

I. Introduction and Review.

II. First, Seek wisdom from God (the conditions of gaining wisdom). v. 1-4

- A. Be teachable and ready to receive wisdom. v. 1-2**
 - 1. Are you good (receptive) soil? v. 1a Lk. 8:15**
 - 2. Do you treasure wisdom within you? v. 1b Memorize and internalize Scripture.**
 - 3. Are you attentive to wisdom? v. 2 Be a good listener.**

- B. Earnestly pursue wisdom. v. 3-4**
 - 1. Do you cry out to God, praying for understanding? v. 3 James 1:5 I Pe. 2:2**
 - 2. Do you seek wisdom as for treasure? Study! v. 4 Psalm. 1**

- C. Are you growing in wisdom? What do you treasure?**

III. You will enjoy great benefits from wisdom. v. 5-11

- A. You will personally know God, Who teaches you wisdom. v. 5-8**
 - 1. You will know both the transcendence of God's awesome glory and the immanence of intimate fellowship with Him. v. 5**
 - 2. The LORD gives His wisdom to all who seek it. v. 6 James 1:5,17 3:17 Isa. 48:17**
 - 3. God's wisdom will enrich and protect you. v. 7-8 Gen. 15:1**

- B. You will have ethical discernment to choose the right paths in life. v. 9-11**
 - 1. You will be able to know right from wrong. v. 9 Js. 3:13,17**
 - 2. You will have a taste for what is good. v. 10**
 - 3. Such a heart of wisdom will guard you from danger. v. 11**
 - 4. This is the training we need to give our children.**

IV. You will be saved from danger. v. 12-22

- A. By wisdom, you will be protected from evil men. v. 12-15**
 - 1. Learn to recognize such characters. I Co. 15:33**
 - 2. They speak perverse things (against godly wisdom). v. 12**
 - 3. They depart from the righteous path to walk in the ways of spiritual darkness. v. 13,15 4:18-19 Jn. 3:19-20 Eph. 5:8,11**
 - 4. They take pleasure in evil and are repulsed by good. v. 14**
 - 5. They can be very subtle, but by wisdom you be protected from them. v. 15**

- B. By wisdom, you will be delivered from loose women (sexual temptation). v. 16-19**
 - 1. This is a major concern in the book of Proverbs.**
 - 2. You need to be aware of her methods. v. 16b *Seduction and flattery***
 - 3. You need to the loose woman her according to her true character.**
 - a. She is strange. v. 16 I Kn. 11:1f**
 - b. She is a quitter who doesn't keep her commitments. v. 17 Mal. 2:14 Ge. 2:24**
 - 4. You need to realize see where she will lead you. v. 18-19**
 - a. She is a "femme fatale" (A deadly woman). v. 18**
 - b. Those who turn off on her detour, cannot get back on the way to life. v. 19**
 - c. Don't even take the first step in her direction. James 1:14-15**
 - d. The death you face is divine judgement. v. 22 Heb. 13:4 Rev. 21:8 22:15**
 - 5. When you see the adulteress as she really is, she is no longer a threat to you.**

6. **A picture of the covenant unfaithfulness God's people.**
 - a. Israel, going after other gods. Jer. 3:6-10 Dt. 4:9 Hos. 2:13 Je. 2:32 Ezek. 23:35
 - b. Professing believers going after the world, unfaithful to Christ.. James 4:4

- C. **Wisdom has long term benefits. By wisdom, you will be delivered from destruction unto heavenly rest. v. 20-22 Psalm 37:9,11,22,29**
 1. **You will walk with good men (as opposed to the evil and strange ones) on the right way. v. 20**
 2. **You will have a secure place in heaven for eternity. v. 21 Ps. 37:29 Mt. 5:5**
 3. **You will avoid the fate of the treacherous who will be cursed and cut off. v. 22 Ps. 37:38 Dt. 28:63**
 4. **God is a righteous and just moral governor of the universe.**

V. Concluding Applications.

Family Worship Exercise

A. How can you acquire wisdom? v. 1-4

1. **Do you truly treasure wisdom? If not, what do you treasure? v. 1**
2. **Are you a good listener? How could you be more attentive to God's wisdom? v. 2**
3. **Do you pray for wisdom? What kind of answer should you expect? v. 3 James 1:5**
4. **How, in practical terms, does a person "dig" for wisdom? v. 4**

B. What are the benefits of wisdom? v. 5-22

1. **Do you have good mental and moral "taste"? v. 10 How should your tastes change?**
2. **How can you recognize and avoid a wicked companion? v. 12-15**
3. **How can you avoid falling into sexual immorality? v. 16-19**
4. **What are the long term benefits of wisdom? v. 20-22**

C. For next week: Read Proverbs 3

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Read Psalm 37 James 1

More on covenant faithfulness to God.

Apart from God's grace, no-one would choose the right paths.

Context: 2 seeds: Wisdom/folly: Seed: woman/serpent John 8 Rev. 16:20 No surprise antagonism.

Our president knows the consequences: Jenny Craig commercials, etc.

2fold ministry: 1. Children of righteous (Prov. 2: wise man at home with his children) 2. Appeal to fools .

Moral wisdom: not just understanding.

Bible wasn't written to feed egos:

Dt. 5:33 walk in wisdom > live long in the land. Eph. 6:

- a. Looking for job/employee: Unfaithful: family: > look elsewhere.
 - b. If you have been weak: naive, vulnerable to temptation.**How can you choose the right path for life?**
2. **How can you successfully overcome temptation?**

3. What is the most important goal?

- a. Young > grow up: College, career, marriage, children, their college/marriage:
- b. Always looking forward: next thing.
- c. Recently working with friend: Retirement calculations. Try to save enough money while working > quit job: Perhaps retire early! Wouldn't that be great!
- d. And then what? And then you die.

Hear the Master's voice: Word.

He that has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says.

Way: common metaphor. Mt. 7:13-14

Struggle: seed of woman & seed of serpent.

V. 13 Joy of Haaman. Esth 5:9

Mal. 2:10-15

Spiritual battle from Eden.

Won't make strong allegiances with anybody & gives herself to everybody.

- e. You will fear Him for He is awesome. 1:7 *Know Him as Holy and Glorious.*
- f. You will enjoy personal knowledge of Him. *Know Him as Father.*
- g. Last time: dealt w/particular class: (violent gangs). 1:10f others more subtle v. 15