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Go and make disciples!

E-votional 127

Knowledge Is Pleasing

Proverbs 2:10-13 (NKJV)

*When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul,
Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, To deliver you from
the way of evil From the man who speaks perverse things, From those who
leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness;*

I was reading this and breaking it down word for word, structure by structure, and just really trying to get what the writer intended and also to get revelation from the Holy Spirit. And so when wisdom enters your heart and knowledge is pleasant to your soul. Two things come to mind. Knowledge can be unpleasant to you and knowledge can be pleasant to you.

I find that when knowledge is unpleasant to me that I have difficulty growing in Christ. But when His knowledge is pleasing to me and I desire his word, then I seem to grow.

And that's kind of in connection with what Jesus said I believe as well in Matthew 5:6, in the Beatitudes where He says,

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

When you are hungering and thirsting for something you are also hungering and thirsting for the pleasure that that sustenance provides when you eat. It's a good thing to have food and be able to pray over it and understand that it's sanctified by the Word of God and prayer. Also that He has given it to you so you can enjoy it and have some sustenance for your life.

Out of this, two things come. The first being that the knowledge of God should be pleasing to our soul in the sense that it is pleasurable, but also secondly, that it is life-sustaining.

Because of this, we want to approach God's word in hunger and thirst, knowing that it should be pleasing to us and life-sustaining. It should be something desirable, but also that it fills a need. A satisfaction of filling that hunger and thirst.

Moving forward from here, we read again, Proverbs 2:10-13 (NKJV)

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You know it's one thing as I reflect on my old life of being surrounded by a group of people that spoke evil and did evil, it was really easy to go along with it. And sometimes in many ways, I may not have been the follower. Sometimes I may have been the leader. The illustration I am trying to point out here is that before Christ, whatever side of the coin I was on, either leading or following, it was really easy to follow the way of evil because I was not disciplined in God's Word and His discretion did not yet preserve me. I simply did not find it very pleasing and could care less for wisdom or knowledge at that time. And behold, because of this predisposition of not desiring wisdom, knowledge, or discretion, I was continuously led astray into bad situations.

Things such as gossiping and slander and things of that nature, false plans, wicked schemes, etc. Those things are really easy to go along with if you don't have discretion and understanding, and a desire for knowledge and wisdom that is pleasing to your soul, like verse 10 says,

When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul.

Discretion is also worth noting. I want to bring out some more possible understanding of this word by making a parallel of it from another place in Scripture. Namely Job 42:2 (NKJV),

"I know that You can do everything and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.

As I did this parallel, let me explain that according to Strong (1890), taken from, <https://biblehub.com/strongs/proverbs/2-11.htm> and <https://biblehub.com/strongs/job/42-2.htm>

The word here in Job for purpose is the same Hebrew word for discretion in our verse from Proverbs. I found this rather interesting and wanted to talk about it a

little deeper for a moment. To understand it further, we have to understand that this Hebrew word has both a negative and a positive connotation as it pertains to different contexts in Scripture. In this context, it is both used in the positive sense.

With that out of the way, it kind of boggled my mind when doing this parallel but at the same time began to make some sense. The idea of discretion to me, in my mind, meant something different than what I originally thought of the word purpose as it relates to the use in the book of Job. However, I can see the correlation in both contexts that purpose and discretion are very similar ideas from the same word. What I mean is that both discretion and purpose are pretty much the same things when viewed in both of the contexts of Proverbs and Job. In saying that, we can further understand that discretion that comes from a knowledge that is pleasing to our soul is something that keeps us in the overall and high reaching purpose of God and away from the counsel of evil that surrounds us.

So when wisdom enters your heart, obviously this is a positive meaning of the word in Hebrew. When wisdom enters your heart and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you. Understanding will keep you so purpose/discretion will preserve you. God's purpose, His righteous decree, His righteous plans, will preserve you in understanding and will keep you to deliver you from the way of evil.

In other words, you will know what is wrong when it's wrong and why it's wrong, and you won't need to go forward with it.

For most people, it can be pretty obvious to spot wrong things, but let us also remember that there are more subtle approaches for us in the church as well. For example, a deceptive teaching or a fallacy that may not be so obvious but has destructive forces within it that can actually, over time water down the Gospel and even the power thereof even unawares to us being trained by it.

And so when wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, God's purpose, and plan, and His discretion will preserve you, and understanding will keep you to deliver you from the way of evil, even in subtle things, as in false teachings and things of that nature.

So it's important to note and more importantly for us today especially today that Jesus made statements that like the one said in Matthew 24:12 (NKJV),

And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

The idea of lawlessness abounding meaning that it's going to become more and more commonplace for people to rebel and to commit lawlessness against God and His people. So, because of that God's people and their love and faithfulness will grow cold because of the wickedness they see. That in itself is wrong and is due to the ease of which to be led astray into a cold love because of what we encounter and see all around us.

It's going to be easy for us as believers to be lured and enticed away from truth. And so here's the subtle thing. It could be so subtle that you wouldn't even notice it until it's too late. And so the protection that we have is that when we have a wisdom that enters our heart and knowledge that is pleasant to our soul, then discretion/purpose will preserve us.

So again, back to knowledge being pleasant to our soul. As food provides sustenance and is pleasing when we are feeding on it. It tastes good, so it's pleasurable, and it provides nourishment to our bodies. And so it is with wisdom and knowledge. It should be pleasant to our soul and something that we crave and desire. When we do, it too is pleasing and satisfying to us.

Brothers and sisters, when that knowledge is pleasant to your soul and wisdom, enters your heart, discretion/purpose will preserve you and you will be kept in God's plans and understanding will keep you to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things and from those who leave the paths of uprightness.

Again, we had mentioned the subtleties of false teaching and the need for discernment and the church today. Well, Proverbs 2:13 says it all.

From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness

This Scripture is detailing that these people had once walked in the paths of uprightness. And so brothers and sisters, it is important to understand that we need wisdom to enter our soul, but we also need to have knowledge that is pleasant to our soul. So in other words, we need to desire God's word. We need to hunger and thirst for righteousness, and we need to allow that to be pleasing to us.

I know there are times in my life where I get into times and seasons where I'm like, it's just not pleasing to read the word. But I need to find time to encourage myself because it's when I start to get into the word of God, that it becomes more and more pleasing to my soul and the more knowledge and wisdom that enter into my life, the more I can see the error of the lawless and the more that I can abstain from the path of unrighteousness.

Because people are going to leave the paths of uprightness, love is also going to grow cold, and if we are surrounded by a church community whose love has grown cold, I'm not saying that this has happened or picking on any specific group, I'm just saying something that reverberates what Jesus taught in Matthew 24:12, that, '*because lawlessness will abound the love of many will grow cold.*' He wasn't just primarily talking about the people of the world, but the people in the future church as well.

So to understand that if we are in a community of believers where their love has grown cold, it's going to be so much easier to fall into this way with them, and to be provoked into lies and deception.

We need to understand and we need to have the wisdom of God. We need His knowledge. We need his discretion/purpose and we need His understanding to keep us from unrighteous ways.

Well, brothers and sisters, we pray again that the Lord has blessed you and that God would just magnify His grace towards you more and more as you seek him more and more. And we pray that your love for God would increase and overflow that His Word would permeate your inner being and that you would be transformed by the renewing of your mind, and not being conformed to the world around you. In Jesus name. Amen

We love you. God bless you.

Strong, James (1890). Strong's exhaustive concordance of the Bible. Abingdon Press.

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