

Introduction: People desire to protect their families, homes, and lives. Wisdom provides individuals with a method of safeguarding their lives.

1. THE PROCEDURE FOR SAFEGUARDING (How does one safeguard his life?)

There are three areas that must be used in order to safeguard one's life.

- A. Proverbs 2:10 = wisdom must enter your heart
- B. Proverbs 2:10 = knowledge must enter your soul
- C. Proverbs 3:21 = keep the words of truth in the midst of your heart

"Wisdom will take up its abode in the inner life, and knowledge will be pleasant to the soul. 'Pleasant' (Hebrew 'na am') describes a quality that attracts one to an object, so knowledge is attractive and attracting. When a person assimilates wisdom, doing right becomes attractive and delightful; for he sees the advantage."

(Book of Proverbs, Crawford Howell Toy, as found in The Expositor's Bible Commentary, page 913)

2. THE POTENTIAL FOR SAFETY (How will wisdom bring safety?)

There are at least two ways that wisdom will bring safety to a life.

Quality	Security
A. (2:11) discretion	(2:11) will preserve you
B. (2:11) understanding	(2:11) will keep you

3. THE PROTECTION FROM SINFUL PEOPLE (From whom will wisdom protect us?)

There are two examples where wisdom protects or delivers (verses 12,16) from wickedness.

	Illustration Number One:	Illustration Number Two:
Characters	(2:12) evil ones	(2:16) immoral ones
Their Discourse:	(2:12) speak perverse things	(2:16) utters flattering words
Their Departure	(2:13) leave the paths of rightness	(2:17) forsakes the companion Forgets the covenant
Their Destination:	(2:13) ways of darkness	(2:18) ways of death
Their Depravity:	(2:12,14-15) rejoice in evil delight in perversity devious	(2:16) involved in immorality
Their Destructiveness:	(none listed) corruption of the whole person, (2:22) cut off from the earth	(2:19) no one returns no one regains life

4. THE PEOPLE WHO CHALLENGE SAFETY (Who are they?)

Two descriptions of these people:

A. "Strange" Prov. 2:16 KJV (Hebrew "zur" Prov. 5:3,20; 7:5; 21:8; 22:14; 23:27,33) can be understood as: 1. a non-Israelite who was outside the Jewish religion and commonwealth of Israel (Lev. 10:1; Ruth 2:10); 2. a stranger, non-acquaintance or non-relatedness (Deut. 25:5; Prov. 14:10; Hos. 7:9); or 3. a woman who turned aside from her proper relationships, such as an unfaithful wife or an adulteress, and is now an outsider.

("zur" by Leon J. Wood as found in Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, Vol. 1, page 238)

B. "Stranger" Prov. 2:16 KJV (Hebrew "nokri" Prov. 5:10,20; 6:24; 7:5; 11:15; 23:27; 27:2) can be understood as: 1. foreign or a foreigner as in Ex. 2:22; 18:3; 1 Kings 8:41; 11:1,8; 2 Sam. 3:36; Judges 19:12; Ruth 2:10,19; 2. an unknown, unfamiliar, or oddity as in Job 19:15; Ps. 69:8; Isa. 28:21; or 3. a technical expression for prostitute or adulteress.

("nokri" by Marvin Wilson as found in Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, Vol. 2, page 508)

5. THE PROVISION FOR SAFETY (What kind of safety will wisdom bring to life?)

Wisdom will bring safety to a life in at least five areas:

- A. Proverbs 3:22 = life to the soul
- B. Proverbs 3:22 = grace to the neck
- C. Proverbs 3:23 = walk safely in the way
- D. Proverbs 3:24 = lie down unafraid
- E. Proverbs 3:25 = not afraid or troubled at surroundings

Notice how this safety will be guaranteed, (3:26).

6. THE PRIVILEGE OF SELECTING WISDOM (What responsibility do you have?)

Choosing wisdom allows for at least two opportunities in life:

- A. Proverbs 2:20 = "may" walk, we must keep doing it
- B. Proverbs 2:20 = "keep" to the paths, we must stay on the path

7. THE PRIZE FOR SELECTING WISDOM (What happens to the wise?)

Those who choose wisdom and refuse wickedness receive blessings.

Quality/Position	Result
A. (2:21) upright	Dwell in the land
B. (2:21) blameless	Remain in it

8. THE PRONOUNCEMENT FOR SHUNNING WISDOM (What happens to the wicked?)

Those who refuse wisdom and choose wickedness receive judgment.

Quality/Position	Result
A. (2:22) wicked	Cut off from the earth
B. (2:22) unfaithful	Uprooted from the earth

Conclusion: Wisdom does safeguard one's life from wickedness and from the consequences of wickedness. This is part of the joy of obtaining wisdom.