

**Proverbs 2: 1-9; “For the Lord gives Wisdom”, A Devotional Bible Study given
on the evening of June 3rd, 2020, by Pastor Paul Rendall,
for those gathered to listen.**

These verses teach us how God’s wisdom is to be found, and what you will understand when you do find it. Wisdom, Solomon says in verse 6, is given to a person by the Lord. But what we need to understand in relation to the Lord’s giving of wisdom is that you will not find it by any other way than by diligent labor. In these verses before us, therefore, there are 3 sets of words which will help us to understand these things. The 1st set of words is treasure, incline, and apply, all of which apply to learning God’s will and His ways. (verses 1 and 2) The 2nd set of words is cry out, seek, and search, which apply to a person’s learning to pray. (verses 3-6) And the 3rd set of words is stores up, guards, and preserves, which all apply to what God does for the person who seeks for wisdom. (verses 7-9) So let us tonight see what we can do to find wisdom, and pray for God to help us to understand her better.

1st of all – The words treasure, incline, and apply, all which refer to learning of God’s will and His ways.

Verse 1 – “My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding...” These words “treasure”, “incline”, and “apply” are all verbs which tell us what we must do in order to find that wisdom which is from above, that wisdom which is from God Himself. James chapter 3, verses 17 and 18 say – But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.” To find this wisdom, you must treasure God’s commands within you, you must incline your ear to her, and you must apply your heart to understanding.

But who exactly is this wisdom that is being spoken of here, for both the words, “wisdom” and “understanding” are being personified in these verses. Verse 4 – “If you seek for her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures.” And verse 20-22 of chapter 1 – “Wisdom calls aloud outside; she raises her voice in the open squares.” “She cries out in the chief concourses, at the opening of the gates in the city.” “She speaks her words: ‘How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity?’” So too, we can say that discernment and understanding are all inherently to be found in this woman wisdom. Well, we can understand this better if we will remember that Solomon is addressing these words to own His son Rehoboam, or we could speak more broadly; he is talking to anyone who would be wise with the wisdom which comes from God.

Solomon portrays wisdom in Proverbs chapter 1, verse 20, as a bold and beautiful, morally discerning woman. He says – “Wisdom calls aloud outside; she raises her voice in the open squares.” “She cries out in the chief concourses, at the opening of the gates in the city she speaks her words: ‘How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity?’” Since this is the case, I believe that we can reasonably conclude that wisdom personified is a woman actually represents the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. She is the spouse of our Lord Jesus Christ. We who belong to Christ and who make up His Church know that it is “in Him” that are found all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2: 3) And since we are espoused to Christ mystically speaking, it is our constant practice as His Church to train up the children in our midst, and all babes in Christ, in the way that they should go, so that when they are old, they will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22: 6) It also is our constant practice to preach the gospel to every creature, that they might find Christ and the wisdom that is inherently personified in Him.

But Christ’s Church is this bold and holy woman who calls out to everyone everywhere, telling them of how they might find her Savior and Lord, and become a part of us, the mystical Bride of Christ. Wisdom is represented by all of her members; all her fathers, mothers, sons and daughters, teachers, preachers, elders, and all those who counsel the naïve. She calls out through them, not

only within the walls of the church building, but also outside in the fields and streets of this world. She reasons with many of the people of this world, in the marketplaces, and she speaks to them in the gates of the city. She tells them, even as Solomon does, about the importance of treasuring the word of God within you, and applying your heart to understanding. People should be told to come to a good Bible-believing, Bible-preaching and teaching church in order to their hearing the gospel, and learning how to walk in the fear of the Lord. They are those who preach and teach all men everyone repent and to believe in Jesus Christ. They are those who say – Receive my words which are from God’s word, and treasure God’s commands within you; the first of which is – Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and You will be saved.

Once a person is saved, then they have spiritual understanding given to them by the Holy Spirit in the New Birth. They will receive God’s words. Look over at 1st John chapter 5, verse 20 – “And we know that Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ.” Incline your ear to the wisdom of the Scriptures, by which you can be made wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (2nd Timothy 3: 15) It is the Church of Jesus Christ who is this wisdom personified as a woman. She teaches men to observe all things which Christ has commanded. She teaches men to do all the do all the wise things which Solomon commands in these verses, in order that they might grow up into Christ, and become wise themselves in all their behavior by receiving God’s word and treasuring His commands within them.

To become a mature Christian you must receive God’s words. You must treasure God’s commands within you. You must hide them in your heart. You must teach them to your children, and talk of them when sit your house, when you walk by the way, when lie down, and when you rise up.” So Moses says Deuteronomy 6: 6 and 7. But you must learn to do this by faith in Christ, and not think to do it by your own strength and wisdom. Listen to John chapter 15, verses 9-14 – “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.” “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.” “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.” “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

I believe that what Jesus is saying is that if you incline your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding you will be fulfilling one of the great purposes for His dying on the cross for Your sins. It is so that you go on to maturity; that you might abide in His love. And He says that it is by keeping His commandments that you will abide in His love. He says this to you so that you might have real spiritual joy. When you receive the words of wisdom personified and your treasure His commands within you, you will come to greater wisdom on how to love other Christians, and all people around you.

The 2nd set of words is cry out, seek, and search, which apply to a person’s learning to pray. (verses 3-6)

“Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.” “For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding....” We can say that the Lord gives wisdom and understanding when we learn to pray. The prayer of the Christian, or the one who would be a Christian is a cry for discernment, a lifting up of your voice for understanding, a seeking for her as for hidden treasures, and God’s answering to give that person the fear of the Lord; an opening of their eyes to the truth of correct knowledge about Him which is only found in the Bible.

Now, we must understand that sometimes a person may seek and cry out in prayer to God in order to know whether He really exists, and He will not answer them and so they conclude wrongly that there is no God, and they become an atheist. But they should understand that the reason that they did not come to know God and find the wisdom of the Scriptures which would lead them to salvation is because they think that God owes it to them to prove to them that He exists. He is

obligated to reveal Himself to them because they have cried out to Him. Perhaps they have cried out to Him for a long time; perhaps for many days or weeks together. And yet they did not find Him. Why was this? It was because they thought that their being saved would come through their works or their efforts, and that God would reveal Himself to them on their terms. This God will not do for two reasons. 1st – Because that person is proud in their intellect and they will not submit to God’s word or His definition of things in the Bible, when they are told that it is God’s word. His word will not be compromised or changed for any man’s fallen reasoning. And then, secondly, because they do not have saving faith. Saving faith comes by believing that God is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him, even as these verses that we are studying tell us.

God’s wisdom in knowing Him and walking with Him comes in relation to seeing what He has to give to you, and show you, as something which is most precious. More precious than silver or gold. The fear of the Lord is a treasure hidden, and it only will be discovered by those who will diligently seek Him, looking for the great reward of finding Him. He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11: 6) The fear of the Lord is something that must be spiritually understood, by God’s granting it to you by His grace. It is called “finding the knowledge of God” here in verse 5. Psalm 111: 10 says – “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments.”

Look at Psalm 112: 1 – “Praise the Lord!” “Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments.” What will this man be like who fears the Lord? His descendants will be mighty on earth, the generation of the upright will be blessed.” “Wealth and riches will be in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.” “Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.” “A good man deals graciously and lends; He will guide his affairs with discretion.” “Surely he will never be shaken; the righteous will be in everlasting remembrance..” “He will not be afraid of evil tidings: His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.” “His heart is established; He will not be afraid, until he sees his desire upon his enemies.” This is what it means to fear the Lord, and the man will be blessed who has this godly fear.

The 3rd set of words is “stores up, guards, and preserves”, which all apply to what God does for the person who seeks for wisdom. (verses 7-9)

“The Lord stores up (or He lays up) sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints.” “Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity, and every good path.” These words speak to us of what God faithfully does for those who seek wisdom from Him. He will stores up wisdom for those who walk uprightly before Him; that is by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. The treasure is stored up in the Scriptures to be sure, but it is also stored up in terms of God’s ordering all things to work together for good for those who love Him, for those who are called according to His purpose. For them He has plans for good, plans for their welfare, and not for their calamity, even as it says in Jeremiah 29: 11 – “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

Yes, God has given faith in the New Birth, and God will guard what He has given. He will be a shield to those who walk uprightly. He will guard the paths of justice, in relation to you, by watching over you everywhere you go, and in relation to everything that you do. You will grow to understand what is right better and better, and what you should do in the many situations of your life when you are perplexed. For He will give you wisdom and show you and teach you His paths and His ways, and bring you everything good because the Lord Jesus is your Lord. He is the way, the truth, and the life. He has gone before you to prepare a place for you, that where He is, you also will someday be.