

Listen: Wisdom is calling!

KSBC August 9, 2009

Get Wisdom! It Protects!

Proverbs 2:1-22

Intro Life is dangerous. Whether it is the gang of rebellious fools pressing our children to join them, the well educated teacher who says wrong is right, the media star who uses the spotlight to promote darkness, the constant seduction of sexual sin, the allure of the sluggard to get something for nothing, the romance of the politician who claims to have the answer or the million ways that the entertainment industry demands that we rejoice in the doing of evil, life is dangerous.

A word spoken without thought causes seeming irreparable damage. An unchecked glance can lead to unbelievable behavior. Best intentions can result in significant pain. A critical spirit keeps everyone in the family on edge. The pursuit of wealth drowns out the value of togetherness. Lack of appropriate action today can ruin opportunity for tomorrow. A simple slide into self gratification today can impact generations to come. Life matters. Consequences pile up - both good and bad.

Our opponents include not only our own selfish desires, but also the forces of evil and the world system that they currently control. The way of wisdom is forged in fierce competition with evil, not ignorance. Education, better paying jobs and greater opportunity may address external, felt needs, but they do not address the dangers of living in a world rebelling against its creator God.

One of the priceless benefits of acquiring God given wisdom is the protection that it offers. Early in this book written as a training manual for life, God tells us of this benefit. God's wisdom protects people from the dangers present in this world system. Often our definition of danger is adjusted by these wisdom writings. Which is more dangerous . . . a broken leg or a critical spirit? . . . being poor or being too busy? . . . being proud or being ridiculed? . . . meeting a bear robbed of her cubs or meeting a fool in his folly? We need protection from both outside dangers and internal foolishness. God's wisdom helps us identify and be aware of what really is dangerous.

Wisdom Protects! This morning we want to change and sharpen our thinking about God given wisdom by considering the safety benefits that come our way. God places this one sentence, alphabetic poem regarding the benefits of wisdom early in this book to motivate and challenge us to pursue wisdom in greater ways. This chapter sets up a rivalry between the godly influences in the son's life and the thugs like the wicked man and sexual temptress. It teaches us that the battle of wisdom and skilled living happens in our everyday lives. Four synonyms are used to draw our attention back to the way, the path, the course and the byway that are our lives. There are clear lessons on how to acquire this protecting wisdom, how it protects you and what it protects you from. Let's ask God to open our hearts and minds to grow in wisdom today - the kind of wisdom that both exalts Christ and protects us.

Read Prov. 2:1-22

1. Protecting wisdom begins by internalizing God's words. 1-4
2. Protecting wisdom is given to the seeker by God. 5-11
3. Protecting wisdom saves you from significant danger. 12-22

1. Protecting wisdom begins by internalizing God's words. 1-4

Note the Father wisdom begins by calling for a commitment from the son who would learn wisdom. This commitment is required to both learn and gain the benefits of wisdom. Wisdom is hard earned. It is not learned by gathering facts about life but through risk, skill development, sacrifice and life change. Often wisdom does not stick because no one is committed to listening and learning. The commitment described in these verses can be summarized in these simple life values.

- My life will be Word centered. 1 What does it say?

- My life will be principle driven. 1-2 What does it mean?

- My life will be about change. 2 What does it mean to me?

- My life will be about effort. 3 How much do I want God's wisdom?

Illustration - 2:4 My life is a process of finding God's wisdom, extremely valuable and sometimes not in plain sight. I find and take God's truth and process it into my life to show the value and usefulness of God's wisdom. Matt.7:24-29
James 1:22-25

2. Protecting wisdom is given to the seeker by God. 5-11

Note the consequential action of God toward the person who internalizes God's words. God gives you what you seek after. Just as unwise choices result in painful consequences, seeking hard after God's words will result in God's blessing of wisdom.

- Wisdom is given to you in response to faith. 5-8

Faith is living a life of seeking hard after God's words in loyalty to Him.

- Wisdom is given to guard and direct your life. 9

- The wisdom given changes your tastes, perspective and thinking. 10-11

Enter your heart and pleasant to your soul

3. Protecting wisdom saves you from significant danger. 12-22

Note the specific identity and description of the enemies of wisdom. While described as people and ways, they represent thoughts, influences, philosophies and opinions that are supernaturally empowered to draw you away from the protection of the wisdom of God.

- The wicked man represents the distortion of truth. 12-15

- The adulteress represents the seduction of sexual sin. 16-19

- The land represents God's blessings, the way of the protected. 20-22

Conclusion Sending that first child off to kindergarten on the bus. Looking at your teen and wondering if they are ready for the pressures and the perverts. We have movie rating systems, sex education, driver education, gun safety classes . . . the list is endless and mostly beneficial of the ways we try to protect our lives from danger. God calls us to acquire, receive and enjoy his protective wisdom in Jesus Christ.

Possible addition:

Is wisdom retroactive? Does it have an expiration date? Is it too late to become wise?

- Mercy Prov.28:13-14
- Power God gives it
- Pride
- Consequences