When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul, ¹¹ Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, ¹² To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things, ¹³ From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; ¹⁴ Who rejoice in doing evil, *And delight in the perversity of the wicked;* ¹⁵ *Whose ways are crooked, And who are devious in their paths;* ¹⁶ To deliver you from the immoral woman, From the seductress who flatters with her words, ¹⁷ *Who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God.* ¹⁸ *For her house leads down to death, And her paths to the dead;* ¹⁹ *None who go to her return, Nor do they regain the paths of life—* ²⁰ So you may walk in the way of goodness, And keep to the paths of righteousness. ²¹ *For the upright will dwell in the land, And the blameless will remain in it;* ²² *But the wicked will be cut off from the earth, And the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.*

1. You will understand righteousness, justice, equity, and every good path.
2. You will be saved from loose women.
3. You will walk in the way of goodness.

III. WHAT IS THE PRIMARY CHARACTERISTIC OF GOD'S WISDOM?

A. Two ways – There are two basic ways to view almost any situation: God’s way and man’s way.

Isa. 55:8-9 ⁸ “For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD. ⁹ “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

B. God’s way is different than man’s way. Folks, we all have an innate ability to think logically to the wrong conclusion.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death.

Often we reason with our minds and reach a logical conclusion concerning a solution to our problems. We find man’s way.

The wise man or woman searches God’s Word, asks the Lord for wisdom, learns God’s principles and applies them.

C. Nowhere do we see God’s way stand more clearly in contrast with man’s way than when it comes to the issue of the sanctity of human life.

1. The more we learn about life, the more we stand and gape in awe at its complexity and the intricacy of its design. The psalmist correctly observed,

Psalm 139:13–14 ¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

Dr. John Sanford, retired professor from Cornell University in the field of genetics, a man who has published more than 80 papers in professional journals and holds more than 30 patents says,

“A single gene has about 50,000 component parts.... Yet a single gene is just a microscopic speck ... within the universe ... comprising a single cell.

“Life itself is the very essence of irreducible complexity, which is why we cannot even begin to think of creating life ourselves.”

Even evolutionist Carl Sagan says that each cell contains more information than the Library of Congress.

Tonight, I am going to show you a video by a molecular biologist entitled “The Wonder of the Cell” which will further enhance our understanding of the truth stated by the psalmist that we are fearfully and wonderfully made and supports the testimony we find throughout the Scripture that speaking of life, the Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

2. Therefore, God tells us that the way of His wisdom is to protect, value, and honor life.

- Proverbs 6:16–17 ¹⁶ These six *things* the LORD hates, Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, ...

- Proverbs 17:15 He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, Both of them alike *are* an abomination to the LORD.

- Proverbs 24:11–12

¹¹ Deliver *those who* are drawn toward death,

And hold back *those* stumbling to the slaughter.

¹² If you say, “Surely we did not know this,”

Does not He who weighs the hearts consider *it*?

He who keeps your soul, does He *not* know *it*?

And will He *not* render to *each* man according to his deeds?

- Proverbs 31:8 Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all *who are* appointed to die.

3. These words of God’s wisdom have all kinds of applications.

- a. These words tell us to minister to seek to save the life of a baby being targeted for abortion.
- b. They tell us also to love and minister to the woman facing an unplanned pregnancy.
- c. They tell us to love and care for the woman who has already had an abortion or who has otherwise lost a child.

- d. They tell us also to minister to the man whose child has died, by whatever means.**
- e. They tell us to love and care for hurting people, for**
 - 1) The hungry**
 - 2) The homeless**
 - 3) The sick**
 - 4) The aged**
 - 5) The dying**
 - 6) The lonely**
 - 7) The prisoner**
 - 8) The refugee**

Being pro life is a big and broad calling, but it is a part of the calling to wisdom God places upon each of His children.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. The fear of the Lord begins with trusting Christ.