

PROVERBS SERIES TWO
AH, THE POWER OF WISDOM
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Prov. 2:1-4; 9-11; 15:4;3:3

(Hook)

Two kid's on Christmas morning... One kid gets this layout of thousands of toys laid out like a pirates treasure. The dad says: "What kind of cookie did you leave for Santa?" "I didn't leave a cookie, I left him cheese!"

Ah the power of cheese! This kid new what he was doing.

Wouldn't you like to go through life and make decisions that maximized your life?

What I want to says is: Ah, The Power of Wisdom!"

Wisdom is so powerful; over the course of a lifetime it will make an enormous difference in every aspect of your life.

Pro 2:1-4; 9-11

Observations

1) Observation How we live matters

It's easy to think about the importance of the big decisions and believe we need wisdom... but in many ways we face a daily stream of small choices... how we relate to friends and family, how we spend our time and money...

The accumulation of all those choices adds up to a lot.

I don't just need wisdom for the few big decision I make... I need wisdom for the everyday decision I face.

(Story)

We had a difficult night – Colie couldn't sleep, which means no one sleeps! The next morning were running late. I'm trying to make coffee and listen to **Prime Minister Allawi's** speech. The kid's are asking for twenty different things. Colie makes her complaint known and I respond by going shhhhhhhh. And in that moment I hurt her feeling. Her head drop, hands to the side in total defeat as she burst into tears soaking her breakfast. Then Chandler calls out "dad I think you hurt her feelings and I still don't have my milk."

At that moment I had to choose how I would handle this. I thought when Roger is in a situation he thinks of some proverb he memorized 5 years earlier.

But no Bible verses were popping into my mind... The only thing popping into my mind was... "I think I need something stronger than coffee right now."

~ However, deep on the inside I knew what the right thing to do was. It was to stop making the coffee... stop telling the kids to be quiet... stop trying to catch Allawi's speech.

The wise thing was to go over and pick up my little girl and hold her and tell her how much I loved her, ask her if I had hurt her feelings.

Pro 15:4

“The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.”

Now, I didn't think of this verse in those moments. However, it's a verse that I've applied and studied in the past. It contains a truth that is found through out the Bible.

So the truth of it was embedded into my mind as something I've experience, and struggled to practice in the past. So that it had become enough apart of me.

In those moments I could be a source of healing to build her up, or I could crush her little spirit.

- Each of us needs to have the wisdom of Proverbs and the wisdom of God imbedded into our hearts and minds.

T>> So that, through the course of our lives we don't just make a few wise decision, but to become people who live wisely.

2) Observation Wisdom requires an active mind

These passages on proverbs are filled with verbs. Calling us seek, learn, turn... to use our minds.

(Story)

The *Arizona Republic* (4/25/95) Steve Tran of California, activated 25 bug bombs in his house at once. When the concentrated spray reached the pilot light of the stove, it ignited, blasting his screen door across the street, breaking all his windows, and setting some of his furniture ablaze.

"I really wanted to kill all the cockroaches," he said. "I thought if I used a lot more, it would last longer." He only needed 2 cans to do the whole house.

He killed the cockroaches' all right, along w/ his furniture.

I submit to you Steve wasn't at his sharpest the day he actuated 25 bug bombs in his house. Being wise requires that we use our minds.

3) Observation It takes a certain amount of awe to really be wise.

Pro 2:4-5a

“and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD”

Solomon is describing an emotional thing here, It's more than being blown away by the wonder of God... It's a desire to align your life with him in total trust.

Without that emotion it's hard to really throw yourself into trusting God.

Having awe changes our perception of things... let me illustrate.

(ILL) Q: How many of you are golfers, You know what your handicap is. I don't even know how to calculate a handicap...
- The last time I golfed hit about 115 if you don't count a couple of mulligan... and the times I had to kick the ball out of the bushes before I hit it.

Q: How many of you would be interested in me giving you a few pointers in your game?

Q: If Tiger Woods walked in and offered you a few pointers... how might you react?
✓ You would be willing to live in the light of Tiger, and his knowledge of the game?
✓ You'd be willing to rearrange your schedule to golf w/ him?

If Tiger woods were willing to live in community with you... most golfers would incorporate significant changes to their game... if... Tiger asked.

The reason is simple... If Tiger Woods walked in the door... all the golfers would have this sense of golfing awe about tiger.

- When we live in awe of God it changes everything about the way we incorporate...
 - ✓ His desires...
 - ✓ His dreams...
 - ✓ His hopes...
 - ✓ The things that God longs for...

We just begin to live in the light God

If a person doesn't have a sense of Awe w/ God, it can be a rather difficult to live in God's wisdom.

Benefits of Wisdom

Pro 2:5-8

"Then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones."

1. You experience increased value.

A life w/ understanding is a life w/ meaning... because you know what matters

You will have deep understanding of what matters most in life. Your life won't be wasted.

(ILL) Apprentice – several times they've shown **Trump's apartment**... and it's a statement of his wealth & power. But I've got to tell you every time all the

interns grovel over how pretty it is I'm like, sorry but it's ugly, It's like "lets gold plate everything... because we can..." "It's like Jeff Foxworthy meets King Tut.

I'd like to look in the kitchen pantry, just to see if the Campbell's Soup cans were dipped in gold first.

↳ It's like he doesn't know how to spend all the money he's made.

It is a blessed person who really knows what's important in life.

(ILL)

Angie has a "macromay foo, foo stitch thing" hanging in our hall way that says :
A hundred years from now – it won't matter what my bank account was or...
The size of my car or house but...
The world may be different because I was important in the life of another.

- One of the great benefits of living in God's light is that you know your life is never wasted... because you know what matters most.

2. You increase you're SDAQ "Stupid Decision Avoidance Quotient"

Yea! Life is more than having a high IQ. When wisdom is embedded deep into the fiber of your mind you will make fewer stupid decisions.

(TV)

Apprentice – Two weeks ago Bradford is in the boardroom with an exemption. He can't be fire... so what does he do? On a quick prideful impulse he gives up his exemption. In that moment he needed a higher SDAQ... he needed to kick up a notch – "Stupid Decision Avoidance Quotient"

We all make stupid decisions, because we're human, but wouldn't it be nice to make fewer, and fewer bad choices.

3. You gain a greater protection from the manipulation and schemes of deceitful people.

Pro 2:12

"Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse,"

We live in a world filled with people will to do bad things to take advantage of other people.

(ILL)

Recently in Southern Arizona there was a group trying to get people to refinance their homes through them, But it was just a scheme to steal their money.
↳ God's wisdom gives us a better chance of seeing through the schemes of evil people.

Application

Q:

How do we gain God's wisdom? Let's look at three ways here this morning.

1. Lean on God's understanding

Pro 2:1

Solomon uses an IF... THEN... structure.
~ Accept my words, and store them up.
↳ This defines leaning on something

Pro 3:5

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

We're asked to do two things here...

Accept it... which means to trust God.

Store it up... which means knowing it... and I'll argue more than just memorizing it, but understanding it.

Memorizing scripture is important and a part of storing it up, but it's more. Because if you memorized a lot of scripture but can't use it because you don't know how to apply it... It's going to be hard to act on it.

I think this is a rather common problem in the Christian community... we've learn a lot, but struggle to use what we know in a meaningful way.

(ILL)

Once upon a time in my garage I had a lot of stuff stored in it. The problem was that just storing it in there wasn't terrible helpful.

Any of you have a garage or closet like that?

Then... One day... One glorious day I organized my garage, I got rid of stuff I didn't know I still had, and I put hooks and hanging bins, and small cabinets with Litttttle tiny drawers with clear fronts on the walls.

I've even found a place for a few tools that I've hijacked from my dad.

Now when Ang says why don't you work on this project or fix this... it's a delight to go to my "work area" in my garage...

~ However... I've noticed that there is a natural drift... Without attention it wants to drift back to a cluttered storage area.

Q: Here's the lesson. How many of us have read powerful passages of scripture, memorized scripture.

Q: How many of us have listened to powerful sermons, *Powerful, deep, awe inspiring sermons, practically Unforgettable... Am I jogging any memories here?*

But then, struggle to do much with what we've learned.

- So the deal here is when ever we read the Bible, or hear a sermon... we need to proactively look for how we can apply it to our lives.

Pro 2:2 “turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding.”

Q: What action do we take when we use our ear? We listen.

2. Continue listening in order to grow and learn

I’ve run into to many people who set their theology at age 20. “This is what the Bible says, and that’s that.” And they spend a lifetime living off the understanding they gained from age 14-20. Sometimes they feel that keeping an open mind is a compromise of just believing what ever I want.

- And of course we don’t want to do that.
- But we also don’t want to close our mind to gaining a better, deeper more accurate understanding of God... That can’t be grasped by the age of 25.

There’s a bit of hubris, or pride in not keeping an open mind open to a deeper understanding of God.

~ When we have a closed mind to learning we become susceptible to living on false perceptions.

(Story)

Mommy ate him!

A 6 year old boy kept telling his 1st grade teacher about the baby brother that was expected at his house. One day his mom allowed him to feel her stomach. The 6 year old was obviously impressed, but he made no comment. He also stopped telling his teacher about his baby brother to be. The teacher finally asked Tommy, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?

Tommy burst into tears and cried, “I think Mommy ate him!”

It was Tommy’s false perception that created unnecessary pain in his life.

~ So many of us are trying to make sense of God... based on a small understanding of God... The more we grow in our understanding of God the more we are able to live with:

Peace, joy, understanding... and life starts to make more, and more sense.

- So the application here is... keep your heart and mind hungry to grow and learn more about God. Never stop learning.

3. Be passionate about your life. Seek God with all your heart

Pro 3:3

Cry out loud.

This is an emotional thing... it’s interesting how gaining wisdom, is both a thinking thing, and an emotional thing.

(Song)

In a very practical way I want us to do that with this song.

SONG

Rescue

I need you Jesus to come to my rescue
Where else can I go?
There is no other name by which I'm saved.
Capture me by grace.

You are the source of life
And I can't be left behind
No one else will do
I will take hold of you. I will take hold of you.

My heart is your... your life I need your hand in mine
No one else will