

WISDOM FROM PROVERBS THE KEY TO GETTING WISDOM

TEXT:

Proverbs 14:1 Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.

Proverbs 14:2 He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.

Proverbs 14:3 In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.

Proverbs 14:4 Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.

Proverbs 14:5 A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.

Proverbs 14:6 A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.

Proverbs 14:7 Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.

Proverbs 14:8 The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit.

Proverbs 14:9 Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour.

I just got done reading the book of Proverbs in my Bible reading. There is a wealth of wisdom in the book of Proverbs. The book of Proverbs was primarily written by Solomon though two other minor writers are mentioned: (A fellow by the name of Agur and Lemuel). These are attributed with a few of the final chapters of the book. The rest of the book is the work of Solomon.

The purpose of the book of Proverbs was to give wisdom and understanding. Practical application of knowledge to everyday living.

The purpose of the writing was to make the reader wise. The opposite of a wise son is a foolish son. So in essence the goal of the book is to have us cast away all foolishness and embrace wisdom. The book bombards us with practical spiritual truths to help us in this endeavor.

We by nature are born into this world foolish, void of wisdom, and in need of wisdom. Many have thought the book of Proverbs was written in such a manner that it encourages us to read a chapter a day through out our lives. Think of it. The book of proverbs consists of 31 chapters and the most days that there are in a month are 30 or 31 days alternately with February missing a day because Caesar Augustus wanted August the month named after him to have 31 days. July was named after Julias Caesar. Augustus wanted his month to have 31 days so he stole it from February. So February has 28 days and on leap years it has 29 days. Could you imagine being born the 29th of February?

It seems that maybe the proverbs were set up with 31 chapters to encourage us to read a chapter a day to gain wisdom.

Think about it, how much wisdom do we need daily?

Having said this, there is one character flaw, that if present in your life, will hinder you from getting wisdom. If you have this flaw you will not be able to gain wisdom. You will suffer in this life. You will not prosper. You will not enjoy the blessings of God in your life. In fact you can

read the proverbs until you are blue in the face and it will avail you nothing. You can even pay someone to teach you wisdom and it will not help.

What is this negative characteristic that the Bible warns us about?

Proverbs 17:16 Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?

Proverbs 23:9 Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

The characteristic that you need to void yourself of is what the proverbs calls FOOLISHNESS.

This morning I want to warn you about some of the characteristics that you need to avoid in your life in order that you can attain the wisdom of God's word.

Let's say you want to fill your life with the wisdom that God has for you in the Bible. Imagine your life is a vessel that is meant to receive the precious outpouring of God's wisdom. As long as your vessel is filled with foolishness there is no room to receive wisdom. The two cannot co-habitate. Cast out the foolishness in your life and there will be room for the wisdom of God.

Consider the following:

I. Foolishness Comes From our sin nature and thought life and we are born with these flaws.

Proverbs 24:9 The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men.

A person is a fool who thinks foolish thoughts.

Here are some foolish thoughts that men have:

1. THE FOOL DENIES GOD AND HIS POWER.

Psalms 53:1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.

It is foolish to deny God.

It is foolish to fabricate your own ideas about God.

Think about this:

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Before we can get wisdom we need to have the fear of the Lord. A fool has no heart for wisdom because a fool has no heart for God.

Some people are not so foolish to deny there is a God, yet they live like there is no God. Which is just as foolish as denying there is a God.

Remember Jesus said, that the foolish man builds his house on sand while the wise build their house on a Rock. The Rock is hearing and doing what God commands us to do!

2. WE ALL BY NATURE COME INTO THIS WORLD BENT TOWARDS SIN AND FOOLISHNESS.

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

The best thing that we can do for our children is to correct them and chasten them for their foolishness. Remember foolishness and sin go hand in hand.

If you love your children you will discipline them and chasten them and correct them.

I believe the reason we have so many foolish people in our world today is because we have had parents buying hook line and sinker the lie of the world that disciplining and chastening your children will do them harm. The truth is, the lack of discipline and chastening is what will do them harm.

Consider the wisdom of these verses:

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Proverbs 19:18 Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

Proverbs 23:13 Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

Proverbs 23:14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

I believe one of the reasons our churches are so weak today is because there is a drought in the land for people of wisdom and character. There is a dearth in the land for people with these traits because of improper child training methods.

There is a book in our library that I suggest everyone reads. Not just those who have children but it would do good for everyone to read it because after you read it you may see why there is a bit of foolishness in your life. I fear to say that most of us have not received proper discipline when we were children which may be causing some character flaws in our life. If we recognize these flows we may be able to work on these weakness and remove the foolishness in our life and hearts do we can be approved.

Foolishness, I fear, has been deeply engrained in our lives which may have caused a crippling effect in our capacity to receive wisdom. We need to repent of these inherited blemishes. We need to strengthen our lives in these areas.

II. What is the first step necessary to getting rid of the foolishness in our lives?

Remember the reason many people are crippled with a plague of foolishness in their lives is because they were not properly restrained and disciplined in their lives. The ultimate goal of

child training is to drive the foolishness out of a child and bring them to maturity where they will be able to be corrected by words. Restrained by words, etc.

1. A FOOL WILL NOT BE CORRECTED BY WORDS.

Proverbs 15:5 A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.

Proverbs 17:10 A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

How can you teach someone with words who has never learned to be restrained for the foolishness of their deeds and actions?

How do we get wisdom? We get wisdom by hearing the words of wisdom!
A fool will not hear and will not do what they hear because they have no heart for wisdom!!!!

Do you think just hearing the words of wisdom from the Bible will make you wise?

REMEMBER JESUS SAID:

Matthew 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Hearing alone does nothing for you. You need to hear and you need to do what you hear!

The first step towards wisdom is not just hearing but it is doing what you hear.

A fool makes all kinds of excuses for why they cannot do what God tells them to do!

Someday that will not hold up before our Lord!

In the parable of the unprofitable servant we read about the ultimate fool. A man who was so foolish he wound up in hell. A man who lived his life his way. Did what he wanted to do.. And when he was called into judgment before the throne of God tried to make excuses. READ FOR YOURSELF.. THE PARABLE ABOUT A FOOL!

Matthew 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Matthew 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

Matthew 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Matthew 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Matthew 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

Matthew 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

This man was a fool because he really thought he could make excuses before God one in day for his slothfulness and laziness.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO ANOTHER CHARACTERISTIC OF A FOOL.

2. A FOOL IS UNPROFITABLE FOR SERVING GOD OR MEN.

People who cannot be corrected cannot learn.
People who will not learn are doomed to fail.
People that fail and blame others are fools.

When Thomas Edison tried to make a light bulb and failed he did not quit but was wise enough to take it as correction and learning of what does not work!

Here is an account of what was said to him..

"Someone said to Thomas Edison, 'Isn't it a shame that with the tremendous amount of work you have done you haven't been able to get any results?' Edison turned on this man like a flash, and with a smile replied: 'Results! Why, man, I have gotten lots of results! I know several thousand things that won't work!'"

A fool will make excuses and blame others instead of working hard and getting results.

THE WORSE FOOLISHNESS IS SLOTHFULNESS.. AND THE WORSE FOOLISHNESS IS A MAN WHO WILL NOT HUMBLE HIMSELF AND LEARN FROM HIS MISTAKES LIKE THOMAS EDISON DID AND THROUGH DILIGENCE WORK AND SUCCEED!

3. A FOOL MAKES EXCUSES FOR HIS FAILURES INSTEAD OF LEARNING FROM THEM!

Proverbs 26:12 Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

Proverbs 26:13 The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.

Proverbs 26:14 As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed.

Proverbs 26:15 The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.

Proverbs 26:16 The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

NOTICE HOW FOOLISHNESS AND SLOTHFULNESS GO HAND IN HAND.

As you read through the book of proverbs you read about the virtue of wisdom, diligence, and hard work.

III. BEFORE YOU CAN BE A PERSON OF WISDOM YOU NEED TO CAST OUT THE FOOLISHNESS FROM YOUR LIFE.

It is time to grow up and that time is now. The proverbs are loaded with warnings about living a foolish life. Will you heed those warnings?

The greatest act of foolishness is to not live your life for God!

Jesus called a man a fool who was planning his life without the reality that he was someday going to stand before Him.

Luke 12:16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

Luke 12:17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

Luke 12:18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

Luke 12:19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

Luke 12:20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Luke 12:21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

The wisest man in this room is that man that is wholly dedicated to God and living their lives for God.

The Bible teaches us how to live for God.

Jim Elliot, a young missionary who was martyred for his faith, encouraged others to serve when he said: "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

The wise man is corrected by this book the Bible.

The wise man will be obedient to the Bible.

A wise man will preparing for eternity.

Let me encourage you to read Solomon's book of wisdom and be wise and serve the Lord in this short life. Someday the Lord will say to each of us.

THIS NIGHT THY SOUL SHALL BE REQUIRED OF THEE.

A wise man makes preparation for that day!