

"He Stores Up Wisdom for the Upright"
(Proverbs 2:6-9)

Introduction: Life is full of pitfalls. The world is full of dangers on every side. There are places you ought not to go, people you ought not to keep company with, and things you ought not to do because they are dangerous. There are words you ought not to speak, and actions you ought not to take because they are sinful and wicked. The troubles that you face in life are not only physical and outward evils, but also inward and spiritual ones. Satan is at work with all of his minions at all times to try and lead you into the ditch. There are many bends in the road which the devil would love to have you turn down where he hopes to ensnare your soul. And so you need wisdom, wisdom for daily life, wisdom to keep you out of pitfalls of the devil.

But there is One who knows the ways of the devil better than he knows them himself, namely, the Lord. He knows his stratagems; He knows his methods. And He has given to you a book to teach you how to recognize them and how to avoid them. Whenever, during a war, an army plants a mine-field, they always carefully prepare a map to show them where the mines are in case they ever need to cross that field. The devil has carefully planted his mines in the world to try and destroy you as you walk through his territory. But the Lord knows where he has put his mines, and He has provided you with a map to help you carefully navigate around them. And as long as you follow His course, you need not fear being caught in one of the devil's snares. But you must know this path, and you must walk this path.

Having seen last week that wisdom is more precious than gold which perishes, and that you must treasure it and seek it more earnestly than anything else, Solomon now tells us that,

The Lord is the source of this wisdom, and He treasures it up to keep safe those whom He loves.

I. *First, Solomon Says, the Lord Is the Source of This Wisdom.*

A. *He Says, "FOR THE LORD GIVES WISDOM."*

1. *God is the original fountain of all good.*
 - a. *James says, "EVERY GOOD THING BESTOWED AND EVERY PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE, COMING DOWN FROM THE FATHER OF LIGHTS, WITH WHOM THERE IS NO VARIATION, OR SHIFTING SHADOW" (1:17).*
 - b. *Notice that God is the source of every good thing. He is not the source of evil. Evil arises out of the hearts of His creatures.*
2. *But if God is the source of everything, He must also be the source of wisdom.*
 - a. *Remember that wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge to life. It is the skill of using what you know to advance some end.*
 - b. *Now there is a wisdom of the world, a wisdom which is full of bitter jealousy and selfish ambition. James says that "THIS WISDOM IS NOT THAT WHICH COMES DOWN FROM ABOVE, BUT IS EARTHLY, NATURAL, DEMONIC. FOR WHERE JEALOUSY AND SELFISH AMBITION EXIST, THERE IS DISORDER AND EVERY EVIL THING" (3:14-16).*
 - c. *This wisdom is found in the way of doing your own thing, in*

the way of seeking your own welfare at the expense of others, and at the neglect of God's glory.

- d. This wisdom was taught by the devil to our first parents in the garden. When Eve feared the Lord and would not eat of the tree, the serpent replied, "YOU SURELY SHALL NOT DIE! FOR GOD KNOWS THAT IN THE DAY YOU EAT FROM IT YOUR EYES WILL BE OPENED, AND YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL" (Gen. 3:4-5). And Eve learned this evil wisdom, and fell.
- e. It was the same wisdom with which he taught Ahab to covet the vineyard of Naboth (1 Kings 21), with which he taught Gehazi to covet Naaman's silver (2 Kings 5), and with which he taught Judas to covet the money in the apostles' money bag (John 12:6).
- f. God's wisdom is not like that. James says, "BUT THE WISDOM ABOVE IS FIRST PURE, THEN PEACEABLE, GENTLE, REASONABLE, FULL OF MERCY AND GOOD FRUITS, UNWAVERING, AND WITHOUT HYPOCRISY" (3:17). This is the wisdom that you must seek. This is that treasure that you must desire more than anything else. This wisdom comes from God, and is made available to you in His Word.

B. But This Wisdom Does Not Come Through Osmosis. It Is Not Even Conveyed by that Spiritual Light of Illumination which Penetrates the Soul. It Comes from the Mouth of God. "FROM HIS MOUTH COME KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING."

1. It is that which God "SPOKE LONG AGO TO THE FATHERS IN THE PROPHETS IN MANY PORTIONS AND IN MANY WAYS" (1:1).
 - a. It is those writings of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are given to you by God to be your only rule of faith and practice.
 - b. The form the foundation of the church, and of your most holy faith (Eph. 2:20).
 - c. And so when you seek this knowledge, this understanding, this wisdom, realize that you need go no further than the Holy Scriptures. They are the very breathed out Word of the living God (2 Tim. 3:16). And it is this you must study with intensity if you are to attain to an accurate understanding of it. "BE DILIGENT TO PRESENT YOURSELF APPROVED TO GOD AS A WORKMAN WHO DOES NOT NEED TO BE ASHAMED, HANDLING ACCURATELY THE WORD OF TRUTH" (2 Tim. 2:15).
 - d. You must search it tirelessly. God will not hold you accountable to the teachings of men. Your own system of belief does not override His Word. The Scripture is the only standard of truth. It is the touchstone of our faith and lives. Therefore, you must be as the Bereans who, "WERE MORE NOBLE-MINDED THAN THOSE IN THESSALONICA, FOR THEY RECEIVED THE WORD WITH GREAT EAGERNESS, EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY, TO SEE WHETHER THESE THINGS WERE SO" (Acts 17:11). You must study the Scripture to find wisdom.
2. But, although this knowledge will not come without much study, you still need the holy light of His Spirit to study by.
 - a. A man who reads the Word apart from the Spirit's influence, is like a man who tries to read a book which he has absolutely no interest in. He cannot follow it, because it

is not attractive to him. He is blind to its beauty.

- b. If you are in a state of nature, neither will you find the things of the Lord attractive. "BUT A NATURAL MAN DOES NOT ACCEPT THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD; FOR THEY ARE FOOLISHNESS TO HIM, AND HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THEM, BECAUSE THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY APPRAISED" (1 Cor. 2:14).
- c. You need first of all to be born again from above to light that lamp of the soul which will shine that holy light upon the Words of God and make them lovely to you.
- d. And only the Spirit of God is able to ignite the lamp and keep it burning, for He is the oil, and He is the flame. He is the anointing which resides in the hearts of His people, who makes them willing to receive all good things (1 John 2:27).
- e. And so if you are to acquire this knowledge, you must study it diligently, but you must first be empowered by the Spirit through faith in Christ Jesus before you will ever willingly receive it.

II. And So Solomon Says That This Wisdom Is not for the Whole World, But Only for His People.

A. "HE STORES UP SOUND WISDOM FOR THE UPRIGHT."

1. God is here said to treasure up, to store up this wealth for those who are upright.
2. These are His people. These are those who by God's grace have it in their hearts to keep covenant with God.
 - a. They have renounced their former ways of darkness, and have embraced God's offer of salvation through faith in Christ.
 - b. They have received the power of God to walk in His ways.

B. They Are Further Described as Those Who "WALK IN INTEGRITY."

1. Integrity has the idea of completeness, or wholeness.
2. A person who walks in integrity is one who lives according to holy standard of God across the board.
3. If you call yourself a Christian, and yet allow any evil in your life, then you are not wholly a Christian, and if not wholly, then not at all.
4. A Christian is one who approves of virtue in all areas, one who hates all evil and loves all righteousness.
5. This does not mean that he never falls. But when he does fall, he gets back up out of the filth of sin. He detests it and abhors it, and keeps coming again to Christ to be washed from its foul stain. He prays that the Lord would keep him far from temptation and not give him over into its power.
6. Does this describe you? Are you a man, a woman, a child of integrity? Is your life wholly given over to the service of your Lord? Have you died to yourself to follow after Christ? Do you walk uprightly in faithfulness to the covenant of your God?
 - a. If not, then you stand in need of the new birth. You need to run to Jesus to put within you His Holy Spirit to change your heart. You need to embrace Him by faith, and turn from your wickedness. You cannot change your heart. You cannot make yourself love the righteousness that you hate. Only God through the Lord Jesus Christ can do that for you. You must come to Him and ask Him to save you.

- b. But if you are one who is following the Lord in uprightness and seeking to live completely and totally for His glory, then know that the Lord has stored up a treasure of wisdom for you to protect you in your pilgrimage through this earth.
- c. He gives the worthless things like riches and fame to the people of the world which will only increase their judgment in the end. But He gives to you the true riches to keep you from ungodliness and to protect you in the way to heaven.

III. God Has Ordained This Wisdom to Be A Safeguard for You, to Protect You As You Walk Through Life on the Way to Glory.

A. The Wisdom He Gives to You Is a Sound Wisdom.

- 1. It is an efficient wisdom, that is, wisdom which leads to success in your daily life, success as it is measured by God.
- 2. It is not the wisdom of the world, as we saw before, which cannot profit you but only increase your damnation.
- 3. It is true. It is godly. It is profitable. It is able to accomplish what it is designed for.

B. It Is Meant to Guard You as with a Shield.

- 1. A shield is used to deflect something which is hurled your way which is harmful to you. It is a source of protection.
- 2. God was Abraham's protector. He said, "DO NOT FEAR, ABRAM, I AM A SHIELD TO YOU" (Gen. 15:1).
- 3. God was the guardian of His people Israel. Moses said, "BLESSED ARE YOU, O ISRAEL; WHO IS LIKE YOU, A PEOPLE SAVED BY THE LORD, WHO IS THE SHIELD OF YOUR HELP, AND THE SWORD OF YOUR MAJESTY!" (Gen. 33:29).
- 4. God gives faith to be the Christian's shield, for it is able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one (Eph. 6:16).
- 5. And God gives wisdom and instruction to be a shield for you, to protect you against the fiery shafts of the wicked one. His wisdom guards the paths of justice, and preserves the ways of His people.
- 6. If God can keep your feet on the right path, the way of justice, truth, and righteousness, then He will keep you from the fowler's snare.
- 7. He guards your way by throwing up hedges on one side and the other by pointing out where to walk and where not to set your foot.
- 8. Every step taken in the world is a step towards one of two destinations: heaven or hell. The wicked never set foot willingly on the path of the righteous, for it is hateful to them. But the righteous sometimes step into the paths of the wicked, and go off the straight and narrow ways of the Lord.
- 9. But God wants you to avoid those snares. So He gives to you the map of righteousness by which you may steer clear of them.

IV. The End Is that You Might Know the Path of Life. Solomon Ends By Saying, "THEN YOU WILL DISCERN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE AND EQUITY AND EVERY GOOD COURSE."

A. The Path Which Leads to Life Is a Real Path.

- 1. It is a spiritual road, but it is real.
- 2. The Bible says that there are only two roads upon which all mankind walk.
 - a. There is the broad road which leads to destruction (Matt.

7:13).

- b. And there is the narrow road which leads to life (v. 14).
- c. And one day, all who walk upon them will have reached their destinations.

B. *But the Lord Is Here Telling You How You Might Keep to the One and Avoid the Other.*

- 1. *God's whole purpose in giving you His Word was so that you might find this path and walk in it.*
- 2. *But, as the Lord told us, that path is narrow, it is not wide.*
 - a. *You may only walk on it by doing what is right in the sight of God.*
 - b. *You must be willing to give to every man his rightful due.*
 - c. *And you must treat all men with fairness and uprightness.*
 - d. *It is a very narrow and straight road. Perhaps that is why Solomon here uses a term which refers to the track a wagon wheel makes as the wagon moves along.*
 - e. *Often the devil will very subtly disguise his ditches, traps, and snares with a thin covering of light, so as to lead the people of God astray. But the more that you understand God's righteousness, His justice, and His equity, the more easily you will see Satan's devices, and the more easily you will escape his hands.*
 - f. *People of the risen Lord, listen to the admonition of God through Solomon this morning. Lay up the treasures of His wisdom in your spiritual storehouse. Seek this knowledge which is able to keep you safe from the devil's schemes. Seek it with earnestness, seek it with prayer, seek it with the help of God's Holy Spirit. For it will keep you out of enemy's ditch and speed your journey to the heavenly city. Amen.*