

Proverbs 8:10-21, 22-36

"Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; For wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her. "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge and discretion. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate. Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding, I have strength. By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, all the judges of the earth. I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me. Riches and honor are with me, enduring riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, and my revenue than choice silver. I traverse the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of justice, that I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, that I may fill their treasuries."

There are many promises of God throughout the Bible, and there is quite a few promises, absolute guarantees from God, that are in this passage of Scripture in Proverbs 8:10-21. Yet, just as with all of God's promises to us, they are conditional. If you do this, you'll get that. But what do all of the conditional promises of God in the Old Testament have to do with the ultimate promise of God that if we believe on the Lord Jesus we will be saved? Because when we accept Jesus as our Savior, recognizing that Jesus, the Son of God was sent by God the Father to this earth to die for the sins of all who will believe, just as John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." If we truly are believing unto salvation it means that we are turning to God (repenting of our sinful ways) to His way of our salvation, that is Jesus the Christ, and then we become a child of God and He puts His Spirit in us as a deposit guaranteeing what is to come, (eternal life in Him), His Spirit then testifies with our spirit, or assures our spirit, that we are His children. What that means is we begin having His Spirit working in us "to will and to do according to His good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13). That brings us to a point of this message. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, when we are wanting God to save us from our sins through the grace that He bestowed upon us through the sacrifice of Jesus, His Son, by Him giving up His life by dying on a cross for our sins, we then take on Jesus to be not only our Savior but also our Lord, our God, our Leader, our Teacher, our Guide, our Help, our Protection, our Hope, and our Wisdom. Just as the Apostle Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 1:30-31**, "But of Him [Him being God] you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us **wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption**— that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

Proverbs 8:22-36

"The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth; while as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, or the primal dust of the world. When He prepared the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above, when He strengthened the fountains of the deep, when He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in His inhabited world, and my delight was with the sons of men. Now therefore, listen to me, my children, for blessed are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not disdain it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord; But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death."

Jesus becomes our wisdom, as I mentioned earlier and just as the Apostle Paul also wrote in Romans 8:11, " But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." You may notice that Paul is saying that God raised Jesus from the dead and that then it is God's Spirit that dwells in you, based on how Paul phrased that. Earlier though, Paul said in Romans 8:9, "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His." There Paul referred to the same Spirit that is placed in us as being both the Spirit of God but also the Spirit of Christ. That is one example of many that testifies to the fact that God is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three are God yet each one has His own function and person within the Godhead. That is where we come up with the term the Trinity. How is that? He is God, that is just who He is. Can we fully comprehend or explain God? No. One day we will know him when we see him face to face just as we are known by Him now. (1 Corinthians 13:12)

So now that we've laid that foundation, the foundation that Jesus is the **Christ**, that Jesus is our **Righteousness**, Jesus is our **Sanctification** (to where we are set apart to be holy as He is holy),

and He is our **Redemption** (He paid the price for our sins against God), Jesus is also our **Wisdom** from God. We won't find His wisdom from the world. Just as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:19 says, "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." Paul also stated in 1 Corinthians 1:18, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." That same power of God that raised Jesus from the dead will also raise us from the dead unto eternal life! So as God places His Spirit in us He begins to work in us His Righteousness, His Sanctification (which makes us more and more separate from the ways of the world), His Redemption, and then also His Wisdom.

This takes us to our passage of Scripture in Proverbs with the many promises of God. He first promises us that nothing in this world, no riches of this world compares to the wisdom from God. For now that certainly doesn't seem to be the case. The riches of this world can certainly get you many things and buy you many pleasures in this time on this earth. But we are reminded by Jesus Himself that the present riches of this earth will eventually be destroyed but the riches that we have from God will last an eternity. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21) That IS wisdom from God! That IS a promise of God! Guaranteed, the treasures you store up in heaven will never go away. Those riches will be with you for an eternity! God promises us that! Not only that but the value and pleasures of having riches on earth in this present time is nowhere near being comparable to the riches that we are storing up in heaven. Just think, imagine having a beautiful mansion on the beach or in the mountains or wherever you'd consider to be the perfect location and having a gorgeous yacht and have cool, fancy sports cars or luxury cars, or the most awesome motorcycle, and on and on; just suppose you're the richest person on earth without any obligations or responsibilities to where you don't have to do anything but enjoy you're riches. THAT does not compare to the glory and riches that awaits us in heaven. When Jesus said to not worry about what you will eat or drink or wear but to seek first the kingdom of God and His Righteousness, He wasn't just saying that to make some kind of point about trusting in God but He knows and wants us to know that this very short time that we are in these bodies here on this earth is not even close to being compared to the glory that will be revealed in us and the riches that await us on that side of His glory.

BUT...that is IF we receive His instruction, that is IF we walk in the faith and belief that His promises are true. That is IF we are walking in the fear of the Lord, which is respecting God for who He Is, as God Almighty, Creator of all things, who watches over us and

knows even the intents of our heart, and to also to walk in prudence. One is not wise unless they operate in wisdom. One is not prudent unless one is being prudent.

King Solomon who was described as the wisest man ever. He eventually had 700 wives and 300 concubines. They were of all different nationalities and that was a problem because they had different gods that they set up idols for and worshipped. King Solomon got caught up in all of that. In his later years Solomon wrote in the book of Ecclesiastes that all of his accumulated wealth and prestige on earth meant a whole lot of nothing, that it was all vanity. The only thing that he said mattered, that was the conclusion of the matter was "to fear God and keep His commandments, for that is the whole duty of man."

Fearing God means hate evil, shun evil, even run from evil when it is prudent. Practicing evil though is never prudent or wisdom from God. Practicing evil is in pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth, of which God hates. Are any of us perfect? No, of course not. Is there anyone here who has never acted in pride or never said anything perverse, according to the holiness of God. I don't think so. This is not to condemn anyone here but to remind us that God is working in us His wisdom, His prudence, His hating evil, His righteousness and as we allow Him to work in us those attributes, we WILL guaranteed be storing up treasures in heaven that cannot be compared to anything on earth. "Riches and honor are with me, enduring riches and righteousness."

Once again though, we don't seek wisdom from God as the World seeks wisdom. God is Wisdom! Just as the Apostle John said that God IS love (1 John 4:8) God IS wisdom. We get wisdom from God through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we read His Word, His Holy Spirit that He has placed in us will teach us wisdom and will lead us in His wisdom. You can read every Christian book that has ever been written, including the inspired Word of God, but without the Holy Spirit, the Spirit that comes from God, the Spirit of Christ, you can never come to the knowledge of the truth, even the foundation of that truth that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Just as James 1:17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

One thing is a guarantee also. You will be tested in whether you want the promises of God which includes His righteousness and sanctification and redemption and wisdom. Verse 17 says, "I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me." Just as it says in Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." First we

must believe in His promises and in faith continue to seek Him and walk in what He wants to lead us in, His Righteousness and in His Wisdom. Some days you may not be able to sense the leading of the Spirit but you will know though what evil it is that you are not supposed to do. Other times you will have to look to the Lord for His guidance, for His prudence, for His wisdom. Seek Him, call on Him, that is Jesus, He is our Rock and our Fortress, our Protector who will deliver us from evil. He is our Savior, our Lord, our Hope and our Deliverer. "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Paul said, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Finally, verse 35 says, "Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord; But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death." It is really then up to us. First is accepting Jesus to be our Savior from the sin that separated us from our Creator so that we can become His children and live and reign with Him forever. Secondly, once we believe on Jesus Christ then He puts His Spirit in us guaranteeing His promise of eternal life, then He begins to change us from the inside into being holy as He is Holy, to operate in His Righteousness and His Wisdom and also, as God is love, in His love. Let Christ reign in you and you will receive the promise of eternal life with Him and you will have His rewards of which we presently can't imagine. And hopefully for each of us, when we seek God and we are changed into His glory He will say to us, "well done my good and faithful servant," not for what we did but for what we let Him do through us, all for His glory, honor and praise.

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