

June 21, 2020



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Receive Wisdom's Gifts Proverbs 8:8-14, 17-21

Lesson Background and Introduction

Some may ask, "Isn't it possible to be wealthy and wise?" True, the biblical record includes individuals who were both (examples: Genesis 41:41-44; 1 Kings 3:10-14; Job 1:1-5; 42:12-17). But the Bible clearly warns us about the spiritual dangers that material wealth and possessions can pose. The primary issue is the impact that this has on one's heart and thus on one's relationship with God (compare Psalm 52:5-7; Mark 10:17-23). In His parable of the sower, Jesus warns of the "deceitfulness of riches" that results in an individual's becoming unfruitful after receiving the gospel (Matthew 13:22). Similarly, Jesus asked, "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (16:26). Of course, the implied answer is, "Nothing." To gain all the world has to offer at the loss of wisdom results in tragedy. That is true despite all the abundance that the whole world can offer. All these teachings are consistent with Wisdom's plea to choose her above any form of material wealth. No matter how many priceless artifacts we amass—or how useful the new gadgets, inventions, and technological devices are—all the things that we may desire cannot compare with the value of wisdom.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

The Choice - The Book of Proverbs lays out two distinct ways in life. One is the pursuit of God's truth and wisdom, which is His path to a life lived well. The other way is self-centered actions and thinking. The foolish individual chooses this route, which is crowded with the deceptions of Satan. He holds out material goods and secular values which do not satisfy.

It's Plain and Simple - God's words and His intelligence are trustworthy, correct, and firm. His wisdom is not confusing but plain and simple. It is only puzzling to those who reject it. His secrets unfold to those who stand before Him in awe wanting to hear and obey His messages. God's wisdom does not guarantee millions in the bank. Material wealth can be lost or stolen in a day, but wisdom is something that can never be taken away.

Live Prudently - The word prudence is often partnered with the word knowledge. Prudence is practical, the daily living out of wisdom. True wisdom always leads to godly behaviors, sensible actions, and proper behavior that glorifies our heavenly Father. Believers ask for the Holy Spirit's power and ability to stand against evil. Someone who loves and pursues wisdom automatically hates anything that sets itself against God and His Word. They cling tightly to what is right in the sight of God.

Love Wisdom - To sincerely seek wisdom, it is essential to get to know her and love her. We pray, "Lord, I want to increase in my affection for wisdom." God loves to hear this kind of request. It is even better if this attitude can begin at an early age, but it is never too late to embrace God's insights. Leaders, counselors, parents, supervisors, pastors—anyone can ask and begin following hard after wisdom. God gladly shows a different way, His way. He welcomes the opportunity to set as many as He can on His street called, "The Best Way to Go."

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

True wisdom begins and ends with God

POEM FOR THE WEEK:

No wisdom gained through arduous quest
Can set a sinner free,
But God in wisdom sent His Son
To die for you and me.
—D. De Haan

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

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
(1 Cor 1:18 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Oct 31, 2001)

Series: Many Faces of Wisdom

UNIT: Wisdom in Proverbs

NEXT WEEK

Feast with Wisdom
(Prov 9:1-6, 8-10, 13-18)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Wisdom's Words (Prov 8:8-14)

Words of righteousness (8-9)

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

Words of richness (10-11)

- Rich in faith and in God's inheritance (James 2:3-6)
- Rich in giving freely and generously (Prov 11:24-25)
- Rich through helping others (Isa 58:6-7)
- Rich in using God given gifts (Rom 12:6-8)

Words of discernment (12-14)

- Discernment based on the knowledge given by God (Phil 1:9-10)
- Discernment through the renewing of the mind (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 Benefits (Prov 8:17-21)

Benefit of love (17)

- A love that nothing can separate us from (Rom 8:38-39)
- A love that it surpasses knowledge (Eph 3:17-19)
- A love proven by God's discipline (Prov 3:12)
- A love that made us alive in Christ (Eph 2:3-5)

Benefit of prosperity (18-19)

- Prosperity through well-being (Ps 35:27)
- Prosperity through righteousness (Ps 92:12-14)
- Prosperity through delighting in God's word (Ps 1:1-3)
- Prosperity through remaining in Jesus (John 15:3-5)

Benefit of righteous justice (20-21)

- Righteous justice because God does it without fail (Ps 7:11)
- Righteous justice because God is founded on righteousness (Ps 94:14-15)
- Righteous justice through God's forbearance of sin (Rom 3:25-26)
- Righteous justice because God is always right (2 Thess 1:5-6)