

Learning Wisdom from the Wisest Man

1 Kings 3:9-12 – God asked Solomon what blessing he wanted. He chose __wisdom_____
The purpose of this study is to learn what Solomon said in Proverbs about wisdom.

The Value of Wisdom

Proverbs 8:10,11 – Solomon said wisdom was more valuable than __gold, silver, gems_____
If you could choose between Bible wisdom or millions of dollars, which would you choose?

Why Wisdom Is Essential

8:18,19 – The value of wisdom is in its “fruit”: the benefits it can have in your life.

Wisdom is essential to do God’s will.

8:18 – With wisdom comes __righteousness_____.

2:10-12,20 – Wisdom delivers you from __evil__ so you may walk in __goodness__

Wisdom means knowing and using God’s will properly. Foolishness refers to ways contrary to God’s will. Wisdom is valuable because you cannot please God unless you know and do His will.

Wisdom is essential to receive God’s blessings.

Wisdom leads to blessings in this life.

3:1,2 – Keeping wise commands gives __length of days/years__.

Name some examples in which sin leads to sickness, accidents, death: __drugs, drinking, smoking, sexual immorality (diseases), wars__

3:13 – __Happy____ is the man who finds wisdom.

Wisdom leads to favor and reward from Jehovah.

8:32-36 – One who heeds wisdom finds __life__ and obtains __favor__ of the Lord.

Matthew 25:46 – The wicked go to eternal punishment but the righteous into __eternal life__.

How urgently do we pursue wisdom so we can be righteous and have God’s blessings?

The Danger of Failing to Appreciate Wisdom.

In practice, many people prefer not to know the wisdom of God’s word.

1:7 – The foolish __despise__ wisdom and instruction.

1:22,29,30 – Some love simplicity (ignorance) and hate __knowledge__.

Some hate those who speak truth. Name some Bible examples of people who were persecuted for teaching truth: __John the Baptist, the apostles, Jeremiah, Stephen, Jesus__

People do not appreciate truth because they love other things more.

“Hate” in the Bible may mean to love something less than we love something else.

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 – Men believe lies because they __do not love truth__

* Some pursue pleasure and wealth. But many do not want to sacrifice for the Lord.

* Some pursue the praises of men. They want to please their friends and loved ones.

* Some pursue pride and self-exaltation. Many are too proud to admit their errors.

* Some follow doctrines of men: human traditions, family religion, creeds, decrees of councils.

How much do you and I value wisdom? What are we willing to sacrifice to obtain wisdom?

The True Source of Wisdom

God Is the Source of True Wisdom.

Proverbs 2:6 – __The Lord__ gives wisdom; understanding is from His mouth.

1:7 – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of __wisdom__.

Only when we truly realize who God is do we appreciate Him as the source of wisdom.

Man Is Not the Source of True Wisdom.

3:5-7 – We must not lean on __our own understanding__

Some “educated” people choose science or human wisdom over Scripture.

Romans 1:21-25 – Note the progression into error:

- * Men know God exists but don’t appreciate Him and give Him glory (verse 21).
- * They think they are wise, but they actually become foolish.
- * They exchange the truth of God for a lie (verse 25) and refuse to believe in God (verse 28).
- * Finally, they end up in religious and moral perversions of all kinds (verses 23-32).

Do we really trust God’s wisdom, even when it differs from man’s wisdom?

The Steps to Obtain Wisdom

Listen.

Proverbs 19:20 – __Listen__ to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise.

12:15 – The way of a fool is right in his eyes, but he who __heeds counsel__ is wise.

3:11,12 – Do not despise or detest the Lord’s __chastening and correction__.

How honestly do we really listen to God’s word, even when it rebukes us?

Work.

2:2-4 – Incline your ear and apply your heart, search like looking for __silver or hid treasure__

If you knew millions of dollars were buried in your backyard, how hard would you search?

2:5,9-11 – If we seek diligently, we will find knowledge, righteousness, and every good path.

8:17 – Those who love wisdom and __seek diligently__ will find her.

Do we read the Bible daily? Do we attend when the church gives us opportunity to learn?

Remember.

3:1 – My son, do not __forget__ my law.

4:13 – Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; keep her, for she is your __life__.

Suppose you were put in charge of keeping a king’s crown jewels. If you lost them, you would forfeit your life. How hard would you work to keep them?

Do we study God’s word as if life itself – eternal life – depends on it?

Apply

3:6,7 – We must let God’s word direct our paths so we __depart from evil__.

9:6 – __**Go**__ in the way of understanding.

1:23 – Wisdom says: “__**Turn**__ at my reproof.”

Imagine a man driving toward a bridge over a canyon. Signs warn that the bridge is out, but he keeps driving till he goes off the edge. That’s the way many people treat God’s word.

25:12 – Like an earring of gold is a wise reprover to an __**obedient** ear__.

15:31,32 – The ear that hears reproof will abide among the wise. But one who disdains instruction __despises__ his soul.

When people tell us we are wrong, we tend to get defensive or make excuses. But the person who cannot accept rebuke cannot be saved! He despises his own soul!

How do we respond when God’s word shows that we need to change?

Conclusion

1:24-30 – If we ignore wisdom, it will __laugh__ at our calamity.

God’s word is not a fire extinguisher that you can ignore till emergencies come. You must study regularly, daily. Otherwise, you will make wrong decisions daily! You must search **now**.

Have you been diligently studying God’s word so you can be wise? Are you following it?

© David E. Pratte, 2025, <https://biblestudylessons.com>