

Proverbs Week #13 (2:1-5)

“My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.” Prov 2:1-5

The five verses for our study today form an “if...then” clause. Here the proverbial father is again teaching his son. He wants his son to understand that **if** he will do these things **then** he can expect a reward (we will talk about the rewards more in the following weeks). The eight things in the verses above are going to require both a commitment from the son and action on his part. He will have to learn new things and will have to do something with what he learns. His learning will be more than just gaining knowledge about God and His ways. Bruce Waltke, in his commentary on this passage states, “This way of knowing requires skill. For example, one knows, discovers, learns, and experiences the skill of riding a bicycle by committing oneself to it, taking a risk, and using skillful actions, not by acquiring facts about a bicycle.”¹ The son is active in the process and anything but passive in his learning of wisdom.

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 those who lived in Colossae 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

Let’s take a few minutes together to learn three basic ideas about wisdom.

James teaches, “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5) When you ask God for wisdom He is faithful and gives it. It very important to treasure what God gives you. These verses from the Proverbs remind us that the wisdom God desires for us to learn requires committed effort on our part. Listening and applying our heart to learning involves our concentration and efforts. When you call out for wisdom who are you calling out to? If you are going to search for wisdom where are you going to look?

Adults remember these words of our Messiah:

“People were bringing little children to Yeshua to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Yeshua saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.” Mark 10:13-16

The teaching of our children must always be a high priority. We need to encourage them to ask questions, be ready to dialogue with them, and continue to teach them the truth of our Messiah and His kingdom. We too can call out to God for wisdom, search for His truth, and treasure what He teaches us.

¹Waltke, B. K. (2004). *The Book of Proverbs. Chapters 1-15*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (219). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.