

## THE VALUE OF WISDOM

---

### Proverbs 2:1-15

#### The Value of Wisdom

My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path.

When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things, from those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness; who rejoice in doing evil, and delight in the perversity of the wicked; whose ways are crooked, and who are devious in their paths;

---

"The Value of Wisdom". From our passage of Scripture in **Proverbs 2:1-15**, we are given an insight into what IS wisdom. It is not just the gathering of information so that we can sound smart at dinner parties, or how we can learn to manipulate other people and the system that we live in, so that we can get the most out of them. I know that is an old joke about impressing people at dinner parties and that it may not really pertain to us. Not only that, but who really cares about rubbing elbows, so to speak, with the rich and famous, no disrespect intended, just so that we can climb higher in social circles and become more esteemed in society. As King Solomon tells us in the next chapter of Proverbs, "For her proceeds [of wisdom] are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold." (**Proverbs 3:14**) Do you believe that? It is simple enough to know where you stand on that. Would you rather have a handful of gold or the wisdom that comes from God? Jesus, in speaking of the comparison to the things of this world to what comes from God, said that we should not even be worried about what we shall eat or wear, but that we should, "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (**Matthew 6:33**) Is Jesus referring to receiving silver and gold? Probably not, but once again, what is more important, wisdom or the riches of this

world? In **Revelation 21:6-8**, Jesus tells those who are listening, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall **inherit all things**, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." The Word of God is calling to us to take hold of, not the things of this world that will not translate into anything in the days that follow, in God's eternal kingdom. We have to believe that! That IS Wisdom that comes from God! Are you hearing what Wisdom is saying? It is not in where a man is presently, in their circumstances, that determines their desire or lust for wealth and honor. It resides in the heart, right? Some of the poorest people, I've seen, have no desire for the riches of this world, yet some are consumed with those thoughts, and some of the wealthiest people still chase after more riches. I've also seen some of the poorest and also richer people who have been the most compassionate and giving with what they have. The value of Wisdom is greater than anything in creation because Christ Jesus IS our Wisdom. Yet it is up to each of us to choose whether or not we will live our lives in His workmanship, in His wisdom. We are not just called by God to be saved, we are His creation and His workmanship from the beginning of our lives to when we pass on to our eternal home. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." That is where we find freedom, in Christ! How so? That is where we are intended to be, in Christ Jesus, believing on Him, receiving Him, and then abiding in Him, as He works in us His perfection.

We can be reminded, once again, the assurances that God spoke to Abraham, who was of the seed that brought forth the Messiah. God said, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." As we get to know Him as our God, Lord, Savior, and Heavenly Father, as we learn to trust Him as He is perfect in all of His Ways (**2 Samuel 22:31**) and Works (**Deuteronomy 32:4**), as we learn to honor Him, as the One and only true God, the Creator of all things, we begin to live in the victory and freedom that is in Christ Jesus according to what Jesus said was the greatest commandment, to love God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to also love others as He loves them. (**Mark 12:30-31**) "We love Him because He first loved us." (**1 John 4:19**) That is where we begin to take hold of that same promise that was to Abraham, that HE IS our shield and our exceedingly great reward, that nothing in this world compares to Him!

Man's wisdom and wealth does not impress God, after all, it really is all His anyways, and it is of no lasting value to us, it is all temporal. Yet what God's gives us, we are intended to be stewards of all that He has given us, and He can and does use it for His kingdom and His glory. We are given the Word to tell us exactly which way we should be going in our lives based on God's plan, purpose, and pleasure, based on His will and based on His perfection. It really does all boil down to the character of God, who He is, and based on who He is then, is His plan, purpose, and pleasure. We are His creation, with a specific purpose according to His will. Just as we know from **Psalm 24:1**, "The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein." Similarly, we are told by the Apostle Paul, in **Colossians 1:16**, "For by Him [Christ Jesus] all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him." Both of those passages of Scripture are in the Word of God and I put them in the "Foundations in the Word" brochure that I handed out a couple of weeks ago. What my intention was for that brochure, is it that it gives us a quick reference guide to the Word, to help us to better see, that all of Creation is for God's purpose and pleasure, that we are being called into the fellowship of God, since sin against God separated us from God, and all of us have sinned against God (**Romans 3:23**), that Christ Jesus, reconciles us back to God, and He is then for us, (**1 Corinthians 1:30**) Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption. He gives us wisdom, through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ (**Romans 8:9**), to accept the free gift of God, His Righteousness, and to then live in His Righteousness, in Christ Jesus, as He then sets us apart to live in His Holiness, which is sanctification, and we begin our new lives in our Redemption that is in Christ Jesus! That leads us to us recognizing that we all being called into the Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption that is in Christ Jesus. That is what separates the fool from the wise. Next in the brochure we are given some Scripture that tells us that we are to be living our lives according to the Spirit and not the flesh. That is evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit that works in us, as a child of God. The fruit of the Spirit is, "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (**Galatians 5:22-23**) There are also, as pointed out in the brochure and in the Word of God, as they are the Scriptures from the Word, is that we are all given different gifts and callings by God through the working of the Holy Spirit. We ALL have an integral, meaning a necessary and important place in God's plans and purpose. I was tempted to say that we all play a "role" in God's building of His eternal kingdom, but I don't want anyone to get the idea that, as Shakespeare allegedly wrote, that "all the world's a stage". This IS real life and God is presently calling, for anyone who will listen and take heed to His calling, that He is calling us "out of the darkness and into His marvelous light" (**1 Peter 2:9**), which means He

intends for us first to believe on and receive Christ Jesus. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (**John 1:12-14**) Then we are, as children of God, expected by God Almighty to be walking in His Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption. We are supposed to be sharing His light, bearing His fruit, in sharing and showing the love and the gospel of Jesus Christ. THAT is wisdom and that is LIFE in Christ Jesus!

"My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God." So what is the wisdom that is from God? "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." That word fear is the Hebrew word "yirah" (yir-aw). The root of that word then is yare (Yaw-ray) and it simply means FEAR. Terming that word to mean reverence or respect does not translate well into our language and culture, especially since we are fearing THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY. Speaking of reverence and respect of God is of course part of our understanding God Almighty, Creator of all things, but is also in FEARING Him in a sense that we cannot be our own little God and we cannot manipulate Him like a genie who just wants to grant our every wish and that we aren't supposed to be getting Him on our plan but it is up to us to get on His plan, as He alone is God.

The perfection of our fear of the Lord is given to us by the Apostle John, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love." It could be said then, that as we abide in Christ, as Jesus tells us to do in **John 15**, there will not be any fear as we abide in His love. I don't know about you but I am not quite perfected personally, in His love. I have my moments. His love is perfect, I am not. We are to be letting Him work in us His perfect love and we are intended to be walking in it, whether we feel like it or not. Jesus tells us, "And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." (**Matthew 5:47-48**) What starts out for us though as a "fear of the Lord", as we get to know Him, trust Him, and honor Him, His love begins to manifest within us casting out fear as we transform into men and women of God who love Him with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to love other people as He loves them. Yet a

fear of the Lord remains, as we see in **Proverbs 8:13**, "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate." That of course is not saying to hate those who operate in evil. Who then could be saved? The Apostle Paul tells us, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." That then tells us that we are to be in constant prayer, for ourselves as well as for others! Likewise, our Lord and Savior Jesus tells us to "love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." (**Matthew 5:44-45**) In that we truly need the wisdom that is in Christ, being as Jesus said to His disciples to be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves". (**Matthew 10:16**) With some people, if you let them, they will suck you dry of all your energy, resources, joy, and peace.

That is where the next part of our passage of Scripture is important. It says, "For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path." That is where we are dependent on the Holy Spirit, as Jesus said, "He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." "He is a shield to those who walk uprightly". The key to Abraham receiving the promise that in His seed all the nations would be blessed and that God was His shield and his exceedingly great reward was in what God explained to Abraham, "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." (**Genesis 22:18**) Wisdom is calling to us today, to obey His voice, to take hold of His Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption and to live it, by abiding in Christ Jesus and letting Him be your Lord, God, and Savior. "When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things, from those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness; who rejoice in doing evil, and delight in the perversity of the wicked; whose ways are crooked, and who are devious in their paths". Every day, we are told, Wisdom is calling. His mercies are new every morning, if we will take hold of it. We are though not guaranteed tomorrow, and tomorrow may be too late. Today Wisdom is calling. There is no earthly value to wisdom, it is invaluable and more precious than anything on this earth-as Christ Jesus alone is our Wisdom that comes from God.