

THE PURSUIT OF WISDOM

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1986 (Rev. 96)

Lesson #11

Proverbs 2:1-9

Introduction: In this section, Solomon reveals the efforts and the value of attaining wisdom.

1. THE INITIATIVE OF THE SEARCHER FOR WISDOM (What activities are required?)

The effort needed is shown by Solomon through four action verbs.

- A. Proverbs 2:1 = receive or accept it
- B. Proverbs 2:1 = hide or store it up
- C. Proverbs 2:2 = incline or turn toward it
- D. Proverbs 2:2 = apply it

". . . To attain wisdom requires constant meditation and a rigid discipline."
(Charles T. Fritsch, as found in Expositor's Bible Commentary, page 911)

2. THE INSTRUMENTS OF THE SEARCHER FOR WISDOM (What is involved?)

The searcher will need two items of his or her person in tune to find wisdom.

- A. Proverbs 2:2 = the "ear"
- B. Proverbs 2:2 = the "heart"

3. THE INTENSITY OF THE SEARCH FOR WISDOM (How serious is the search?)

The intensity is seen by the four action verbs used by Solomon.

- A. Proverbs 2:3 = cry out or call out
- B. Proverbs 2:3 = lift up the voice, cry out loud
- C. Proverbs 2:4 = seek out or look for
- D. Proverbs 2:4 = search for

The similes of silver and a treasure suggest that there is great value in wisdom.

". . . If understanding does not come immediately, one should put forth greater efforts."
(Proverbs, Julius H. Greenstone, as found in Expositor's Bible Commentary, page 912)

4. THE IMPEDIMENTS TO THE SECURING OF WISDOM (What hinders the searcher?)

Solomon used the word "if" three times (2:1,3,4). Why?

- A. The individual is responsible
- B. An active involvement with a receptive spirit
- C. There are consequences for not doing it

5. THE INVESTIGATION OF THE SUBSTANCE OF WISDOM (Where is wisdom?)

Wisdom is accessed through four activities.

- A. Proverbs 2:1 = my words
- B. Proverbs 2:1 = my commands
- C. Proverbs 2:3 = knowledge
- D. Proverbs 2:3 = understanding

6. THE IDENTITY OF THE SOURCE OF WISDOM (From where does wisdom come?)

Solomon makes it clear that there is only one true source of godly wisdom.

A. The name involved: (2:5)

The words "LORD" (Hebrew "Jehovah") or "God" (Hebrew "Elohim") in verse 5 reveal the only source of godly wisdom.

B. The method used: (2:6)

The phrase "out of His mouth" suggests that "words" are used showing that wisdom comes from God's revelation.

7. THE INCENTIVE FOR THE SEARCH OF WISDOM (Why search for wisdom?)

Solomon lists at least five incentives for pursuing after wisdom.

- A. Proverbs 2:5 = understand the fear of the Lord
- B. Proverbs 2:5 = find the knowledge of God
When you seek wisdom you find God. Knowledge of God and fear of the Lord also reveal that wisdom starts with divine revelation, i.e. God's Word.
- C. Proverbs 2:9 = understand righteousness (Hebrew "sedeq")
- D. Proverbs 2:9 = understand judgment (Hebrew "mispat")
- E. Proverbs 2:9 = understand equity (Hebrew "mesarim")

Solomon states that wisdom applies to "every good path" revealing that wisdom not only applies to everyday life but leads to the good things of life from God's perspective.

8. THE IMPACT ON THE SECURER OF WISDOM (How important is searching?)

Wisdom protects the individual in at least four ways revealing its importance.

- A. Proverbs 2:7 = layeth up sound wisdom (Hebrew "tusiyah")
- B. Proverbs 2:7 = a shield to them that walk uprightly (Hebrew "magon")
The words "righteous" and "them that walk uprightly" suggest one's conduct. "Wisdom is a matter of the heart, and of moral conduct, not just of intellectual attainment."
(Proverbs, by Sid S. Buzzell, in The Bible Knowledge Commentary, page 910)

C. Proverbs 2:8 = keepeth the paths of judgment

D. Proverbs 2:8 = perserveth the way of His saints

"Wisdom gives positive, health-inducing moral benefits. It keeps one from evil and contributes to holiness. God protects those who by His wisdom are morally upright."

(Proverbs, by Sid S. Buzzell, in The Bible Knowledge Commentary, page 910)

Conclusion: Wisdom is worth pursuing.