

The Book of Proverbs

“Wisdom and the Fear of the Lord: Proverbs as a Book on Faith”

Week 2: Proverbs 2

I. Proverbs 2:1-15, “Wisdom Comes from God to Protect You”

Read 2:1-15

1. What do “commandments” here refer to? How do we “treasure” them up?
2. Is wisdom something that just “comes with time” or must we actively seek it?
3. If you tell anyone that silver or a treasure is buried in a field, how would most people act? (verse 4)
4. There is a conditional clause happening here (“if...then”). What is received after seeking wisdom? (verse 5)
5. Read the attached document. What is the “fear of the Lord”?
6. From where alone does wisdom come? (verse 6)
7. Give ways that God’s wisdom might protect us in our life, especially recalling the charge in verse 1. (verses 7-8)
8. What is the language of verse 9? How is it a basic part of our life, though we might not always think about it?

9. The heart in Hebrew thought is not the seat of emotions, but rather is the seat of human will, insight, decision making, and faith. The mind controls reason and thought, and the stomach the feelings. How is the heart, situated between them, responsible for mediating both? How does this enlighten us with the phrase, “wisdom will come into your heart”?

10. Proverbs often speaks of two paths. How do we understand Law and Gospel as expressed in verses 9-15?

II. Proverbs 2:16-19, “Protection from the Adulterous Woman”

Verses 16-19 continue the warnings from 12-15. Stay away from perverse men *and* women.

11. “Forbidden woman” is best translated as “woman who is a stranger.” This strange woman is one who is not one’s wife and thus “foreign” to Solomon’s son, or to the one hearing this proverb. What kind of allure is mentioned here?

12. What does “companion of one’s youth” refer to? See also Prov 5:18; Mal 2:14-16

13. How is adultery often also a reference to one’s spiritual life? (verse 17)

14. How do verses 18-19 warn us of the spiritual dangers of adultery?

III. Proverbs 2:20-22, “Admonition to Live Righteously”

15. Adultery and sin lead to death, but righteousness to life. How do we understand the phrases, “inhabit the land” and “be cut off from the land”?

16. How does Jesus use this phrase? (Matthew 5:5)

Memory Verse for Today:

Proverbs 2:6, “For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”