

God's Wisdom for Our Lives – Week 8

Acquiring Wisdom: The Manner and The Means

Review

1. Over-Arching Theme of Proverbs: Wisdom (The skill of living in reference to God)
 - a. The fear of the LORD is the foundation of Biblical wisdom (Prov 1:7, 9:10, 31:30)
 - i. “Lord, I trust you, and what you say goes, no matter what”.
 - ii. The fear of the Lord leads to godliness in everyday life.
2. Examining Key Themes Throughout the Proverbs
 - a. There Are Only Two Ways to Live: A Way to Life (Wisdom) and A Way to Death (Folly).
 - b. Don't Follow Your Heart – Lead It!
 - c. The Source of Sin is From Within
 - d. It's Expected to Be Corrected
 - e. The Enemy of Wisdom is Our Pride

Key Theme: There is a manner and a means by which wisdom is acquired.

3. Can you think of goals or objectives that depend on a certain manner and a certain means in order to accomplish them?
4. What might be the consequences of trying to reach a goal with the wrong means, or in the wrong manner?
5. Think of a time when you've searched for something important...
 - a. How might the importance of the thing you're searching for impact the way you look for it?
 - b. How might the importance of the thing you're looking for impact the means you employ?

Read Proverbs 2:1-6

6. According to verse 6, who is the source of wisdom?
7. What are the implications of acknowledging that God is the source of wisdom?
8. According to verse 6, what does the Lord do with wisdom?
 - a. That means that wisdom is a _____
 - b. Read James 1:5... How (in what manner) does God give wisdom?
9. Consider Proverbs 2:1... “receive my *words*... treasure my *commandments*... and Proverbs 2:6... *From His mouth* come knowledge and understanding”...
 - a. What do these verses tell us about the means God uses to generously give us wisdom?
 - b. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17...
 - i. What does this text teach us about the means God uses to generously give us wisdom?

10. Since the Lord generously gives wisdom through His Word and through those who teach, explain, and minister His word, what are the implications for us?
11. What does it mean to “receive” and “treasure” instruction?
 - a. How should this impact the manner in which we respond to God’s instruction to us?
 - b. How should this impact the way we listen to others (especially those who are older or more mature) when they instruct or counsel us from God’s word?
12. How do you make your ear attentive to wisdom and incline your heart to understanding?
 - a. Practically speaking, what does this look like? What does this require of us?
13. How does verse 3 instruct us in the manner we are to pursue wisdom?
14. What does verse 4 say about the value of biblical wisdom?
 - a. In what manner do you search for silver or hidden treasure?
 - b. How does this instruct us in the manner we are to pursue wisdom?

Reflection and Application

15. Are you expecting to receive something valuable from the Lord when you receive instruction from His word or from those who counsel from it?
16. Are you growing in your understanding of the Bible so that you can give something valuable to another who is in need of instruction?
17. How should this discussion shape the way we personally and privately engage with scripture?
18. How should this discussion shape the way we listen to sermons and bible teaching?
 - a. How should it shape the way we teach the children among us to listen to sermons and bible teaching?