

Proverbs Week #118 (12:5-8)

"The thoughts of the righteous are just; the counsels of the wicked are deceitful. The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the mouth of the upright delivers them. The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand. A man is commended according to his good sense, but one of twisted mind is despised." (Proverbs 12:5–8 ESV)

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it." Matt 7:13-14

In the parallel to this passage in the Gospel of Luke, Yeshua presents this teaching as He was going from town to town on His way to Jerusalem. In those times walking was the main form of transportation. When one walked from town to town the roads and paths would be wide and narrow and often times dangerous.

We all have choices to make in our lives. We can do the things that are right in God's eyes or we can ignore God and do those things that are not pleasing to Him. Many people take the broad road and will suffer because of it. God tells us that if we go by the way of the narrow road we will be led to life. This is God's desire for us that we live life to the fullest according to His definitions of what is good and right.

To Learn Wisdom and Instruction: Practice makes permanent and those who influence you will become part of who you are. Not everyone in the world is following God and at times others will try to persuade you that following God is not a good idea. If you listen to them and ignore God, you will not be wise but a fool and it will lead ultimately to death (separation from God) if you do not change your ways. That is a hard statement but a true one.

To Receive Moral Instruction: How much of what you learn from the Bible is pleasing to your soul? How much of what it teaches has entered into your soul? Who in your life is someone you trust to give you good advice? Sometimes we don't listen to good advice and often we listen to the words in our own heads that are deceitful. What does it take to change the words that are in our heads and hearts?

When you read "the Lord is my Shepherd I lack nothing" do you, with faith in God, believe this to be true and live each day with that reality in mind? When we pray and sing during our time together we are praying and singing to a God who is here. He is aware of our life's concerns and the things that trouble us. He knows everything about us and cares for us. He wants us to learn to be wise and He is the One we are called to love and serve.

To Discern Wise Counsel: Learning to be wise includes knowing what is right, learning the skills to do according to these right ways, and ultimately living life based upon what is pleasing in God's sight. Paul prayed that believers would be filled with this kind of wisdom.

"For this reason we also, from the day we heard about you, have not ceased praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may live worthy of the Lord and please him in all respects – bearing fruit in every good deed, growing in the knowledge of God." Col 1:9-10

God desires for us to be fruitful as we trust in Him and He wants us to grow and mature as disciples of Yeshua our Messiah. Wisdom's positive message is one of security and ultimately of finding true peace in God. "The house of the righteous will stand." (Prov 12:7b)

How well we are doing in holding fast to God's truth will be evidenced by the way we live. While there are exceptions to this rule, people will reward us when we live our lives based upon God's wisdom. As we serve others (this is part of the definition of greatness according to the Messiah), our service should be with our focus on God who provides us with opportunities to do good works (Eph 2:8-10). We were created in the Messiah Yeshua to do good works. Are you living out your created purpose? If you haven't figured it all out yet, that is ok. Ask God for wisdom and listen for His response. He is always faithful!