

Proverbs 2 — "Run To God & His Word & He'll Prepare You & Protect You In Life!"

"The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple" (Ps 119.130)

- ❖ We need the right **PURSUIT** (*pursue God/Truth/Wisdom*)
- ❖ We need the right **PROTECTION** (*we need a shield in life*)
- ❖ We need the right **REVELATION** (*we need God's guidebook in life*)
- ❖ We need the right **COMPANION** (*choose right friends/iron sharpens iron*)
- ❖ We need the right **PERSPECTIVE**. (*fidelity in marriage;flee all evil*)

Background to Prov 2

- Proverbs 2 has 22 verses/stanzas and it may be an "Alphabetic Poem" — matching the number of the letters in the Hebrew alphabet to suggest completeness. This is a *comprehensive chapter to completely instruct, protect & gladden you thru life!*

THESIS — *Hearer! Run to God and His word and he'll prepare you and protect you in life!*

And: the order is significant! We must get the Word before you can be protected from the wicked!

- 1. Get God's Divine Truth! (1-11)**
- 2. Guard from Dangerous Troublers! (12-22)**
 1. the EVIL MAN (12-15)
 2. the EVIL WOMAN (16-19)

I. GET GOD'S DIVINE TRUTH! (1-11)

- The simple point: RUN TO GOD in His Word & He'll protect you in life. Get the Word in your heart (v.2) and wisdom enters your heart (v.10) = heart!

(1)Be SEEKING the Word (1-4)

(2)Be SATISFIED in the Word (5-11)

- ◆Christian: what's your daily routine of getting God's truth? Currently, how would you describe your regular 'getting/receiving' of God's wisdom?
 - Do you have a Bible-plan? Do you read consistently, daily, humbly, obediently, reverently, meditatively?
 - If not, set the alarm 10-mins earlier and consider starting with the Gospel of Matthew.
- ◆Young man/woman/teen: do you have a habit of Bible-reading?
 - What is it you seek/search for?
 - What do you prize and cherish?
 - Is it God, wisdom, Bible, Truth, Christ?
 - Whatever you get, get God's wisdom!

II. GUARD FROM DANGEROUS TROUBLERS! (12-22)

- God's people must be on guard against perversity and promiscuity. We gotta guard from unholy companions and unfaithful conduct. Guard from the selfish worldlings and the sexual temptations.

God's wisdom guards and delivers from two dangerous troublers...

(1) Deliver you from the EVIL MAN (12-15)

- His description (12)
- His defilement (13)
- His delight (14)
- His demeanor (15)

(2) Deliver you from the EVIL WOMAN (16-19)

v.17- Definition of Marriage: a COVENANT OF COMPANIONSHIP (Prov 2.17)

1. **Covenant** speaks of a vow, a commitment, a promise.
2. **Companionship** speaks of a friendship, intimacy, closeness, supreme/nearest relationship.

- It's why God says to flee youthful lusts (2 Tim 2.22)!
- It's why God calls believers to abstain (1 Thess 4:3)!
- It's why God calls Christians to flee immorality (1 Cor 6.18)!

Conclusion & Summary: verses 20-22:

- V.20 - walk in the way of good men - Jer 6.16 - walk wisely in the "old paths"!
- v.21-22 the land is the place of God's blessing.
- It's the promises of God that He made with Abraham and to His covenant people. Choose to fear God & honor Him and you will expect that God will honor *all* his promises. (2 Pet 1.4; 2 Cor 1.20 - all God's promises are yes in Christ).
 - Obey Him >> and you'll be blessed of God and receive the promises of God fully in Christ!
 - Disobey Him >> and you'll be cursed of God and NOT receive the promises of blessing but rather the promises of condemnation!

Give ear, my children, to my word, Whom God hath dearly bought;
 Lay up God's laws within your heart, And print them in your thought.
 And for example to your children, To whom I wish all good,
 I send you here God's perfect truth, And seal it with my blood;--
 Keep always God before your eyes, With all your whole intent,
 Commit no sin in any way, But keep his commandments.

-- John Rogers (first martyr burnt at the stake by Bloody Mary, 1554)

O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge" — which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.

—1 Timothy 6:20-21

In what way shall we attain to this settled happiness of soul? How shall we learn to enjoy God? How shall we obtain such an all-sufficient soul-satisfying portion in Him as shall enable us to let go the things this world as vain and worthless in comparison? I answer, this happiness is to be obtained through the study of Holy Scriptures. God has therein revealed Himself unto us in the face of Jesus Christ.

— George Mueller

To gain entire likeness to Christ, I ought to get a high esteem of the happiness of it. I am persuaded that God's happiness is inseparably linked in with His holiness. Holiness and happiness are like light and heat. God never tasted one of the pleasures of sin. Christ has a body such as I have, yet He never tasted one of the pleasures of sin. The redeemed, through all eternity, will never taste one of the pleasures of sin; yet their happiness is complete... Every sin is something away from my greatest enjoyment... The devil strives night and day to make me forget this or disbelieve it. He says, Why should you not enjoy this pleasure as much as Solomon or David? You may go to heaven also. I am persuaded this is a lie — that my true happiness is to go and sin no more.

— Robert Murray M'Cheyne

THE SANDS OF TIME ARE SINKING

The sands of time are sinking,
 The dawn of heaven breaks,
 The summer morn I've sighed for,
 The fair, sweet morn awakes:
 Dark, dark hath been the midnight,
 But dayspring is at hand,
 And glory—glory dwelleth
 In Immanuel's land.

Oh! well it is forever,
 Oh! well forevermore
 My nest hung in no forest
 Of all this death-doomed shore!
 Yea, let the vain world vanish,
 As from the ship the stand,
 While glory—glory dwelleth
 In Immanuel's land.

The King there in His beauty,
 Without a veil is seen:
 It were a well-spent journey
 Though seven deaths lay between:
 The Lamb with His fair army,
 Doth on Mount Zion stand;
 And glory—glory dwelleth
 In Immanuel's land.

Oh! Christ He is the fountain,
 The deep sweet well of Love!
 The streams on earth I've tasted,
 More deep I'll drink above:
 There, to an ocean fullness,
 His mercy doth expand,
 And glory—glory dwelleth
 In Immanuel's land.

I've wrestled on towards Heaven,
 'Ganst storm, and wind, and tide;—
 Now, like a weary traveler,
 That leaneth on his guide,
 Amid the shades of evening,
 While sinks life's ling'ring sand,
 I hail the glory dawning
 From Immanuel's land.

Oh! I am my Beloved's,
 And my Beloved's mine!
 He brings a poor vile sinner
 Into His "house of wine:"
 I stand upon His merit,
 I know no other stand,
 Not e'en where glory dwelleth
 In Immanuel's land.

The bride eyes not her garment,
 But her dear Bridegroom's face;
 I will not gaze at glory,
 But on my King of Grace—
 Not at the crown He giveth,
 But on His pierced hand:
 The Lamb is all the glory
 Of Immanuel's land.

Words based on the Letters of Samuel Rutherford (1600-1661)