

Proverbs Chapter 2

Our story continues as we follow the path of a maturing young man. If you recall from chapter 1, before the School bells called him into the classroom, his Mother and Farther laid the foundation. Proverbs 1:7-9; *Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Only fools despise wisdom and discipline.* ^[8] *Listen, my child, to what your father teaches you. Don't neglect your mother's teaching.* ^[9] *What you learn from them will crown you with grace and clothe you with honor.* ^[NLT]

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

Proverbs 2:1; *My son, if you will receive my sayings, and treasure my commandments within you.*

➤ **As we have just read, the picture is that of a young man perhaps on his way to the university of life. As he departs the security of his home, his parents give him some final advice. It can also be analogous of *Abba*, our heavenly Father, giving loving parental advice to the New Christian. "Listen to My Word, My son, and apply the principles contained in My _____, now stored in the amidstips locker of your new nature. This young person, now in charge of his own life; is like one who was only a dinghy sailor, formally equipped with only a dinghy mindset (flesh trained), and now finds himself as the skipper of a world-class sailing vessel (our new godly nature and attributes), on her maiden voyage against the uncontrolled oceans of life.**

Proverbs 2:2; Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understand;

➤ **Listen to the _____ contained in My Word, take it into our flesh-trained mind and allow it to find its way into the center of our being, the home of our attitudes.**

Compiler's note: A primary goal of the Christian walk is to bring our flesh-trained mind into agreement with our new nature through the course correction of His indwelling Holy Spirit. Have you ever noticed where your attitudes reside? It is not in the mind! We say, "I have a gut feeling" because that is in the very center of our being. Scripture uses the heart, pictorial of our new nature, perhaps, because it is in the right area, or because through it flows "life" *'For the life of the flesh is in the blood . . .* Leviticus 17:11 [NASB]

Proverbs 2:3; *For if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding;*

- The picture here is of a newly born-again person, one who is like a baby crying out for its milk. Now, inundated with godly knowledge and attitudes pitted against our human wisdom; we find ourselves residing in the frustration of a flesh-trained mind, at odds with the new set of godly attributes of our heart. Scripture tells us that we should _____ out for _____. 1 Peter 2:2 *like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,* [NASB]
- Don't be afraid to ask questions! _____ up your voice and demand answers of your teachers. Don't just accept a professors' word because they may have a Ph.D. behind their name. Place their teachings against a true standard, _____ the Word of God, and plumb its depths for understanding.

Proverbs 2:4; *If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures;*

Compiler's note: If you have been studying with me for a while, you're probably tired of me dragging out this illustration of the silversmith, but the truth found in this illustration is profound and insightful to our Christian walk.

- We are to _____ the hidden wisdom of Scripture because in it we will find the path to our "sanctification" [bringing our flesh-trained minds into agreement

with our godly attitudes], which manifest itself in a godly walk, that reflects the image of our Savior and Lord. Our God is like “. . . *a smelter and purifier of silver and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness.* Malachi 3:3 [NASB] If you were to ask the silversmith (in this illustration, God), how he knows when the silver is refined and pure? He will tell you that when just the right amount of heat is applied (pictorial of the trials and temptations that we face daily), the dross will rise to the top (the remnants from training by our old nature). When it is scraped away, I [God] will be able to see my own image. Proverbs 25:4 confirms this illustration; *Take away the dross from the silver, and there comes out a vessel for the smith.* [NASB]

Compiler's note; As I look out my loft window, I can see my own sailboat. Last night was a severe windstorm, and she blew hard, but my boat remained safe at dockside; securely anchored and tied off. When we anchor ourselves to the Word of God, the storms of life that rage against us will not tear us loose, and we will not go adrift nor flounder on a hidden reef.

Proverbs 2:5; Then *you will discern the **fear** of the Lord, and discover the knowledge of God.*

➤ If we will dedicate a portion of our day to meditate upon His Word, the Spirit will grant us the discernment to _____ God's hidden knowledge and wisdom. I can promise that our beginning time spent isn't going to be dry or a waste. The more we study Him through His Word, the more we are intrigued. We'll discover a healthy _____ of His awesomeness and that will drive us to want to know more and more about Him. Not very far into His Word, we will discover that our God is a lot more than a gift-giving uncle, or the "big guy in the sky"; we will begin to give Him the obedience and respect that He deserves.

Compiler's note: What does it mean to "fear the Lord"? In order to give God due reverence, thanksgiving, and praise,

honoring His preeminence, we must pursue the knowledge of the greatness of His glory and divine order. Even Moses, who was God's agent before Pharaoh, witnessed God miraculously protecting them from Pharaoh's pursuing army. He witnessed God's deliverance of the millions enslaved, providing for them in the wilderness, and protecting them, and he made this request of God, . . . *"I pray Thee, show me Thy glory!"* Exodus 33:18 [NASB] Moses wanted to know more! When we fear the Lord, we will internalize Psalm 47:7 *For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with *understanding.* [KJV]

**sakal, saw-kal*; to instruct, teach, or to grant understanding.

Moses speaks on behalf of God in Deut. 5:29 *'Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me, and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!* [NASB]

John Bevere in the "Fear of the Lord" uncovers this gem; "The more extensive our comprehension of God's greatness, the greater our capacity for "fear" or reverence of Him". Thru His word, we will begin to realize the cost of following Jesus. Perhaps we never thought about the cost of following Jesus, and so we remain flippant in our approach to God. But because God loved us so much that He was willing to die a death that He didn't deserve, in order that we might have the opportunity to dwell with Him eternally, we are forever in debt to Him. Peter, who walked with Christ understood this and he writes; *but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;* 1 Peter 1:15 [NASB]

The fear of the Lord will keep us from compromising God's truth for the pursuit of personal gain. The apostles understood this, accepting the label "Bond Servants".

If you're not sure how a "bondservant" differs from a slave of an involuntary servant, Deut. 15:16-17 spells it out; *"And it shall come about if he says to you, 'I will not go out from you,' because he loves you and your household, since he fares well with you; [17] then you shall take an awl and pierce it through his ear into the door, and he shall be your servant forever. And also you shall do likewise to your maidservant.* [NASB] It is a free-will choice. Like the apostles before us, if we love our Lord as much as we say we do, we will become like

Paul, "bondservants" to our Lord Jesus. Romans 1:1 Paul, *a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,* [NASB] as was our Lord Jesus Himself; Philip. 2:7 *But [Jesus] emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.* [NASB]

To fear God is to believe God, and to believe God is to obey Him. James writes in 1:22; *and remember, it is a message to obey, not just to listen to. If you don't obey, you are only fooling yourself.* [NLT]

Our price of becoming a bondservant to our Lord Jesus Christ is that of our life! Matthew 10:38 *"And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.* [NASB]

Proverbs 2:6 *For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

Compiler's note: I was given an email the other day, and the sender asked for my opinion. The originator was very critical and reproachful of those whose understanding of Scripture is what is called today "Lordship Salvation". What this email was espousing was a doctrine often called "easy believism". Those who hold to this teaching interpret John 3:16 as the entire gospel. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.* [NLT] According to this group, all that is required to be saved is to believe in Jesus, those who teach otherwise are works oriented. To accept this prevalent teaching displays a severe ignorance of the whole guidance of the Word of God. James, our Lord's brother and a foundational church elder in Jerusalem wrote; *You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe and shudder.* James 2:19 [NASB] These folks must disregard such passages as Matthew 10:38; *"And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.* [NASB] According to Matthew 16:24 . . . *Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.* [NASB] The cross speaks of death; as true disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, we must be willing to put to death our old nature and live in the New Way. John 14:23 *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves*

Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him. [NASB]

Let's look again at Proverbs 2:6 *For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

- As we can see, to accept this teaching, one must ignore a lot of Scripture. God has, through the inspiration of His Holy Spirit, written down for us His principles and gives us the _____ and the _____ necessary for us to avoid deception that would divert us off His narrow path to our salvation. Then he goes one step further, giving His Holy Spirit to all who will accept Him. His Spirit does more than just interpret His Word giving us the _____ necessary to renew our flesh-trained minds, teaching us to think like Christ. He is continually involved in our lives, making us over, so that we may be conformed to the very image of our Creator.

Proverbs 2:7-8 *He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, [8] Guarding the paths of justice, And He preserves the way of His godly ones.*

- For those of us who walk in the _____ of His Word, He is our _____, protecting us from our enemy, whose only desire is for us to accompany him into his eternal destruction. When Satan confronted Jesus in the wilderness - attempting to entice Him and hopefully throwing a monkey wrench into God's plan of salvation for mankind, do you remember how Jesus defeated him? He used the _____ of the Word of God. Matthew 4:1 *Then Jesus was led out into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted there by the Devil.* [NLT]

Three times Satan tested Him and three times our Lord answered using the Word of God. Matthew 4:4; *But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People need more than*

bread for their life; they must feed on every word of God.'
"[NLT]

Matthew 4:7; Jesus responded, "*The Scriptures also say, 'Do not test the Lord your God.'*" [NLT]

Matthew 4:10; "*Get out of here, Satan,*" Jesus told him. "*For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God; serve only Him.'*" [NLT]

Proverbs 2:9; Then *you will discern righteousness and justice And equity and every good course.*



*"I have lived...a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men."
- Benjamin Franklin*

➤ **This passage seems to spell out all that is wrong in our nation today. _____, _____ and _____, seems to be gone from the principles that guide our country. Our enemies' desire is to remove any reference to God, from any source that witnesses to any citizen. We are all familiar with the story of Judge Moore, forced by the "politically correct crowd", to remove the Ten Commandments of God from his courtroom. Judge Moore stood by God's principles and removed himself from that godless situation.**

We have departed from the discerning edicts of our founding fathers. President John Adams wrote, "*Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.*"

Compiler's note: Wisdom seems to have departed our nation's capital and in its place politics reigns. Let's just take Guantanamo Prison for an illustration. Most of the combatants held there are bent on the destruction of America, and originally were trained to fight in Yemen. Political expedience wants to close "Gitmo," and since most other nations of the world will not take the detainees, we are going to return them to Yemen. History has shown that half of the

detainees that have been returned to Yemen return to the battlefield, where they are again shedding the precious blood of those who defend our liberties. This, in effect, dishonors those who have already given their lives and it lacks wisdom, even human wisdom. *A veteran is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America' for an amount of 'up to and including their life.'*

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Proverbs 2:10; For wisdom will enter your heart, And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; ^[11] Discretion will guard you, Understanding will watch over you, ^[12] To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things;

- When the _____ found in God's word is taken into our mind, His Spirit will work with that to change the way we think. Through that course correction, the wisdom of the Word which is now stockpiled in our memory banks will come into agreement with His attitudes stored in your _____ [New Nature]. Paul writes in Romans 7:23 that there is *a war* raging in the unrenewed portions of the mind. When they are brought into agreement, we will have peace in our _____ [the home of our mind, intellect and our will].
- This heart knowledge will give us the _____ not to be deceived by the enemy of our soul. Paul spells it out in 1st Thessalonians 5:23; *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you *entirely* [*when godly wisdom becomes Heart knowledge]; and *may your spirit and soul and body be preserved *complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.* ^[NASB] [*bond-servanthood coupled with God's wisdom and heart knowledge]

Again in verse 12 *From the man who speaks perverse things.* As words tend to be fluid, in our current culture the word perverse has come to be

synonymous with [having a sexual connotation] the word perverted; *when* the word **tahpukah**, tah-poo-kaw'; in the Hebrew really means fraudulent.

- Used here as an example of the *man who speaks _____ things*, is the person who will twist the word of God for their own purposes (referenced earlier in this study), is the minister who will promote a doctrine we often label as "easy believism". And while I don't know the motive of this particular preacher, it is often to fill his assemblies, gather position, power, or undue authority, or even the worst motive of all, to increase his personal wealth.

[Proverbs 2:11-12 repeated] *Understanding will watch over you, to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things; who are not only the false teachers and preachers but*

Proverbs 2:13-15 . . . *From those who leave the paths of uprightness, To walk in the ways of darkness; ^[14] Who delight in doing evil, And rejoice in the perversity of **evil**; ^[15] Whose paths are **crooked**, And who are **devious** in their ways;*

- Throughout our lives we will be tempted by _____ people to *leave the paths of uprightness*, people who do not know the ways of God; *who delight in doing evil*. Their paths are _____ and their ways are _____. If we will only meditate on His Word and listen to His indwelling Spirit, His wisdom will guard our path that we may remain on the narrow way.

Proverbs 2:16-19; *To **deliver** you from the **strange** woman, from the **adulteress** who flatters with her words; ^[17] That leaves the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God; ^[18] For her house sinks down to death, And her tracks lead to the dead; ^[19] None who go to her return again, Nor do they reach the paths of life.*

- The passage informs us that having heart knowledge will also _____ us from the enticements of a _____ woman. The Hebrew word translated is

zuwr, zoor; to turn aside hence to be a foreigner, specifically to commit adultery. God considers her a foreigner to His Commandments, especially "thou shall not commit adultery. Exodus 20:14 [NASB]

➤ **The _____ would be a married woman who breaches her covenant with her husband for the pleasures of the flesh [keep in mind that our God is a covenant keeper]. Today in our society, more so than the person, the wayward wife can easily be substituted for the perversion of pornography. It is a path that leads into an addiction of a maze of corrupt fantasies; one that ruins marriages and destroys respect, and relationships. Verse 19 states that *None who go to her return again, Nor do they reach the paths of life.* And while this may have been true during the old covenant periods, prior to God's propitiation through Christ and the giving of His Holy Spirit, forgiveness and course correction can be found in the salvation offered by our Lord Jesus Christ, for those caught in her noose.**

Remember the storyline that we are following. Solomon's writing is following the course of a young man as he moves out into society and on his own. Young people are especially vulnerable to fraudulent teachers, and young men to the wayward women. I separate the sexes because young men are hormonally driven and the fire of testosterone rages in their loins. I believe that a young girl must talk herself into following the path of sexual promiscuity. Sadly, young ladies in our society are taught that they are equal in all ways with men; so they should practice the same promiscuous behavior that seems to be inherent in men.

Compiler's note: Nancy, our proofreader, gave me a female perspective on why a woman may slip into licentious behavior that deserves our attention. A girl's or woman's priority, rather than sex, may be a deep and lasting desire for affection, for being loved. This driving force can cause her to sometimes want to please the male to the extent that she becomes willing to forfeit her own values. Afterward, she feels robbed. We are free-willed creatures, so God has given us the tools necessary to overcome the desires of the flesh if only we will choose to walk in His ways.

Proverbs 2:20-22; *So you will walk in the way of good men, and keep to the paths of the righteous. [21] For the **upright** will live in the land, and **the blameless will remain in it**; [22] but the wicked will be **cut off** from the land, and the treacherous will be **uprooted** from it.*

➤ **In my mind, God has chosen the Land of Israel as a physical picture of Heaven or Hell, depending on our perspective. There is a war going on in that land today just as there is a war going on in the heavens. [Rev. 12:7] The war is between good and evil (Satan's desire to make himself a god). The Word says that the _____ will live in the Land; however, the wicked will be _____ from the land and _____ from it. When Israel was following God, there was peace and prosperity, the land was watered and lush. For you and me, bondservants of our Lord Jesus, God is our provider and protector. When Israel becomes a picture of hell on earth, it is when God's people are out of the Land [Diaspora] and it becomes a desolate desert, dry and barren.**

The life lived by the young man as he walks in the presence of God is blameless and blessed, albeit, with course-correcting trials and temptations. He can choose to follow the path of the wicked and know that he will be cut off from God. A blessing of the New Covenant is that he is not necessarily lost forever. We are able to return to the narrow way, but only by the love, forgiveness, and mercy of the Father through Christ and the renewing of His Holy Spirit.

Mark 3:28-29 *"I assure you that any sin can be forgiven, including blasphemy; [29] but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. It is an eternal sin."* [NLT]