

Getting Wisdom – Week 2

Two Weeks ago – The Fear of the Lord

Last Week with Dr. Barker – Knowing God as Father (Hosea 11)

Proverbs 1:1-7 NIV

Purpose and Theme

1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: ²for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; ³for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; ⁴for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young— ⁵let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance— ⁶for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise. ⁷***The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge***, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 9:10 NIV

¹⁰The ***fear of the LORD*** is the beginning of ***wisdom***, and ***knowledge*** of the Holy One is ***understanding***.

- This literary parallelism teaches us the concept that you can't know God if you don't fear God.

Proverbs 2:1-11 NIV

Moral Benefits of Wisdom

2 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, ²turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding— ³indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, ⁴and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, ⁵then you will ***understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God***. ⁶For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. ⁷***He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless***, ⁸***for He guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones***. ⁹Then ***you will understand what is right and just and fair***—every good path. ¹⁰For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. ¹¹Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

Knowing Right from Wrong & Receiving His Rewards!...

From biblestudy.org

1. You will understand what it means to have ***reverence for God*** and find the ***knowledge of God*** (**Proverbs 2:5**). Jesus said, " 'Keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who searches finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.'" (Matthew 7:7 - 8)
2. God promises ***success to the righteous***. He also ***promises to be a shield*** to anyone whose walk is blameless before him (**Proverbs 2:7**).
 - There is victory and success for those who live wisely!
3. God will ***protect the way*** of those who are faithful (**verse 8**)
 - God watches over us as we seek to obey and honour Him.
4. We will come to ***understand what is right and good*** (**verse 9**)
 - God teaches us a set of values and truth that don't change with time or cultural shifts. They are built into the design of the world that He has made.

Topics that you'll find in the Book of Proverbs...

- **wisdom** versus **folly**
- **generosity** versus **stinginess**
- **joy** versus **anger**
- **love** versus **lust**
- **diligence** versus **laziness**
- **good** versus **bad life-styles**
- **real** versus **false security**
- **justice** versus **injustice**
- **what God loves and what He hates**

The book of Proverbs is presented as the lessons of a teacher (Sage) to his students. It addresses the reader as "my son", which in Biblical terms includes "my daughter". The students are spurred on **to DO the good and wise things, and to AVOID the bad and foolish things**. By contrasting the right with the wrong, and pointing to the different outcomes, the teacher shows the students what is the best way to shape their lives.

Understanding the Seasons of Life and How to Enjoy Life!...

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 NIV

A Time for Everything

3 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,

³ a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,

⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

⁶ a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,

⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,

⁸ a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

⁹ What do workers gain from their toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet^[a] no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. ¹² ***I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live.*** ¹³ ***That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.*** ¹⁴ I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him.

- God has designed this world for our enjoyment! He wants us to have fun, and enjoy what He has created for us.
- He has created seasons and times in life to teach us balance and to teach us the fear of the Lord so that we will learn to depend on Him and obey His commands.

Judgement and Evaluation Comes for Everyone...

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 NIV

12 ***Remember your Creator in the days of your youth***, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them"—

² before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark, and the clouds return after the rain;

³ when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men stoop, when the grinders cease because they

are few, and those looking through the windows grow dim;

⁴ when the doors to the street are closed and the sound of grinding fades; when people rise up at the sound of birds, but all their songs grow faint;

⁵ when people are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets; when the almond tree blossoms and the grasshopper drags itself along and desire no longer is stirred. Then people go to their eternal home and mourners go about the streets.

⁶ Remember him—before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the wheel broken at the well,

⁷ and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

⁸ “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher.^[a] “Everything is meaningless!”

The Conclusion of the Matter

⁹ Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs. ¹⁰ The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true.

¹¹ ***The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one shepherd.***^[b] ¹² Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them.

Of making many books there is no end, and much study wears the body.

¹³ Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter:

Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

¹⁴ ***For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.***

- God reminds us that in our youth we need to learn to honour the Lord. As we age it doesn't get any easier! Our bodies eventually wear out and fail.
- The final reason that Solomon writes to obey God and live a life of wisdom is that at the point of our death or of the second coming of Jesus Christ, we will all be judged by God. Every deed, every hidden thing good or evil will be evaluated.
- God will finally judge all the evil things that people thought they got away with.

Conclusion of our two introduction messages on wisdom...

- 1. We must learn to fear the Lord to truly know Him.**
- 2. We must keep in mind that there is a judgement day for everyone and every action.**

It's time to Read...The 31 Day Challenge

- **Starting July 1st, let's take the next 31 days reading through the book of Proverbs (one chapter per day). Let's see how God will use this to propel us forward!**

Here are a number of passages dealing with the Judgement of God. Our world is broken because of sin. Every person born into this world has a sin nature and is by birth born as an enemy of God. **Yet God in his incredible love, reached out to us in Jesus Christ, so that those who repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved.** Our **salvation in Jesus changes us** from being enemies of God to being His children... Sons & Daughters of the King! Judgement day is coming... It is our choice to, metaphorically speaking, end our life in the garbage bin (off to eternal judgement) or end it in the recycling bin (given a new resurrected body to live with God forever in the New Heaven & Earth).

The Judgement of God – Each of us will Give an Account

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 New International Version (NIV)

¹³ Now all has been heard;
here is the conclusion of the matter:
Fear God and keep his commandments,
for this is the duty of all mankind.
¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment,
including every hidden thing,
whether it is good or evil.

Isaiah 45:22-25 New International Version (NIV)

²² “Turn to me and be saved,
all you ends of the earth;
for I am God, and there is no other.
²³ By myself I have sworn,
my mouth has uttered in all integrity
a word that will not be revoked:
Before me every knee will bow;
by me every tongue will swear.
²⁴ They will say of me, ‘In the LORD alone
are deliverance and strength.’”
All who have raged against him
will come to him and be put to shame.
²⁵ But all the descendants of Israel
will find deliverance in the LORD
and will make their boast in him.

Matthew 25:31-46 New International Version (NIV)

The Sheep and the Goats

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.
³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’
³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’
⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’
⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me

nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

⁴⁶ "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Romans 14:10-12 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister^[a]? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹ It is written:

"'As surely as I live,' says the Lord,

'every knee will bow before me;

every tongue will acknowledge God.'"^[b]

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

2 Corinthians 5:9-11 New International Version (NIV)

⁹ So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

The Ministry of Reconciliation

¹¹ Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

Philippians 2:9-11 New International Version (NIV)

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Revelation 20:11-15 New International Version (NIV)

The Judgment of the Dead

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.

¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:1-8 New International Version (NIV)

A New Heaven and a New Earth

²¹ Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth,"^[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death'^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. ⁸ But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

Revelation 22:12-15 New International Version (NIV)

Epilogue: Invitation and Warning

¹² “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

¹⁴ “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.