

The Family of God
Wisdom (Proverbs 2:1–15)
By Pastor Jeff Alexander (2/28/2021)

Introduction

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens” (Proverbs 12:15).

“The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the hearts of fools” (Proverbs 15:7).

“Claiming to be wise, they became fools” (Romans 1:21).

1. The fool says, *“There is no God”* (Psalm 14:1). The Hebrew states simply, “No, God.” It is not a denial of God but a *rejection* of Him.
2. In Romans 1 Paul (vv. 18–32) shows that God’s wrath is leveled against those who reject God by willfully suppressing the truth about God and His ways.
 - a. Those who do not honor God become futile in their thinking, their misguided minds plunged into darkness.
 - b. In that state they make fools of themselves. *“Claiming to be wise, they became fools”* (Romans 1:21).
 - c. In response, God turns them over to their own vile desires for which they receive the fitting wages of their perversions. Their reward consists of three descending stages of moral decay: (1) sexual defilement, (2) degrading into sexual perversion—unnatural sexual corruption, (3) and finally *reprobate*—depraved thinking.
 - d. Their *reprobate* minds (*debased*—tested and rejected, being found untrustworthy and unfit) are a consequence of refusing to acknowledge God (Job 21:14). In rejecting God and His ways, they break all rules of proper and godly and heartily approve all such conduct in others.
3. We are witnessing this final stage in our society, a *dystopian culture* (one where there is great suffering or injustice). Such a culture puts us all in grave danger.

Logic is the enemy of the Left. And reason is treason.

To meet the dystopian future before us, we need Biblical wisdom—divine *skill* or ability to think and reason in a spiritually sensible way toward God and to correctly devise plans to live in accordance with His desires.

I. The Pursuit of Wisdom

1. Finding the knowledge of God for true wisdom demands diligent spiritual pursuit.
 - a. A true son *receives* his Father’s words (instruction). As Israel’s Father, the Lord *“declared to [them] his covenant, which he commanded [them] to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments”* (Deuteronomy 4:13). The term translated *commandments* is usually rendered *words or things*—truth concepts for instruction in godliness.
 - b. A true son *treasures* (greatly esteems) these *concepts* as the code of wisdom—the skill know, understand, and fear God. We see here the disposition one needs to be wise—*treasuring* concepts that reward the holder with the fear of God. The *fear of God* is wisdom in operation (Proverbs 15:33; Proverbs 1:7; Psalm 34:11–14). To treasure these concepts, one must pay *extraordinarily careful attention* to what is a spiritually sensible—what God says in His Word about His person,

His will, and His principles. Then one must determine and pursue what pleases Him, inclining “*his heart to understanding*” (Colossians 1:9–11; 2 Timothy 2:4).

- c. A true son is *determined* to find true wisdom. He devotes himself to earnest and persistent prayer, calling out to God for insight and raising his voice in prayer for understanding. This he does while searching Scripture, diligent and resolute. He seeks out wisdom like a prospector looking a rich silver deposit or, as a treasure hunter searching for hidden treasures. “*Then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God*” (v. 5).

II. The Source of Wisdom

1. The Lord *graciously grants* wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
 - a. However, the Lord gives wisdom only at the end of diligent searching by one who is determined to seek it out. The Lord never rewards laziness.
 - b. He *stores up* [stashes in secret like a treasure] sound wisdom for the *upright* (the just person who does what is right and, thus, pleases God). The one who is upright finds what the Lord has hidden away—sound wisdom.
2. The Lord *watches over and protects* those who are in the pursuit of true spiritual wisdom.
 - a. He *shields* those who live in integrity (one who is simple, structurally sound, and morally complete).
 - b. He stands as a *watchman*, vigilantly protecting and *guarding* the way of His saints. The Lord desires that His people live in such a way that outsiders will notice how the rules they live by are righteous and will be impressed that those who live by them are wise and understanding (Deuteronomy 4:5–8).

III. The Benefit of Wisdom

1. Three things will happen to one who follows the Lord’s instructions:
 - a. He will acquire *understanding* with respect to righteousness, justice, equity (uprightness), and every good path.
 - b. As wisdom enters the *heart*, knowledge of the holy becomes *pleasant* to the *soul*.
 - c. *Discretion* (defense against evil) will watch over him. The term translated *discretion* comes from a root meaning to plot or devise a plan; thus, *discretion* is the plan enacted.
2. His understanding of the Lord’s ways will *guard and deliver* him from both the way of evil and men of perverted speech.

Conclusion

1. When you pursue true spiritual wisdom you will be delivered from illicit sexual activity (v. 16). Here we circle back to Romans 1. Fools fall for the forbidden woman because God has “*given them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity*” (Romans 1:24). The wise are protected from her wiles, which lead only to death. Sadly, we hear of the moral failures of many who profess to be followers of Christ. Their moral lapse clearly demonstrates their failure to pursue the fear of the Lord.
2. When you pursue true spiritual wisdom, you will walk in the good way and keep to the paths of the righteous (v. 20). Are you listening to the Word of your Heavenly Father? Do you truly fear the Lord? Are you interested only in what pleases the Lord in your daily walk? Are you seeking the wisdom that only He gives?