

June 14, 2020



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Value Wisdom Proverbs 2:1-11

Lesson Background and Introduction

The challenge in today's text to find wisdom is expressed in terms of an intense search, not just a casual or passing interest. An individual must seek for the Almighty himself, not the almighty dollar. For some, however, the seeking spirit, the passion for wisdom and for the God who is its source, diminishes with time. In the Western world especially, we settle into routines and expectations at church and in our faith. We become comfortable with where we are spiritually. We lose the hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:6). Ultimately, addressing this matter requires that we undergo a serious self-examination. Since "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7), then maintaining a strong bond with the Lord and a reverence for Him is pivotal to sustaining passion and growth. The spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, and meaningful fellowship with other Christians dare not be neglected (Hebrews 10:24, 25; etc.). Our lesson text also highlights the necessity for a human teacher to convey to students the value of wisdom and thus of the knowledge of the Lord. True, reading insightful works can be of great benefit; but nothing teaches wisdom better than a consistent personal example. The best personal example is the one that a person sees daily in the home setting. Both mothers and fathers are to urge their children to receive their words and take to heart their commandments (Proverbs 1:8) so that wisdom and understanding can be theirs. The responsibility then falls on the children to continue to cultivate their own desire for wisdom. They must cry out for it with raised voices. They must look for it as though seeking hidden treasure. Parents can model wisdom as they encourage their children to seek it, but each individual must do the seeking personally. The parents can put wisdom into a child's head. But the journey those few inches from head to heart is the task of the growing child.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Solomon and God's Wisdom - You can find God's wisdom if you diligently hunt for it in His Word and listen to His special teacher, the Holy Spirit. It is God's generous gift, but it must be intensely pursued and personally received. The Book of Proverbs shows how Solomon took on the role of tutor instructing the nation under his rulership. He affectionately called the person he taught "my son" which either meant he spoke to one of his children, or to anyone willing to listen to his wise counsel. Either way, he encouraged his learner to be open, catching hold of his words. Someone who is on a hunt for wisdom is serious, earnest, and determined to follow biblical instruction. With this kind of attitude, God will surely provide his insight for this person. But the heart must be open toward heaven, sensitive, looking out for God-centered understanding as the ultimate prize.

The Value of Wisdom - Solomon understood the wealth in wisdom. He urged his listeners to pray, to cry out to God for His mysteries to be revealed. Solomon emphasized the riches of divine insight. He compared it to silver, one of the most valuable commodities in his day. It is not unusual to find dedicated people digging for the Lord's lessons. Precious goods are rarely sitting around on the surface. Solomon spoke from experience. He asked for wisdom, not riches. God liberally provided both to him,

Stay on Wisdom's Path - The author specifically addressed God's devoted ones, the upright, His worshipers who are committed to keeping their feet on His way. God will guide and make sure they stay on the straight and narrow. He protects, seeing to it that they are rescued from the danger of self-reliance and its effects. A person with godly understanding walks through life confidently, allowing God's instructions to pave the way.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Blessings comes from seeking wisdom and living by it

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Lord, strengthen my resolve to live by the wisdom that comes only from You. Give me the discernment to live all of life from Your point of view that I might know the blessings of a life lived wisely

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding

(Prov 3:13 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", May 22, 2015)

**Series: Many Faces of
Wisdom**

UNIT: Wisdom in Proverbs

NEXT WEEK

**Receive Wisdom's Gifts
(Prov 8:8-14, 17-21)**

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Wisdom's Requirements (Prov 2:1-4)

Receive God's Word (1)

- Receive God's Word because there is delight in God's word (Ps 112:1)
- Receive God's Word so that we might not sin (Ps 119:11)
- Receive God's Word because we love His word (Ps 119:97-100)
- Receive God's Word to stand when troubles come (Luke 6:47-48)
- Receive God's Word to be successful (Joshua 1:8)
- Receive God's Word to understand and use God's word correctly (2 Tim 2:15)
- Receive God's Word to distinguish good from evil (Heb 5:14)
- Receive God's Word to persevere until the day of the Lord (Phil 2:16)

Seek understand (2)

- Understanding that comes from spiritual hearing (Mark 4:9)
- Understanding that is given to those of the kingdom of God (Mark 4:11)
- Understanding that draws people to God (Deut 4:6)
- Understanding that comes through the reading of God's word (Eph 3:2-4)
- Understanding that comes from living wisely (Eph 5:15-17)
- Understanding that comes from reflecting on God's word (2 Tim 2:7)

Seek discernment (3-4)

- Discernment based on the knowledge and insight given by God (Phil 1:9-10)
- Discernment to know and prove what is good and acceptable to God (Rom 12:2)
- Discernment in recognizing what is good (1 Thess 5:21)
- Discernment to distinguish good from evil (Heb 5:14)
- Discernment provided by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 2:13-16)

Wisdom's Promises (Prov 2:5-8)

Promise of knowledge (5)

- Knowledge that if lacking causes destruction (Hosea 4:6)
- Knowledge and good judgment (Ps 119:66)
- Knowledge that comes from God (Prov 2:6-10)
- Knowledge that preserves life (Eccl 7:12)
- Knowledge that is being renewed in our new self (Col 3:10)
- Knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:3-4)
- Knowledge obtained from God's Divine power (2 Pet 1:3)

Promise of protection (6-7)

- Protection from things in the world (1 John 4:4)
- Protection of soul (Ps 57:1)
- Protection from evildoers (Ps 14:6)
- Protection through God our fortress, deliverer and stronghold (Ps 18:2)
- Protection because of being God's child (Prov 14:26)
- Protection by the hands of God (John 10:28-30)

Promise of guidance (8)

- Guidance into truth (John 16:13-15)
- Guidance by the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:18)
- Guidance that represents we are a child of God (Rom 8:14)
- Guidance as a light for our path (Ps 119:105)
- Guidance into understanding (Ps 119:130)
- Guidance into wisdom (Prov 2:6)

Wisdom's Blessings (Prov 2:9-11)

Blessing of righteousness (9)

- Righteousness through faith in Jesus (Rom 3:22)
- Righteousness through Jesus' obedience (Rom 5:19)
- Righteousness from God that allows knowledge of Jesus (Phil 3:7-9)
- Righteousness through Jesus being our righteousness (1 Cor 1:30)
- Righteousness through Jesus bearing our sins (2 Cor 5:21)

Blessing of joy to the soul (10)

- Joy because it is fitting (Ps 33:1)
- Joy because of reconciliation (Rom 5:10-11)
- Joy because of God's refuge (Ps 5:11)
- Joy because of God's reign (Ps 97:1)
- Joy because of God's mighty deeds (Ps 118:15)
- Joy because of Jesus being our righteousness (1 Cor 1:30-31)

Blessing of preservation (11)

- Preservation through God being on our side (Ps 124:2-6)
- Preservation through God's power working in us (2 Cor 4:7-12)
- Preservation through endurance (James 1:12)
- Preservation through God's presence and strengthening (Isa 41:10)
- Preservation through God carrying us (Isa 46:4)
- Preservation through God's guarding (Prov 2:8)
- Preservation through God's deliverance (2 Tim 4:18)