

Proverbs Week #18 (2:20-22)

Proverbs 2:20-22

Thus you will walk in the ways of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous. For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the unfaithful will be torn from it.

In today's lesson I want to connect wisdom, God's promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and our faith in Yeshua our Messiah. In these last verses of chapter two of Proverbs we find the connection of the one who has found God's wisdom with the promise of God to His people concerning the land. Those who live upright and blameless will live and remain in the land. But, you might reply, "We are not living in the land so what does this proverb have to teach us?" Moses saw the time when God's people would be exiled and taught us what we need to know when we are not living in the land.

So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where the LORD your God has banished you, and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. Deut 30:1-4

It is in the larger context of what Moses is teaching in chapter 30 of Deuteronomy that Paul tells us that those who seek the righteousness of faith in Yeshua are the ones who will experience God's salvation. How is one found to be right in God's eyes? The restoration that God will accomplish starts with hearts that have returned to Him. It is a matter of what the heart believes and says.

But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' "(that is, to bring the Messiah down) "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring the Messiah up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Yeshua is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Rom 10:6-10

This salvation is powerful and it can change our way of looking at what is important in life. If you asked people how they would describe the ideal life you would likely get many different answers. I would like to suggest that as disciples of Yeshua we could hope for no better life than to walk with friends who our God calls good, stay on paths that God calls righteous, and live in the land that God has promised. Even when we are not living in the land it should be our hope for God to draw us there.

In teaching from the book of Proverbs week by week I hope the emphasis on placing a high value on wisdom is not missed or forgotten. Wisdom requires that you take what God has given and use it. God's wisdom produces skills in our lives that we need in order to live according to what pleases Him. God willing, next week we will review the themes from the first two chapters and remind ourselves of what God is teaching us from them.