

Proverbs Week #120 (12:10)

"A person is praised in accordance with his wisdom, but the one who has a twisted mind is despised. Better is a person of humble standing who nevertheless has a servant, than one who pretends to be somebody important yet has no food. **A righteous person cares for the life of his animal, but even the most compassionate acts of the wicked are cruel.** The one who works his field will have plenty of food, but whoever chases daydreams lacks wisdom. The wicked person desires a stronghold, but the righteous root endures." (Proverbs 12:8–12 NET)

The Proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: to learn wisdom and moral instruction, and to discern wise counsel. To receive moral instruction in skillful living, in righteousness, justice, and equity. To impart shrewdness to the morally naive. Proverbs 1:1-4

We are given here a purpose for this inspired collection of proverbs. These few verses establish the goal and result which enrolling in its course of study will produce. What lofty goals these verses provide! God inspired lofty goals -- to attain wisdom and discipline, to apply what we learn, and to help others learn. Can that be done? Can we actually make such an acquisition in this life? The answer is a resounding YES!

Action Items – Learn, discern, receive, impart:

Memorize these four things and make them goals for this study.

- 1) To learn wisdom and moral instruction [לְדַעַת חֵכְמָה וּמִוּסָר – to know wisdom and discipline]
- 2) To discern wise counsel [לְהַבִּין אִמְרֵי בִינָה] to cause to understand the speech of understanding]
- 3) To receive moral instruction in skillful living [לְקַחַת מִוּסָר הַשְּׂכִל] to take the discipline of the wise], in righteousness, justice, and equity
- 3) To impart shrewdness to the morally naive [לָתֵת לְפְתָאִים עָרְמָה] to put or set to the naive craftiness]

Help make Wisdom a top priority in your family and our community. Start by letting the Bible define what Wisdom is, does, and teaches. I want to suggest that a major part of doing something with what we learn from the book of Proverbs involves changing the way we think about things and the way we act. In that respect, the actions to be done are more what the Proverbs do for us than what we do for them. They are here to serve us. Our responsibility is to listen and learn from them (which in reality is learning to listen and learn from God) and to grow in maturity according to the standards God sets for us in them.

What can we learn from what God has made? Here are some animals that teach us lessons:

1. *"Four things on earth are small, but they are exceedingly wise: the ants are a people not strong, yet they provide their food in the summer; the rock badgers are a people not mighty, yet they make their homes in the cliffs; the locusts have no king, yet all of them march in rank; the lizard you can take in your hands, yet it is in kings' palaces." (Proverbs 30:24–28 ESV) "Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest." (Proverbs 6:6–8 ESV)*
2. *"“You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." (Deuteronomy 25:4 ESV) "Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned?" (1 Corinthians 9:7–9 ESV)*
3. *"My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Selah" (Psalms 84:2–4 ESV)*