SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

PROV. 2:1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding;

3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding;

4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures;

5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.

7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: *he is* a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; *yea*, every good path.

NOTES

Seek for Wisdom as for Silver

Lesson Text: Proverbs 2:1-9

Related Scriptures: Proverbs 2:9-22; 4:1-27; 7:1-5; Psalm 119:129-136

TIME: between 971 and 931 B.C. PLACE: Jerusalem

GOLDEN TEXT—"For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding" (Proverbs 2:6).

Lesson Exposition

SEEKING WISDOM AS TREASURE—Prov. 2:1-4

Listen to your father, son (Prov. 2:1). A father speaking to his son recalls the commandment given by God at Sinai to honor one's father and mother (Ex. 20:12). The reader is exhorted to store up, or hide away, the father's commands as something precious. This verb was used to describe Moses' mother hiding him for three months to keep him from destruction at the hands of the Egyptians (Ex. 2:2).

God's Word, hidden in the heart of the believer, serves as the foundation for everything that comes after this.

Listen and process (Prov. 2:2). To receive wisdom, a person must discipline himself to listen. In many ancient Near Eastern societies, information was more often heard than read. The book of Proverbs was likely read aloud and possibly chanted or sung.

In modern society, we are subjected to endless distractions. How often are we tempted to glance at our phones—even in a church setting? Will we listen to wisdom, or will we be like those in Proverbs 1:24 who decline to listen?

A proper response involves not just hearing wisdom but also applying it. This recalls the exhortation and warning in James 1:22-25 not to merely hear the Word of God but also walk in obedience to what we have heard.

Cry out for wisdom (Prov. 2:3). We are not to be passive recipients of wisdom. We are to seek and cry out for it. God sometimes drops what we need into our path, but at other times He requires us to seek persistently. Our pursuit should include learning from others, studying, and prayer.

Seek wisdom for its value (Prov. 2:4). To explain how precious wisdom is, the writer used the analogy of silver and hidden treasure.

Jesus used this analogy to describe the value of the kingdom of heaven in Matthew 13:44. Jesus described a person who sold everything to buy a field with hidden treasure. In verse 45, Jesus shared a parallel parable about a merchant who discovered a pearl of great value and sold everything he had to buy it. That is the sort of picture we should imagine when reading Proverbs 2:4.

THE RESULT OF SEEKING WISDOM FROM THE LORD—Prov. 2:5-8

Wisdom leads to the Lord (Prov. 2:5). The result of seeking wisdom is that the one who seeks for wisdom will discover the source of all wisdom. The Lord is the answer to all our questions. Proverbs highlights the fear of the Lord as the foundation of knowledge (1:7) and wisdom (9:10).

The Lord gives wisdom (Prov. 2:6). All genuine wisdom is found in God; we are dependent upon God to reveal Himself to us. As James reminds us, if we lack wisdom, all we need to do is ask God, and He will provide (Jas. 1:5-7, 17). God Himself imparts wisdom to us. In Isaiah 48:17, He promises to teach and direct us.

The Lord is the source of all true success (Prov. 2:7). God desires that we know Him and that we walk with Him. According to 1 Corinthians 1:30, Christ has become wisdom from God, and He is our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. This empowering will be found in union with God in Christ. The second part of Proverbs 2:7 says God will be a shield to those who walk with Him.

The Lord protects His followers (Prov. 2:8). Building on the imagery of being a shield to His followers, verse 8 says that God also guards and protects them. In her prayer of thankfulness to the Lord, Hannah recognized that God guards the steps of His faithful servants (1 Sam. 2:9). God's guidance and protection preserves us and keeps our feet from slipping (Ps. 66:9). He will protect His people from those who seek to harm them (97:10).

A SUMMARY OF SEEKING GODLY WISDOM—Prov. 2:9

Pondering the path of wisdom, crying out to God in prayer, and searching for wisdom as one would for hidden treasure will bring one to the feet of the Lord.

Ultimately, those who seek true wisdom will be drawn to God in Christ, in whom are the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Out of this relationship will come wisdom and knowledge from the Lord, success in Him, and protection from evil.

If we have a consistent and habitual desire to learn and obey God's wisdom, we will understand what is right, fair, and just, biblically and practically. This will be the "every good path" set before those who walk with Him.

—Matthew Friedman

QUESTIONS

1. Which of the Ten Commandments seems implied in Solomon's advice to his son?
2. Where else in the Old Testament do we find the verb used for "hiding" God's commandments?
3. In what form did the original recipients of Proverbs likely encounter them?
4. Which New Testament passage also exhorts us to obey and not merely hear the Word of God?
5. Which parable or analogy of Jesus connects with the exhortation in this passage to search for wisdom "as for hid treasures" (Prov. 2:4)?
6. What is the greatest result of diligently seeking wisdom?
7. According to James, what should we do if we lack or need wisdom?
8. What has Christ become for us from God?
9. What did Hannah recognize in her prayer of thanksgiving?
10. What will be the ultimate result of seeking true wisdom?

—Matthew Friedman

PRACTICAL POINTS

1. The path to wisdom begins with a willing heart (Prov. 2:1).
2. Attaining wisdom requires active obedience to its instruction (vs. 2).
3. Finding wisdom does not happen by accident. We must intentionally ask for it (vs. 3).
4. Wisdom is a precious treasure. It is worth the investment to find it (vs. 4).
5. Seeking wisdom leads us to God (vs. 5).
6. The Lord is the source of wisdom (vs. 6).
7. God gives His wisdom to those who obey His commands (vs. 7).
8. God protects His children by leading them in the right paths (vs. 8).
9. Consistently walking in wisdom will lead you to understand righteousness (vs. 9).

—Glenn Weaver

RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION

1. What is the correlation between wisdom and God's commands?
2. What factors help us seek wisdom?
3. What are some ways we can cry out for wisdom?
4. What amount of effort do you use to seek wisdom compared to wealth?
5. What is the connection between the fear of the Lord and finding knowledge of God?
6. How can we find the wisdom that God offers?
7. Can you give examples of God's protection because someone followed His wisdom?
8. What can we do to help ensure we are on the correct path?

—Glenn Weaver

Golden Text Illuminated

"For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding" (Proverbs 2:6).

Our golden text reveals a crucial truth: while we are called to seek wisdom earnestly, its ultimate source is divine. We cannot create or develop godly wisdom on our own.

The interplay between human responsibility and divine gift is a central theme in this passage. Solomon exhorts his son to actively seek wisdom as he would hidden treasure. The imagery here is striking. Wisdom is to be sought with the fervor of a prospector searching for precious metals.

Yet our golden text reminds us that the Lord gives wisdom. No matter how diligently we search, wisdom is a gift from God. This has profound implications for how we understand and seek wisdom. Genuine wisdom is inseparably linked with reverence for God. The fear of the Lord is a prerequisite for wisdom.

God-given wisdom encompasses not only knowledge (information) and understanding (insight) but also practical discernment for living. This wisdom is not merely an intellectual pursuit, but is also deeply practical. The Lord provides protection and guides our moral decisions. Wisdom touches every aspect of life.

We should approach the pursuit of wisdom with humility, recognizing our dependence on God. Since the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (1:7; 9:10), one practical way to begin seeking wisdom is to ask God to help you fear Him rightly. Additionally, consider studying passages about the fear of the Lord.

—Gene Kissinger