

Cultivating Wisdom | Proverbs 1:1-7

The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth –

Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

What is wisdom?

- a. Wisdom is spiritual depth perception
 - i. Instruct the simple
 - ii. Prudence;
 1. “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger...” (James 1:19)
 - iii. Discernment;
 1. “Discernment is the skill of understanding and applying God’s Word with the purpose of separating truth from error and right from wrong...if we refuse to exercise discernment and are swayed by every wind of doctrine, we deny Him glory that is rightly His and do not learn to enjoy Him more.” (Tim Challies)

Why do we need wisdom?

- a. “Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth.” (Proverbs 4:5)
- b. “Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.” (Proverbs 3:13-15)

How do we get wisdom?

- a. The fear of the Lord
 - i. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Proverbs 1:7)
- b. Search the Scriptures
 - i. "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding..." (Proverbs 2:6)
- c. Wise counsel
 - i. Discipleship in community
 1. "Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life." (Proverbs 16:31)
 - ii. Observation
 1. "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety." (Proverbs 11:14)
 1. "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice." (Proverbs 12:15)

Benediction | Proverbs 4:5-9

Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown.