



DESIRING GOD'S PATH

Proverbs 2:1-22 (NIV)



Review

- Wisdom is meant to be lived out/knowledge is kept internal.
- Wisdom comes from God
- We are all on a path (toward God- away from God)
- If parents/guardians walk in wisdom, their children will be blessed after them.
- The children in the HOPE community are blessed if we (HOPE adults) walk in wisdom.

Proverbs 2:1-22 (NIV)

- My son, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,
- turning your ear to wisdom
and applying your heart to understanding—
- indeed, if you call out for insight
and cry aloud for understanding,
- and if you look for it as for silver
and search for it as for hidden treasure,

Proverbs 2:1-22 (NIV)

- For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
- He holds success 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.
- Then you will understand what is right and just
and fair—every good path.

Proverbs 2:1-22 (NIV)

- For wisdom will enter your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.
- Discretion will protect you,
and understanding will guard you.
- Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men,
from men whose words are perverse,
- who have left the straight paths
to walk in dark ways,

Proverbs 2:1-22 (NIV)

- who delight in doing wrong
and rejoice in the perverseness of evil,
- whose paths are crooked
and who are devious in their ways.
- Wisdom will save you also from the adulterous woman,
from the wayward woman with her seductive words,
- who has left the partner of her youth
and ignored the covenant she made before God.

Proverbs 2:1-22 (NIV)

- Surely her house leads down to death
and her paths to the spirits of the dead.
- None who go to her return
or attain the paths of life.
- Thus you will walk in the ways of the good
and keep to the paths of the righteous.
- For the upright will live in the land,
and the blameless will remain in it;

Proverbs 2:1-22 (NIV)

- but the wicked will be cut off from the land,
and the unfaithful will be torn from it.

Speaker: “This is the word of the Lord”

All: “Thanks be to God”



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Proverbs 2:1-22 (NIV)



Proverbs Literary Devices

- “If – Then” Statement: If A is the case, B is the case/result.
- IF: You do not put gas in your car THEN: Your car will run out of gas.

Proverbs Literary Devices

- IF: Store up commands, call for insight, cry aloud for understanding, look for it as for silver, search for it as hidden treasure.
- THEN: You will understand the fear of the Lord, find knowledge, be protected and guarded, saved from wicked paths.

Wicked Paths

- Perverse language, dark ways.
- Rejoicing in perverseness
- Being led down to death
- Unable to return
- Cut off and torn from the land

Protection from God

- God uses the wisdom bestowed to both form our character and protect us from wicked paths.
- We become more aware of how God wants us to live as we further walk in wisdom.
- God has already protected us so much in this way!

The Nature of Our Steps

- We KNOW/UNDERSTAND that we should follow Gods path, but we still might take wrong steps.
- One of the reasons why has to do with our desires.
- Desire generates the forward motion for us to take a step in a certain direction.
- There are smaller daily desires, and often larger overarching desires in our lives.

The Nature of Our Steps: Desire

- Not wanting to make peace
- Revenge (hurt or hurt/eye for eye)
- Exhausting annoyance/frustration/hurt onto others
- What our upbringing told us about how to see the world (in conflict with Gods view)

The Nature of our Steps: Desire

- Seeking comfort/security
- Jealousy of other people's lives
- Pursuit of experts in a field
- Career/financial security
- Image-of-self security (caring deeply about how others see you)
- Desire of things just as much or close to desire of God.

The Nature of our Steps: Desire

- God's ways are everlasting and GOOD.
- God's path leads to abundant life, and beauty.
- Under Gods complete Lordship
- No divisions, perfect love
- Harmony, Peace, Joy, oneness, and Love.

The Nature of Steps: Contd...

- The kingdom of heaven is coming when Jesus returns, but it is already breaking into our lives if we let it.
- The ethics of the Kingdom can completely transform the things/relationships around us.
- The Kingdom fundamentally changes Family, Friends, Coworkers, Strangers and makes them new/whole.
- This state of living is the right path, and so much better than any alternative.

Reflection: Ways to Act

- Join the Proverbs calendar, to read, pray, and ask God to increase your desire for the things of God.
- Listen to the Proverbs playlist. Ask God to increase your desire for spending time
- Talk about the word/God to others
- Do more of what God wants you to do

Reflection: Ways to Act

- Get prayer and ask for God to increase your desire for His ways.
- Ask God to make you more aware of your desires and which ones are in conflict with God.
- When upset: Ask God to exchange your desires for His desires: To reconcile and make peace.