

Light to Live By: The Excellent Way of Wisdom

Getting focused

Wisdom, like God, does not change. The precepts and principles of God's word are timeless. In chapters eight and nine, we discover why. Wisdom comes to life in this chapter, possessing the characteristics and attributes that are revealed as that of deity. The insight given in words of wisdom is older than time itself. Before the world was created, wisdom was there. It is this insight that should ignite and maintain our interest. The words of wisdom are truly our insight to life and living. Through wisdom and understanding we learn our purpose in life. We must identify that purpose and pursue it.

Possibly realizing the difficulty one may have in accepting the things stated in the previous study regarding immorality, God reminds us of the supreme nature of wisdom.

Instruction is our most valuable commodity

Read Proverbs 8:1-21

How much would you be willing to pay for a good book—ten, maybe twenty dollars? The wisdom imparted by the words of truth are more valuable than all earthly possessions combined. Learning to evaluate and appreciate God's word is the key to opening the door to spiritual fulfillment.

The wisdom from God is available to all. She cries out in a public way that all can hear. Both the foolish and the prudent hear. The determination of one's character is made by the value one places on her teachings.

The things God teaches us are plain, simple, and right. But not all understand or accept them. Those who find understanding will cherish them above silver, gold, or precious stones. "All the things one may desire cannot be compared with her" (v. 11).

Given the opportunity to ask for anything, Solomon asked for wisdom. The result of the request led him to become

"Take my
instruction
and not
silver, and
knowledge
rather than
choicest gold."
- Proverbs 8:10

“To whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, **you are that one’s slave whom you obey**, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness.”

- Romans 6:16

Memorize and meditate

“I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me.”

- Proverbs 8:17

the most materially blessed man who has ever lived. At a glance, we can see wisdom delivers much more than words; wisdom provides a way of life. The ability to make wise decisions is the first product of wisdom. Additionally, understanding and strength are other characteristics.

The qualities that lead to successful leadership are produced by words of instruction. They can only be found in paths of righteousness.

Wisdom speaks from experience

Read Proverbs 8:22-36

The perfect order of creation is the result of the wisdom of God. It is for this reason we are spoken to as children. The authority to instruct has been established. The only conditional element that remains for man is the desire to receive the instructions expressed by wisdom.

Mankind’s search for the answers of life are found in God’s revelation to man. As we grow we must listen, watch, and wait to gain understanding. In so doing, we will find the way to life—not only an elevated physical existence but also favor in the eyes of the Lord.

The word of God is alive. It is far more than a printed page, and through receiving it, we are the crown of God’s creation. The gift of God is free to all men. To refuse to receive life is to rob yourself of God’s goodness. You exchange life for death. Jesus said, “the words that I speak, they are Spirit and they are life” (John 6:63).

God has opened the door; go in

Read Proverbs 9:1-18

The house of God is built and furnished; we need only to move in. Verse 10 reveals the central aspect to all wisdom and the foundation of foolishness, which is your acknowledgment and respect or disregard for the Creator of all things.

Wisdom provides the keys to your future home. All the necessities for one’s contented existence are made available. The invitation to come in is made. It is at this invitation that we must choose to enter in or turn away.

What is your response when someone corrects you? Do you look to return criticism? Your response will identify

and determine your character. Anger rejects instruction. Patient consideration of instruction produces wisdom, justice, and love.

The opportunity to do right is likened to that of doing wrong. Both call out, we must answer. In this, we learn that the real nature of man is his ability to choose.

Questions to consider

1. Find two things that inform us what the fear of the Lord is. _____

2. What do foolishness and wisdom have in common? _____

3. How does wisdom accomplish all the things it claims in this study? _____

