

Proverbs Week #16 (2:12-15)

Proverbs 2:12-15

Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse, who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways, who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil, whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways.

I talked over the last few lessons about Yeshua's teaching of the sower and the seeds. From the book of Proverbs we have also been learning about the results and benefits of being wise. If we grow in wisdom it produces good fruit in our lives. What exactly does that mean?

If you were to plant a garden with a row of corn, a row of peas, and a row of green beans what would you expect to see as the plants grew? At first you would see just a little bit of green poke through the ground. Then the plants would grow taller and wider and they would bud. Eventually, you would see ears of corn, pods with peas, and green beans. The 'fruit' of planting seeds is the produce that results.

This is also true about the growth of wisdom in our lives. If we trust in God and faithfully plant His seeds in our life (the seeds are the truth we learn from the Bible) then we can expect to see results. In this week's verses the result of being wise is that we are saved from the ways of wicked men. The benefit of growing in wisdom is realized as we live our lives according to what is pleasing to God.

Not everyone in the world believes in God. Some people who do not believe in Him will talk bad about Him and try to persuade others not to believe in Him too. We learn in the apostolic scriptures that in the end-times people will be very evil.

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God — having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Let's consider these words that Paul taught Timothy in the context of the protection that comes from wisdom. The people described in these verses seem obviously evil. Paul says these people have a form of godliness. That makes me stop, think, and wonder... Are these people that the world might consider to be wise? Could these people even think they have faith in God? As we study the book of Proverbs and consider the importance of wisdom it should cause us to stop and examine our own lives. Proverbs teaches us that we should not be wise in our own eyes (Proverbs 3:7). We should be willing to learn and not think that we already know everything. Remember, a person who is wise learns and adds to their learning (Proverbs 1:5).

As I mentioned last week, there are two ways that we can walk through life – a narrow way and a wide way. Yeshua our Messiah demonstrated to us by His life and teaching what it means to be on God's narrow way. As His disciples we must continue to learn from Him and the scriptures that the Holy Spirit has inspired. Thank God as you pray and continue to ask Him to help you grow in His wisdom.