

WISDOM

As we begin our study of wisdom, you will quickly see the importance it can have in your Christian life. It can best be stated by quoting God's Word, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand: and in her left hand riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her." (**Pro 3:13-18**)

I. WHAT IS WISDOM?

DEFN: "Wisdom" - The right use of knowledge and understanding to follow the best means of accomplishing praiseworthy ends. It is the ability of discerning or judging what is best, most just, most proper, most useful, most efficient, most conducive to prosperity and happiness.

- ❑ **Pro 1:7; Pro 9:10-12** (Memory Verse) - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
- ❑ **Job 28:1-28** - While He was creating the heavens and the earth, the Lord determined that wisdom should begin at the fear of the Lord. You will not stumble onto this path of wisdom in the middle. You must start at the beginning to perceive it.
- ❑ **Psa 111:10** (Memory Verse) - Fear of the Lord gives good understanding to those who obey His commandments.

DEFN: "Fear of the Lord" - Profound reverence, respect, and awe toward God.

- ❑ **Pro 4:5-9** - Wisdom is the "principal" thing.

II. WHAT CAN IT ACCOMPLISH?

- ❑ **Pro 3:19-20; Jer 51:15-17; Psa 104:24-30** - The Lord created heaven and earth by wisdom, and designed them so that all things should look to and depend on Him.
- ❑ **Pro 8:12** - Wisdom finds out the knowledge of witty inventions, especially the Lord's.

NOTE: The study of history, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, etc., will become exciting and meaningful when you see Him in all of it.

III. TWO KINDS OF WISDOM

- ❑ **Jam 3:13-18** - Compare earthly wisdom with heavenly wisdom and do not be deceived **Jam 3:14,17** (Memory Verses)

NOTE: Sooner or later earthly wisdom brings strife, envying, confusion, and every evil work. God's wisdom brings peace, comfort and righteous fruit that remains.

- ❑ **1 Cor 1:17-31** - The wisdom of God uses the base things of this world so that no flesh can glory in His presence. **1 Cor 1:18, 21, 24** (Memory Verses)
- ❑ **1 Cor 2:1-15** - Your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the hidden wisdom of God that is revealed to you by His Spirit from His Word.

IV. WHERE CAN GOD'S WISDOM BE FOUND?

- ❑ **Pro 1:20-33** - Wisdom cries in the streets. Life experiences will teach you wisdom if you are listening. The Lord in His goodness tries to instruct all men to truth.

NOTE: The difference between the simple, scorner, fool, and the wise man is that the wise man "hears" and receives instruction.

- ❑ **Pro 8:1-10** - Wisdom cries in the gates.

NOTE: The wise men gathered at the gates of the cities to discuss all matters of life. Therefore, go where the wise are found. (**Pro 13:20**)

- ❑ **Pro 20:5; Pro 18:4; Pro 10:11; Pro 13:14; Pro 16:22** - Good counsel is in the heart of a wise man. Draw it out.

NOTE: Look for good fountains and good fruit from which to partake. There are many who will misguide you. (**Jam 3; Matt 7:16-19; Matt 12:33**).

- ❑ **Pro 15:22; Pro 11:14; Pro 20:18** - Wisdom is found in the multitude of counselors.

- ❑ **Pro 19:20; Pro 22:17-21** - Hear counsel that you may be wise.

- ❑ **Ecc 12:9-11** - Wisdom is declared by the mouth of true preachers walking in the Spirit.

- ❑ **Ecc 7:1-10** - Wisdom can be found in the house of mourning. **Ecc 7:2** (Memory Verse)

NOTE: It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise than the song of fools.

V. THE VALUES OF GAINING GOD'S WISDOM.

- ❑ **Pro 3:13-24** - Wisdom gives happiness, length of days, durable riches, honor, peace, safety, stability and sweet sleep.
- ❑ **Pro 4:5-10** - Wisdom will preserve, give an ornament of grace, bring honor, and deliver a crown of glory.

NOTE: Wisdom is the “principal” thing for which a believer should seek.
Pro 4:7 (Memory Verse)

- ❑ **1 Sam 18:14,30; Pro 12:9** - David possessed it and was honored.
- ❑ **Pro 2:10-22; 5:1-23** - Wisdom delivers from the evil man and the strange woman.
- ❑ **Pro 8:11-36** - Wisdom is better than rubies, and brings durable riches and righteousness. Whosoever finds it finds life, and obtains favor of the Lord.
- ❑ **Ecc 7:11-29** - Wisdom is a defense, gives life, and makes one strong.
Ecc 7:12 (Memory Verse)
- ❑ **Ecc 10:10; Ecc 8:5-6** - Wisdom is profitable to direct. To every purpose there is a right timing and a right judgment. Think before you act or speak. “A fool uttereth all his mind; but a wise man keepeth it till afterwards.” (**Pro 29:11**)

NOTE: If the axe is blunt, you must apply more force to chop down a tree. The same is true with your words. If they are dull and without wisdom, then you must become more fleshly to try to get your point across. Job plainly says, “How forcible are right words!” (**Job 6:25**)

- ❑ **Isa 33:6** - Wisdom insures stability in life and increases faith because it gives an understanding of salvation.
- ❑ **Ecc 2:1-14** - Wisdom excels folly as far as light excels darkness. Learn to work and not to play around, because folly works death. Do not seek life in pleasure, but in works of love that earn eternal rewards. (**Pro 14:23; Pro 21:17; Matt 6:19-20**).

VI. HOW IS WISDOM ATTAINED?

- ❑ **1 Cor 1:30; Eph 1:7-8** - Through Christ we have access to God's wisdom.
- ❑ **Pro 18:1** (Memory Verse) - Through desire wisdom is gained.
- ❑ **Jam 1:5-8** (Memory Verses) - The Lord gives wisdom when asked, especially during certain trials in your life.
- ❑ **1 Kin 3:7-14** - Solomon humbled himself and asked for wisdom.
- ❑ **Pro 2:1-11** - Wisdom comes from searching for it.

- ❑ **Pro 1:1-6** - Wisdom is gained by reading the book of Proverbs.
- ❑ **Pro 9:10-12** (Intentionally repeated) - Wisdom comes by understanding God and His ways.
- ❑ **Pro 9:8-9; Ecc 7:5; Pro 12:15** - Wisdom is attained by hearing the rebuke of the wise.
- ❑ **Pro 13:20** (Memory Verse) - Wisdom is obtained by walking with wise men.
- ❑ **Col 1:9-11** - Wisdom is gained by elder brothers and sisters praying for you to be filled with it.

VI. WISDOM TEACHES MANY TRUTHS

- ❑ **Pro 21:20; Pro 15:6; Pro 27:23-27; Pro 18:9** - Wisdom teaches thriftiness.
- ❑ **Pro 8:12; Pro 16:21; Pro 18:15** - Wisdom dwells with prudence. The prudent man looks well unto his going. (**Pro 14:15**)
- ❑ **Pro 14:16; Pro 22:3; Pro 27:12; Pro 1:17; Psa 34:12-22; Rom 16:19** - Wisdom instructs you to depart from evil. Wisdom foresees the evil coming so that you can avoid it.
- ❑ **Pro 11:12; Pro 25:8-10; Pro 27:10; Rom 12:18** - Wisdom admonishes you to dwell at peace with your neighbor.
- ❑ **Pro 12:18; Ecc 10:12; Pro 16:23-24; Pro 10:19** - Wisdom grooms you to speak right words.
- ❑ **Pro 15:14, 28; Pro 9:9-12** - Wisdom directs you to teach yourself.
- ❑ **Pro 15:7; Ecc 12:9-11; Pro 25:12; Pro 18:4** - Wisdom challenges you to teach others.
- ❑ **Pro 10:4-5; Pro 13:4; Pro 21:5** - Wisdom commands you to work diligently.

NOTE: Those who are diligent will plan their work, saving time and money, but those who are hasty in their decisions are slothful and are great wasters.

- ❑ **Pro 29:11; Pro 21:22; Job 29:16** - Wisdom leads you to search out matters.
- ❑ **Pro 24:23; Pro 28:21; Rom 2:11; Jam 2:1-10** - Wisdom guides you to not have respect of persons.
- ❑ **Pro 29:15; Pro 3:11-12; Heb 12:5-8** - Wisdom bids you to not despise the chastening of the Lord.

- ❑ **Pro 11:30; Dan 12:3; Ecc 11:1-6; Jam 5:19-20** - Wisdom admonishes you to win souls. “In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand.” Make this a way of life sowing the Word in every place you go.
- ❑ **Pro 9:4-7; Pro 24:3-5** - Wisdom builds her house on a sure foundation, carves out seven pillars, sets her table, and then invites others to come to her feast. In **2 Pet 1:5-10**, faith lays the foundation (Jesus Christ – **1 Cor 3:10-17**) and wisdom gives diligence to construct seven life principles to support the house against the storms of life. If you will do this, you will be fruitful and you will never fall.

CONCLUSION:

Wisdom is more valuable than gold and you should seek it with all your heart. Riches corrupt, but wisdom perfects; therefore labor not to be rich. (**Pro 23:4; 1 Tim 6:9**) Learn to handle matters wisely and you shall find good in this life. “...If riches increase, set not your heart upon them.” (**Psa 62:10**) Focus on adding learning to your lips and you will walk in peace. (**Pro 3:17; Jam 3:1-6**) Remember, “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man: but the end thereof are the ways of death.” (**Pro 16:25**)

Do not strive to be great. Strive to be wise. “Great men are not always wise.” Elihu said so, (**Job 32:9**) “Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: (like Solomon did and fell) Why should thou destroy thyself?” (**Ecc 7:16**) The Lord, who ultimately gets accused for your actions by the adversary, pleads, “My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me.” (**Pro 27:11**) Take heed to God’s Word and “Cease to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.” (**Pro 19:27**)