

# Proverbs Week #40 (4:8-9)

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*“Prize her (Wisdom), and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. She will place on your head a garland of grace; she will present you with a crown of beauty.” Proverbs 4:8-9*

Last week our verses directed us to get wisdom and this week I want to review that theme and add today’s verses to what we are learning. *“A wise man will hear and increase in learning...” Prov 1:5a.* Last week we talked about the protection that Wisdom gives to those who do not forsake her. This week we will also consider the honor she gives to those who embrace her.

First, let’s review the verses from last week. *“The beginning of wisdom is this: get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding” Prov 4:7.* In just the first few verses of this chapter of Proverbs we have been told to listen, pay attention, not forsake a father’s teaching or commandments, to lay hold of a father’s words with all our heart, not to forget those words or to swerve from them, and above all these to get wisdom and to acquire understanding. Do you think this chapter is trying to teach us something? Each of us before God has a responsibility to hear and apply these words. How are we doing? How much do you remember? How important is it for us to remember the lessons that the scriptures teach? As you think about your answer I encourage you to do so before God and not compare yourself to others. (Gal 6:4) What has God given you? What has He enabled you to learn? Are you remembering His lessons? Are you having a hard time figuring out how to apply them? When you lack wisdom remember to ask God for it and also ask Him for the power (1 Cor 2:2-6) to apply what He is teaching you.

We have been given a lot! We have the ability to study the Bible and freedoms in our country to apply and live what we are learning. We are in many ways experiencing *“a tranquil and quiet life”* (1 Tim 2:1-2) that Paul saw as an answer to prayer for all men, kings, and those in authority. How does God answer a prayer offered up on behalf of “all men” that would likely include both believers and unbelievers? Is part of this prayer a prayer that God would grant them wisdom? If God can grant wisdom to even unbelievers and we can experience the benefits of Him answering this prayer, how much more then can we who seek God expect His grace and honor to crown us as we prize and embrace Wisdom.

Are we in danger of being too proud if we seek the rewards of Wisdom? It is true that the scriptures teach us that we are to humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord. But, when we have truly done this, they go on to tell us, He will exalt us in His proper time. (1 Peter 5:6) These verses from Peter also continue by adding, *“casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”* (1 Peter 5:7) Some of you may not feel like you are experiencing a tranquil and quiet life, or you may feel that living a humble life is too lofty a goal. God is aware of your circumstances and He is able to direct your paths if you will truly trust in Him (Prov 3:5,6). It’s easy to understand that God cares for us and understands us because He is the one who made us. There is another reason why He can do this. In His love for us He became one of us and experienced firsthand the burdens that we carry.

This is an amazing thought! Our Messiah was born into this world and grew up in a Jewish family in the land of Israel. He learned and matured. Luke tells us, *“And Yeshua grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”* (Luke 2:40) Today, by the power of His Spirit we can receive this testimony of His life and, Lord willing, we can live our lives as answers to Yeshua’s prayer, *“those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.”* (John 17:20-21) I want to leave you with two passages to discuss today during lunch or this week as families. Consider the words from John 1:11-12 and compare them with 2 Peter 1:4-11.