

Proverbs 2:1-22
“*Playing With Fire*”

~ INTRO ~

NOW... AS WE CONTINUE...

- Our study in (Proverbs 2)...
- We're discussing the value of wisdom.

PRACTICAL THINGS...

- To help us navigate beyond the landmines of life.

NOW...

- *Proverbs*... were common in the ancient world.
- They were the conduit...
- For the sharing practical truths.

FOR US IN 2025...

- We're inclined to dive into a Google search OR ChatGPT.
- Which are completely fine!

HOWEVER...

- Biblical PROVERBS... provide moral direction for the *soul* –
- The animation & value of all human life as God sees it.
- So these *Proverbs* are perspectives inspired by God.

BLOCK #1 – THE PURSUIT OF WISDOM: (vv.1-5)

SOME PEOPLE...

- Don't grow as Christian's...
- Simply because They don't apply themselves.

These verses define the pursuit of wisdom...

- And the result of that pursuit.

(v.1) *Receive / treasure* = Investment... valuing what God has to say.

- Living by His word is an investment for now & eternity.
- With benefits in the present as well as the future.

(v.2) *Incline* (to prick the ear... like an animal detecting a sound).

- *Apply* = actions / attitudes / beliefs... which a person willingly receives.
- (This is the opposite of doubt).

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(v.3) = Prayer...

- Asking God for insight into His ways (knowledge).

(v.4) = Bible study...

- It's like exercise... (the more you do it the better you get).
 - The more you study the Bible...
 - The better you get at understanding God.

RESULT... (v.5)

BLOCK #2 – THE BENEFITS OF WISDOM: (vv.6-8)

LET'S START WITH KNOWING GOD'S HEART.

- God's desires to give His children the Kingdom...
 - (Luke 12:31-32) NKJV
- The “*kingdom of God*” is not just a place—it's God's active rule...
 - Over our lives.

THERE ARE TANGIBLE DAILY BENEFITS...

- In following God – (Ps. 103:2-5) NKJV.

(v.6) = *Wisdom*... this Hebrew word covers a **spectrum** of ideas.

- But consider this (James 1:5) NKJV
- He also gives *knowledge* = Perception & skill
 - *Understanding* = Intelligence & insight
 - (The believer often cry's out – God help me!)

(v.7) = *Sound wisdom* (lasting success)...

- (2 Chronicles 1:10) NKJV

(v.8) = Prolonged days (1 Kings 3:14) NKJV.

- Personal protection (2 Sam. 22:31) NKJV.

BLOCK #3 – THE TRANSFORMATION OF WISDOM: (vv.9-11)

YOU WILL SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY...

- As your mind is saturated with God's perspective!

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➤ (Rom. 12:2) NKJV

TWO POINTS...

- As we grow in the grace and knowledge of God...
 - Our perspectives are changed – we’re transformed.
 - The end result is
 - (v.10) “*knowledge will fill you with joy.*”

(v.11) “*Discretion will preserve you.*”

- The idea is learning to separate that which is good...
 - From that which is harmful.

BLOCK #4 – THE PROTECTION OF WISDOM: (vv.12-19)

(1 Cor. 15:33) NKJV

“Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.”

TWO IDEAS...

- (v.12) *Protection from bad company*
- (vv.13-15) *Protection from bad practices*

THE NEW TESTAMENT...

- Gives categories of sin that shipwrecks Christians – *Bad Practices*.
 - (Gal. 5:19-21) NKJV

1. Sexual sins

- a) Adultery
- b) Fornication
- c) Lewdness

2. Superstitious sins

- a) *Idolatry*

*An *idol* is anything we look to as a source of:

- 1) Identity
- 2) Security
- 3) Meaning for life other than God

- b) Sorcery / witchcraft

3. Violent sins

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- a) Hatred
- b) Contentions
- c) Jealousy
- d) Outburst

4. Manipulative sins

- a) Selfish ambitions
- b) Dissensions
- c) Heresies
- d) Envy

5. Social sins

- a) Drunkenness
- b) Revelries / orgies

AGAIN...

- The point of this Proverb is to deliver from harmful practices.

(vv.16-19)

NOW...

- When someone slides away from God its always progressive.
 - These verses provide wisdom & give a path of protection:
 - a) Protection from bad company (v.12)
 - b) Protection from bad practices (vv.13-15)
 - c) Protection from bad desires (vv.16-19)

WHY?

BECAUSE...

- Following this lifestyle results in spiritual & physical death (v.19)

FINALLY...

BLOCK #5 – THE END RESULT OF WISDOM: (vv.20-22)

GOD SHOWS US...

- The end result of wisdom at the beginning.
 - So we can avoid taking the wrong road.