

## CHAPTER 2

**Proverbs 2:1 *My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;***

Here we have two conditions to understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God (**Proverbs 2:5**).

These two traits separate wise men from foolish men; they separate godly men from profane men.

It is important for you to examine yourself and determine **If** you have these two traits, **If** you meet these two conditions, for wisdom.

Our Proverb's context has Solomon listing six prerequisites of wisdom for his son (**Proverbs 2:1-5**).

God gives wisdom as a gift; and the ability to acquire it. Therefore, we must fulfill His conditions (**Proverbs 2:6-9**).

**If** pagan universities can require prerequisites for their God-rejecting nonsense, then surely these conditions for wisdom should receive your highest attention and effort.

**"If thou wilt receive my Words"** is the first condition. Wisdom requires listening to someone else.

**If** you believe you are already wise, you will not humble yourself to learn from another. A teachable spirit is necessary for learning.

Most men are arrogantly deluded about their own wisdom, so they resent correction or instruction from another.

Solomon implored his son to humble himself and be instructed by his father's superior wisdom and experience. Every son who will be wise must heed the same warning.

It is the sinful folly of youth that causes each generation to reject the wisdom of their parents.

### **All Learning Requires Instruction**

Learning requires discipline, and learning requires dedication, and yet men find it difficult to listen to others.

Youth's folly believes their opinions are better! They want to teach instead of listen. They prefer to question, argue, debate, or resist.

Only a few youths have high enough character to listen and receive instruction.

The Holy Spirit praised the Bereans, as noble for their ready minds to receive instruction, from the apostle Paul (**Acts 17:11**).

Cornelius was totally committed to hearing anything and everything Peter had to teach him (**Acts 10:33**).

Lydia gave attention to the things spoken by Paul beside a river in Philippi (**Acts 16:14**).

May the Lord God, prepare our hearts to hear!

**"If thou wilt hide my commandments with thee"** is the second condition (**Proverbs 2:1**).

Once you are taught something, you must retain it. Many men hear wonderful things, but it passes right through their empty minds. It does not find a lodging place there.

### **Hide God's Word In Your Heart By Reviewing It Enough To Remember It (Psalms 1:2; 119:11; Luke 2:19, 51)**

We cannot let the good things we hear slip away (**Hebrews 2:1-3**).

**If** we let them slip away, we lose the benefit of them (**1Corinthians 15:2**).

Paul rebuked the Hebrews, for needing to hear, elementary facts of the Gospel again (**Hebrews 5:12-14**).

David said, **"I will remember..."** (**Psalms 77:11**). So should you!

**Proverbs 2:2 *So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;***

### **Listening And Loving God's Word Submission And Passion For It Is Essential To Wisdom And Understanding.**

Are you willing to pay the price? Solomon listed the personal qualifications necessary to learn wisdom, and the two in this verse are submission and passion (**Proverbs 2:1-4**).

Will you turn, your ear to hear, correction and instruction? Will you engage your emotions in its pursuit?

What is it to incline your ear unto wisdom? It is submitting to the verbal instruction of others. Most will not do this. They are: too proud to listen to others, too set in their ways to change, too busy to take the time for it, and too lazy to concentrate on a verbal lesson.

They will not submit by turning their ear to hear and obey instruction from another.

Israel would not give ear to God's prophets, which led to their destruction by Babylon (*2Chronicles 24:19; 33:10; Nehemiah 9:29-30; Jeremiah 13:11*).

The Jews stopped their ears from hearing the apostles and Stephen, which led to their destruction by Rome. They did not want the wisdom of God in either case, so they turned away from hearing it. (*Acts 5:33; 7:57*)

Most today will not hear including Christians. They want entertainment and fables, not Bible preaching. Paul warned about: Itching ears, refuse to endure sound doctrine and turning away from the truth (*2Timothy 4:3-4*).

Church growth today is in seeker sensitive, contemporary worship churches. They clap for Jesus rap, but they do not want to be corrected and instructed by Bible preaching. They despise sound preaching, even though told not to (*1Thessalonians 5:20*).

**If** you will not hear preaching with a ready mind, you will never find wisdom; and God will take from you, what you think you have! (*Isaiah 55:3; Acts 17:11*)

**If** you do not believe this, you are already ignorant of the Jesus of the Bible! *Luke 8:18 "take heed therefore how ye hear" Mark 4:24 "take heed what ye hear"*

Your prayer will also become an abomination (*Proverbs 28:9*)!

No wonder Jesus said, "*He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear ...*" (*Matthew 13:9; Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22*).

**If** a child does not listen to his parents, he is heading for a bruising life. His parents have more wisdom than he can measure or appreciate, let alone obtain. They have lived his life before him and had many years to reflect on it. But why should a child incline his ear to his parents, **If** the parents do not incline their ears to the sound preaching of God's Word?

What does it mean to apply your heart to understanding? Choosing to love learning and truth more than any other earthly pursuit.

Your heart is the seat of your affections, and you must set your affections on things above, on understanding and wisdom (*Proverbs 8:17; Colossians 3:2*).

God has promised to be found by those who seek Him with their whole heart (*Jeremiah 29:13*).

But there is a big problem today. Because: Iniquity abounds, the love of many has waxed cold (*Matthew 24:12*).

Most Christians are double minded, seeking to love Christ and the world, which is both dangerous and impossible (*James 1:8*).

God rejects trying to serve two masters (*Matthew 6:24*).

God loathes a lukewarm approach to service (*Revelation 2:4; 3:16*).

God hates spiritual adultery (*James 4:4*)!

Wise men pray for God to enlarge their hearts, so they can learn and do more (*Psalms 119:32*).

Wise men pray for Him to incline their hearts to God's Word and away from the world (*Psalms 119:36; 141:4*).

Wise men delight and glory in the Lord (*Psalms 37:4; Jeremiah 9:23-24*).

True delight leads them to separate from worldly distractions and pursue wisdom with great desire (*Proverbs 18:1*).

Consider Stephen's harsh and sober Words to his generation. He cried, "*Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye*" (*Acts 7:51*). Notice! They had closed both heart and ears to the truth! They had violated both parts of this Proverb!

Are you willing to incline your ear and apply your heart to the wisdom of Jesus Christ? **If** not, you will remain a fool!

**Proverbs 2:3** *Yea, If thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;*

When did you last pray for wisdom? When did you last pray passionately for it?

Study may make a scholar, but only prayer will make a saint.

Much reading may increase your learning, but only the revelation of God's Spirit can give you wisdom.

**If** you crave wisdom, crave it from your knees.

The Preacher here is in the middle of exhorting his son, through the Holy Spirit, to learn several necessary duties to gaining wisdom (*Proverbs 2:1-9*).

This verse exhorts him, and us, to pray fervently for it. This is no bland request for wisdom, but rather a desperate, passionate, and zealous cry for it.

The LORD chose to operate in certain areas by request only; so James wrote, "*Ye have not, because ye ask not*" (*James 4:2*).

Unless we ask and beg for certain things, God will let us live without them. God has made it easy for us to ask Him, as our Father (*Matthew 7:7-11*).

Could it be that your deficiency in wisdom is due to having asked very little for it?

**Wisdom Is Something  
We Should Ask For**  
(*James 1:5*).

**If** we want more wisdom, God promises to hear and answer our request liberally!

What a precious promise! Especially, in the light of wisdom's importance, taught in Proverbs! God will give it liberally and not criticize us for our importunate and frequent requests! We may covet wisdom freely!

But we must ask in faith, with a single mind, or we will receive nothing from the Lord (*James 1:6-8*).

For without faith it is impossible to please the Giver of wisdom (*Hebrews 11:6*).

God offered Solomon any request and blessed his desire for wisdom abundantly, and He also gave him additional blessings (*2Chronicles 1:7-12*).

**We Have The Same Offer From Heaven!**

Why do you not request it as Solomon did (*Matthew 7:7-11; John 14:13-14*)?

Daniel also prayed for wisdom and received it liberally (*Daniel 2:16-19; 9:20-23; 10:10-21*).

True men of character will have holy reasons for seeking wisdom (*Psalms 119:11, 26-27, 34, 73, 125*).

Consider the psalmist's prayer, for God to give him understanding in the Word of God and Truth (*Psalms 119:18; 25:4-5*).

Paul prayed for saints to get wisdom by the Holy Spirit (*Ephesians 1:17-18; Colossians 1:9-10*).

The Holy Spirit wise guidance is something for which we should also pray (*Luke 11:13*).

We must tremble before the Lord and His Word, lest He judge us with blindness, as He has most men (*John 9:39-41; Matthew 11:25-27; 13:9-17*).

**The Most Blind  
Are Those Blinded To The Truth!**

There can be no shame at being a child before the Lord, for it is this very spirit of humility that He most richly blesses.

Our Lord Jesus grew in wisdom before God and men (*Luke 2:52*). It is certain He prayed for it.

***Proverbs 2:4 If thou seekest her as silver,  
and searchest for her as for hid treasures;***

Men pursue silver and hid treasure, with excited hearts and at great expense and effort, and the Holy Spirit, through our wise Preacher, warns that only such desire and effort will find the wisdom of God.

**Unless You Have Zeal And Diligence,  
You Will Not Obtain The Knowledge Of The Lord!**

David and Solomon tell us God's wisdom exists, and that we must find it, buy it, and get it, for it is of more value than all riches (*Proverbs 4:7; 16:16; Psalm 19:10; 119:14, 72, 127*).

Jesus said God's kingdom is life's great priority (*Matthew 6:33*).

Jesus illustrated it by men selling all they had to buy a field or buy the great pearl (*Matthew 13:44-46*).

What have you sold for wisdom? Wisdom will not fall in your lap, for then the wrong persons can get it. Wisdom is a reward to those who ask and work for it.

Our just God cannot give His valued riches for sporadic, lazy efforts, or those giving of slight effort; but He will reward zealous seekers (*Jeremiah 29:13*).

Consider ministers: They must study like workmen (*2Timothy 2:15*).

They must give themselves wholly to reading, exhortation, and doctrine (*1Timothy 4:13-16*).

They must do so while enduring hardness as soldiers without obligations in the world (*2Timothy 2:3-4*).

Consider saints: They must use it or lose it, as Paul told the Hebrews (*Hebrews 5:12-14*).

**If** they do not take heed to preaching, they will lose it (*Mark 4:24; Luke 8:18*).

The Bereans were noble for a reason (*Acts 17:11*), whom we should follow in our own search (*1Thessalonians 5:21*).

Do you read the Word of God as you should?

- Do you read it with passion and effort?
- Do you study it? Until approved?
- Do you crave to hear it taught?

- Do you meditate upon it day and night?
- Do you speak of it to others?
- Do you give up pleasure for it?
- Do you buy tools to help you understand it?

Most men do not make the effort, so they live and die fools.

Only a few are ready scribes like Ezra (*Ezra 7:6*):

Only a few are the fruitful trees of *Psalms 1:1-3*.

Only a few will retain it, meditate on it, and obey enough it to have David's wisdom (*Psalms 119:98-100*).

Our Lord would pray and seek the Father all night in a mountain (*Luke 6:12*).

While others slept, our Lord searched for the treasure, of God's favor with tears and bloody sweat (*Luke 22:39-46*).

***Proverbs 2:5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.***

Understanding the application of the fear of the LORD is possible. Finding the knowledge of God is possible.

Both of these great blessings can be obtained. But neither is possible without the right approach. No earthly price or human means will get them for you. God must give them to you, and God will only give them to those who seek them rightly.

A man understanding the fear of the LORD and finding the knowledge of God is blessed indeed (*Psalms 77:11; 112:1-3; 128:1-6*).

These two wonderful things, have been hid from most (*Proverbs 2:4* proper seeking and searching).

The rest of humanity, generally fails to use the means for obtaining them. Here are things worth selling all that you have in order to obtain them (*Matthew 13:44-46*).

Our Proverb draws a conclusion to a short list of requirements necessary for obtaining wisdom (*Proverbs 2:1-5*).

It is every man's failure of these conditions that keeps him from obtaining a treasure exceeding any other on this earth.

Great men have desired divine understanding and knowledge, but only a few have ever found them. They are available to any man who will meet the simple terms.

**Conditional term # 1 - "If thou wilt receive my words" (*Proverbs 2:1*).**

A teachable spirit is necessary for learning.

All learning requires instruction, yet men find it difficult to listen to others.

Most men believe their opinions are better!

Most men want to teach instead of listening!

Most men prefer to question, argue, debate, and resist.

Only a few, are noble enough, to listen and receive teaching. Cornelius and the Bereans are two examples of nobly receiving instruction (*Acts 10:33; 17:11*).

A man with this character trait will love preaching, and the harder the better (*Nehemiah 8:1-12; 1Thessalonians 5:20; 2Timothy 4:3-4*).

**Conditional trait # 2 - If thou "Hide my commandments with thee" (*Proverbs 2:1*).**

Once you are taught something, you must retain it. Many men have heard wonderful things, but it passes right on through their empty minds. It does not stay.

You hide God's Word in your hearts by reviewing it enough to remember it (*Psalms 119:11*).

We cannot let, the good things we hear, slip away or we will lose the benefit of them (*Hebrews 2:1-3; 1Corinthians 15:2*).

Paul rebuked the Hebrew saints for needing to hear the elementary facts of the Gospel again and again (*Hebrews 5:12-14*).

**Conditional trait # 3 - If thou "Incline thine ear unto wisdom" (*Proverbs 2:2*).**

Hear submissively, by taking correction meekly. Learning and wisdom requires you to admit when you are wrong.

Therefore, humble yourself; and soberly identify the faults in your life. Apply correction to yourself, not to others.

Bend your heart and ear to the reproof and accept the rebuke of the wise.

Only scorners on their way to destruction hate correction (*Proverbs 9:8; 13:13; 15:31-32; Ecclesiastes 7:5*).

**Conditional trait # 4 - If thou "Apply thine heart to understanding" (*Proverbs 2:2*).**

Wisdom is the greatest pursuit of life, and it deserves and requires fervent dedication.

Your heart is the seat of your affections, and you should be passionate about obtaining understanding.

**A Careless Attitude  
Toward Wisdom Will Never Work!**

You cannot sleep in this class and expect to pass. Love of wisdom is necessary (*Proverbs 8:17; 18:1; Ecclesiastes 1:13; Daniel 10:12; 2Thessalonians 2:10-12*).

**Conditional trait # 5** - "*If thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding*" (*Proverbs 2:3*).

Wisdom is the gift of God, and He will give it liberally to those who ask (*James 1:5*).

But few truly cry out for wisdom. God's offer to Solomon of any desire, is no more than God's standing offer of wisdom to those who will ask for it.

Even in the study of God's Word, which is neither purely science nor art, the man of God is dependent upon the LORD opening his eyes, to behold the wonders in His Word (*Psalms 119:18; Ephesians 1:17*).

**Conditional trait # 6** - "*If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures*" (*Proverbs 2:4*).

God despises sluggards, who do not even show the wisdom or zeal of ants. He will not give a lazy man anything. He commands that lazy men should be starved. (*Proverbs 20:4; 2Thessalonians 3:10*).

Study is laborious work (*Ecclesiastes 12:12; 2Timothy 2:15*). But the reward is well worth the effort!

**Reading Reviewing  
Meditating Memorizing  
And Praying Are Hard Work.**

What hidden treasure was ever found just lying on the doorstep!

Here you have six simple conditional steps to understanding the fear of the LORD and finding the knowledge of God.

Listen, review, submit, desire, pray, and seek for wisdom. You will obtain! Neglect one or more of these conditions, and you will not obtain.

**What In Your Life  
Keeps You From Wisdom?**

What in your soul keeps you from wisdom? Too proud to listen? Too lazy to review? Too stubborn to submit?

Too carnal to desire it fervently? Too busy to pray? Too distracted with pleasure to seek it?

Wisdom will not be mocked; your calamities will be coming; and then, there will be no mercy from heaven (*Proverbs 1:20-31*).

God will even remove what you think you have (*Luke 8:18*). See the comments on *Proverbs 1:26*.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, even as a child, applied himself in these very same steps (*Luke 2:42-51*).

By these efforts, Jesus grew in wisdom and favor with God and men (*Luke 2:52*).

If you follow Jesus' example and learn of Him, you will know the great mysteries of the universe and the hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge (*Colossians 2:2-3*).

***Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD giveth wisdom:  
out of his mouth cometh knowledge and  
understanding.***

There is only one Source of wisdom, and to look elsewhere is foolish and futile.

All wisdom is in the LORD Himself, and He gives it to whomsoever He will.

Knowledge and Understanding are also His gifts, and He speaks them by His Spirit, Word, and Preachers.

Wisdom, Knowledge, and Understanding are related aspects of the ability to judge rightly.

These attributes are the means by which we can identify truth and error, right and wrong, good and evil. They are the conditions for a blessed and successful life of peace and righteousness.

**Human Intelligence  
Is Not The Source Of Wisdom.  
Intelligence Is A Handicap.**

A farmer, of modest intelligence, who fears God will have greater wisdom than the genius trusting his analytical mind. *For the LORD giveth wisdom!*

Parents need not grieve over a below average child; they can still teach him, how to obtain wisdom that will bring favor with God and men!

**Human Education  
Is Not The Source Of Wisdom.  
Education Is A Handicap To Wisdom!**

A farmer with little formal education who fears God will be far ahead of the city boy with a PHD in molecular science. *For the LORD giveth wisdom!*

The one sees God in every aspect of his farm and life; the other hallucinates about big bang theories and monkeys. God has declared war against this approach to wisdom (*1Corinthians 1:19-20; 3:18-20; 1Timothy 6:20-21*).

Human diligence is not the source of wisdom. Although, men seeking wisdom, should apply themselves energetically to its pursuit (*Proverbs 2:4; 18:1; 2Timothy 2:15*).

Unless God blesses the effort, it will be in vain (*Psalms 127:1-2; Ecclesiastes 8:17*).

While reading and studying, a man of God must ask the Lord to guide and prosper his way (*Psalms 119:18; Matthew 13:17*).

The Pharisees and Scribes knew the Scriptures thoroughly, but not with any understanding.

Man comes into this world like a wild ass's colt, and he goes out the same way (*Job 11:12; Ecclesiastes 3:19-21*).

The most intelligent of these asses led worship of the sun, Pharaoh, totem poles, and bugs (*Isaiah 44:9-20; Romans 1:20-23*).

During his life, a man suffers, with a deceitful and depraved heart, so bad, he cannot fully grasp it (*Jeremiah 17:9-10*).

But today we see new lows, men worship themselves and their own abilities! They see all their own colleagues dying and they continue to spout the same ignorant filth (*Psalms 49:10-13*).

Even natural wisdom comes from the LORD. God gave Bezaleel great skill for making the intricate tabernacle (*Exodus 31:1-11*).

Where do you think agriculture wisdom came from, trial and error? No! (*Isaiah 28:23-29*)?

Inventors are not educated; they are created (*Proverbs 8:12*).

Thomas Edison and others never went to school or profited from it. God gave them their inventive genius. And God takes such men away from a nation when He chooses (*Isaiah 3:1-5*).

Spiritual wisdom is even more lopsided in its origin.

Man by nature cannot and will not understand spiritual truth (*Romans 3:11; 8:7-8; 1Corinthians 2:14*).

God must powerfully recreate man's soul by His regenerative power (*1Corinthians 2:15; Ephesians 1:19; 2:1*).

And unless God does this, man is unable to understand anything (*John 3:3; 8:43, John 3:3*). See the comments on *Proverbs 20:12*.

What can you do to obtain wisdom? Humble yourself and confess your great ignorance and helplessness. To obtain wisdom from God, a man must become a fool (*1Corinthians 3:18-20*). See the comments on *Proverbs 30:3*.

### **You Must Tremble Before God And His Word (Isaiah 57:15; 66:2).**

And importantly, you must ask for it! The LORD gave Solomon great wisdom and largeness of heart, for his simple and noble request (*1Kings 3:5-15; 4:29-34*).

The LORD offers the same liberal terms to any who will ask (*James 1:5*).

Instead of wishing you were Solomon, begin praying for it (*James 4:2*)!

Then you must read for it: The LORD has revealed His wisdom in the Bible.

**If** a man will reject his own ideas and those of his ignorant race to trust the Holy Scriptures, he will gain in wisdom rapidly (*Psalms 119:130; Isaiah 8:20; 2Timothy 3:16-17; 2Peter 1:19*).

Then you must listen for it: The LORD appoints, prepares, and sends ambassadors with His wisdom (*Nehemiah 8:8; Ecclesiastes 12:9-11; Jeremiah 3:15; Malachi 2:7; Acts 8:30-31; 26:16-18*).

But they will only benefit those who hear them receptively (*Acts 17:11; 1Thessalonians 5:20-21*).

Then you must read and consider *Proverbs* and *Ecclesiastes*.

God gave two books in His Word with a greater emphasis on wisdom in general than the others. Those truly seeking wisdom, will read these two books regularly to acquire it by God's gift (*Proverbs 1:1-7*).

Where have you been looking for wisdom? What have you been trusting for knowledge and understanding?

Solomon would say, "*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths*" (*Proverbs 3:5-6*).

Confidence in your own opinions and thinking is folly.

Why seek to a wild ass's colt for wisdom? Go to the Lord Jesus, for in Him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (*Colossians 2:3*).

Humble yourself and confess your need to Him. Ask for it; read for it; listen for it; and consider greatly this Proverb.

***Proverbs 2:7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.***

God has blessings for your obedience, wisdom and protection.

God provides true and valid wisdom in abundance for righteous men.

God has all the wisdom in the universe, but He has made much available for good men. And He will also be a buckler to them as well, which shows strong protection.

You must know the context to understand this Proverb.

Solomon the king, the Preacher of Israel, had listed the means for finding the fear of the Lord and the knowledge of God (*Proverb 2:1-5*).

Solomon then taught that since God is the fountainhead of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, He gives these things abundantly to the faithful (*Proverbs 2:6-9*).

What will you do? Here is wisdom and protection for life. Wisdom, knowledge and understanding, are available to all who will humble themselves and seek them from the LORD.

When a man chooses to follow the way of righteousness, revealed in the Bible, God will reveal truth and wisdom to Him (*Psalms 119:100; John 7:17*).

If you follow the world, the way of folly and sin, you will suffer the dire consequences, of being blinded (*Roman 1:18-27*).

Such a consequence is having God turn against you (*Proverbs 1:20-32; Isaiah 63:10*).

Such a consequence is dying a miserable death in ignorance and sorrow (*Proverbs 5:11-13; 8:36*).

But you can also choose life and blessing, which God will give for obedience (*1Peter 3:10-12*).

How much wisdom has God laid up for the righteous?

The Bible contains more wisdom than all the educators and institutions of "higher learning" combined (*Isaiah 8:20; 1Corinthians 1:19-20; 1Timothy 6:20*).

On any subject, the Bible provides answers that confound and shame the ignorance of men (*Psalms 94:11; 119:113,128*).

## **How Much Time Do You Spend Reading It?**

God appointed Solomon the Preacher in Israel to give inspired wisdom to His people (*Ecclesiastes 1:1, 12; 12:8-11*).

And God has ordained, more preachers through Jesus Christ, since His resurrection and ascension into heaven (*Psalms 68:18; Ephesians 4:8-16*).

**It is your responsibility!** To seek out those preachers and read the Word of God faithfully and consistently to find wisdom from God (*Jeremiah 3:15; Malachi 2:7; Colossians 1:28; 2Timothy 3:16-17*).

**What is a buckler?** It is a shield (*1Chronicles 5:18; Song of Solomon 4:4*).

When listed with a shield, it is different in size, construction, or battle use (*Psalms 35:2*).

By using buckler as a metaphor, the Holy Spirit taught God's protection for upright men (*Proverbs 30:5; Psalms 18:2, 30; 84:11; 144:2*).

The angels of God, spirit beings, superior to men by any measure, are servants for those who fear God and keep His commandments (*Psalms 34:7; Hebrews 1:13-14*).

*"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety" (Psalms 4:8).*

***Proverbs 2:8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.***

## **Those Who Pursue Wisdom Are Rewarded By The LORD!**

Such men are known for their righteous judgment and sanctified living. The LORD is the source of all wisdom, protection, and blessing.

When a man chooses equity and justice as his path in life, God will keep such a man.

When a man chooses holy living, as his way of life, God will preserve and protect him. There are rewards for seeking wisdom.

Solomon exhorted his son, to the passionate pursuit of wisdom and understanding, and the promise that you will obtain the goal (*Proverbs 2:1-5*).

He then explained that: The LORD gives wisdom, knowledge, and understanding (*Proverbs 2:6*).

The LORD protects those that walk uprightly (**Proverbs 2:7**).

The LORD keeps and preserves the lives of His saints (**Proverbs 2:8**).

By pursuing wisdom with all his might, Solomon's son would realize every related blessing (**Proverbs 2:9**).

Context is important to understand Words and phrases, in Scripture. Most of the Holy Spirit's Proverbs are individual observations on life and rules for success.

So context is less important in Proverbs than other books of the Bible. However, in this cohesive section, Solomon described the pursuit of wisdom and obtaining of wisdom (**Proverbs 2:1-4; 2:5-9**).

Not only is the true and living God the source of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding (**Proverbs 2:6**),

God is the benefactor and defender of those who seek Him and His wisdom (**Proverbs 2:7-8**).

It is this combination of blessings and rewards that completely supplies the righteous with all they need and desire (**Proverbs 2:9**).

God will keep them and preserve them (**Proverbs 2:8**).

Consider the first clause of the Proverb, "*He keepeth the paths of judgment.*" A man pursuing wisdom walks in the paths of judgment, which means he is always fair, just, and equitable.

A man pursuing wisdom does not make decisions by appearance, but he carefully assesses each life situation to draw a righteous and wise conclusion (**Proverbs 17:15; 24:23; Deuteronomy 1:16-17; 16:18-29; Isaiah 11:1-5; John 7:24; Ephesians 5:15**).

God promises to keep the man that walks in such righteous paths. He will be blessed and protected in life by the God of righteous judgment.

This first clause has an ellipsis (a figure of speech that leaves out obvious words). God Himself keeps to the paths of judgment, and He endorses and honors the paths of judgment (**Deuteronomy 32:4; 1Samuel 2:3; Psalm 99:4; Isaiah 42:1-4**).

The context emphasizes that God, keeps persons, who walk in judgment, because, they are righteous (**Proverbs 2:7**), upright (**Proverbs 2:7**), saints (**Proverbs 2:8**).

The clause is elliptical, in that it could easily read that He keeps the paths of judgment for the righteous, for them that walk uprightly, or of his saints. The point is that He keeps righteous men.

Consider the second clause of the Proverb, "*And preserveth the way of his saints.*" A saint is a sanctified person, meaning a holy person consecrated to God.

The men in context are those diligently pursuing God's wisdom and knowledge (**Proverbs 2:1-5**).

This includes those that fear of the Lord, which is reverence for His purity and hatred of all sin (**Proverbs 2:5; 8:13; 16:6; Psalms 97:10; 119:104; Amos 5:15**).

God promises to preserve the way of such men, for they are the delight of His soul (**Deuteronomy 33:3, 26-29; Psalms 34:11-22; 37:23-24**).

What is the lesson here for you? The dedicated and diligent pursuit of God's wisdom will be successful (**Proverbs 2:1-5**).

It will also bring Divine blessing and protection on your life, which will not be given to those neglecting or rejecting God's wisdom.

Have you committed yourself to seeking the knowledge and wisdom that only comes from God and His Word?

If you have, you may confidently claim the promised blessings of this Proverb.

***Proverbs 2:9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.***

What a treasure! Righteousness! Judgment! Equity! Every good path! Can a man or woman obtain all these in life? Yes!

If you will pursue wisdom, God will bless you with all these things. The rewards are great. The requirements are small.

#### **God Offers This Treasure To Those Who Put Forth Effort To Obtain It.**

Solomon pressed his son, to apply himself to the pursuit of wisdom and understanding (**Proverbs 2:1-4**).

Included also, with this promised reward, is also obtaining the fear of the Lord and the knowledge of God (**Proverbs 2:5**).

Upon this foundation, Solomon then promised that God would add many other blessings, including these special four (**Proverbs 2:6-9**).

**What is righteousness?** It is being and doing right. It is justice and uprightness. It knows and does what is acceptable to God. It is having your mind conformed to the divine standard of God's perfect mind and laws.

If your thoughts and actions please God, then they will certainly please good men (*Proverbs 3:1-4*).

**What is judgment?** It is the ability: to judge correctly, to form accurate opinions, to arrive at the proper notion of things; it is discretion, discernment, wisdom, understanding, and good sense.

It is what men mean when they say, "That person has excellent judgment." It is the ability to analyze a matter correctly and arrive at the correct conclusion about it.

**What is equity?** It knows what is fair and equal for any situation, though seeing differences that require charity and nobility to reach an equitable and fair conclusion.

It is fairness, impartiality, and evenhanded dealing with apparently unequal things. It is what makes others trust you, no matter the circumstances; for they know you will be fair.

Solomon stated that Proverbs was written to teach these three wonderful virtues, which are very rare in the world today (*Proverbs 1:3; Isaiah 59:14; 2Timothy 3:1-5*).

Furthermore, they are aspects of God's holy nature (*Psalms 98:9; 99:4; Isaiah 11:4*), and they are character traits of the Lord Jesus Christ. What hinders you, from pursuing wisdom to obtain them?

Consider a very small sample of the righteousness, judgment, and equity of the Bible. It protects mother and baby birds (*Deuteronomy 22:6-7*).

Righteousness judgment and equity, teaches that all races have the same blood (*Acts 17:26*).

Righteousness judgment and equity, provides for working oxen (*Deuteronomy 25:4*),

Righteousness judgment and equity, puts the burden of marriage and family on the father (*Ephesians 5:25-29; 6:4*).

Righteousness judgment and equity, provides for the poor (*Leviticus 19:9-10*).

Righteousness judgment and equity, teaches that mercy is more important than sacrifice (*Matthew 12:7*).

Righteousness judgment and equity, financially rewards virginity (*Exodus 22:17*).

Righteousness judgment and equity, requires churches to take care of widows (*1Timothy 5:3-16*).

Righteousness judgment and equity, teaches that the true love of God can only be shown by loving others (*1John 5:1-2*). No other book compares!

Compare a small sample of the righteousness, judgment, and equity of the world.

Worldly righteousness judgment and equity, kills over ten million unborn children annually by the most violent means imaginable.

And yet worldly righteousness judgment and equity, demands funds to protect animals and birds on seven continents!

Worldly righteousness judgment and equity, prohibits corporal punishment of children but incarcerates the resulting criminals like animals in cages for years!

Worldly righteousness judgment and equity, subsidizes debt and slothfulness and penalizes credit and diligence by income tax laws.

Worldly righteousness judgment and equity, "protects and honors" women by advertising lascivious fashions, promoting casual sex, protecting pornography and prostitution, and allowing divorce for any cause.

In righteousness judgment and equity, these things are not all that is offered to the man seeking wisdom! The Proverb also says, "*yea, every good path!*"

What is every good path? It is every other virtue and grace not in the list of three! Is there a better sentence in any language? If every good path is offered, then the means for your perfection is being offered!

How can you get these wonderful things? Humble yourself before God, and diligently seek His wisdom in His Scriptures.

Can you humble yourself and admit that God and His Word alone are right on all subjects (*Psalms 119:128*)?

Can you reject the world's vain thoughts (*Psalms 119:113*)? He will reward you with these great things.

The Bible can make ministers perfect for their great work (*2Timothy 3:16-17*).

Consider how much it can do for you. There is no light in this world apart from the light of the Bible (*Isaiah 8:20*).

The Word of God, is a lamp for your feet and a light for your pathway through life (*Psalms 119:105*). It is a light to which you should give serious attention and honor (*2Peter 1:19-21*).

***Proverbs 2:10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;***

Do you desire success and safety in life? Here are the conditions for them! **If** you choose to love the wisdom of God, and **If** you choose to appreciate knowledge as a precious gift, then certain and substantial blessings will surely follow. But **If** you are not willing to meet these conditions, your life will be a dysfunctional and painful experience.

What are the certain and substantial blessings that follow wisdom and knowledge? They include discretion and understanding (*Proverbs 2:11*).

They include deliverance from the lifestyle and severe punishment of wicked men (*Proverbs 2:12-15, 20-22*).

They include deliverance from the seduction and painful results of whorish women (*Proverbs 2:16-22*).

### **These Are Great Blessings!**

**What is wisdom?** The power of right judgment, ability to perceive and grasp a situation to know what should be done to please God and men!

Wisdom begins with the fear of God: the submissive reverence that seeks to please Him in all things (*Proverbs 9:10*).

The details of wisdom are God's commandments contained in the Bible (*Psalms 19:7-9; Ecclesiastes 12:13*).

### **How does it enter into your heart?**

You choose to love it! You choose to make it a priority for your life by pursuing it sacrificially (*Proverbs 18:1-2; Matthew 6:21*).

Job valued God's Words more important than his necessary food (*Job 23:12*).

David counted wisdom more precious than much fine gold and more delightful than honey (*Psalms 19:10*).

David chose to set his heart on wisdom (*Psalms 119:97, 103, 111, 162*). Have you? You should (*Colossians 3:16*).

**What is knowledge?** It is the worldview facts detailed in the Bible. It is the separation of fact from fiction, truth from lies, it is in knowing reality and righteousness.

Knowledge also begins with the fear of God (*Proverbs 1:7*), for the existence of God is the first fact and the first cause of all things (*Genesis 1:1; Romans 11:33-36*).

Men who reject the existence of God are unreasonable: they are profane and vain babblers, even if called scientists (*2Thessalonians 3:2; 1Timothy 6:20-21*).

**How does knowledge become pleasant to your soul?**

You choose to admire it as a precious and valuable thing. You cry out for it to God (*Proverbs 2:3; Psalm 119:66*).

You crave to be instructed in it (*Proverbs 12:1; 19:27; 21:11*).

You use it with holy confidence (*Proverbs 22:17-21; Job 36:1-4*).

### **When You Choose To Delight In Knowledge, You Will Certainly Be Rewarded (Proverbs 24:13-14).**

The greatest wisdom and knowledge in the universe are the mysteries revealed in the Gospels (*1Corinthians 2:6-16; 1Timothy 3:16*).

Here are the secrets kept from men, but made manifest to His saints (*Matthew 13:35; Romans 16:25-27*).

Has this precious wisdom entered your heart? Is this special knowledge pleasant to your soul? It will bring the reward of eternal life!

### **Proverbs 2:11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:**

We take many precautions to protect ourselves from danger. We use seat belts, take vitamins, lock the doors at night, exercise, regulate elevators, buy medical insurance, listen to weather warnings, avoid dangerous parts of town, and so on.

We also take efforts to protect our children. We make sure they eat three balanced meals a day, are careful on the monkey bars, don't play with knives, avoid strangers, don't ride their bikes in the street, bundle up in cold weather, and so forth and so on.

But all these efforts are of little value and only protect the body. What are you doing for the soul? Your own soul and the souls of your children?

What efforts are you making to acquire discretion and understanding yourself and to instill them in your children?

Worldly institutions or media certainly do not teach them, and they are very rarely taught in modern Christian institutions or media. But God has made them available.

Preserving and keeping your soul requires different efforts than those described above. And you must consider. Which is more important, physical health or your soul? Which is more important, financial assets or your soul?

Our Lord Jesus valued the soul more than gaining the whole world (*Matthew 16:26*). He has clearly set the standard and your priorities for you.

Discretion and understanding will not only preserve your soul; they will also preserve your life and your assets.

As the Holy Spirit says elsewhere, "*Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding*" (*Proverbs 4:7*). And the whole book is dedicated to the enormous value of acquiring discretion and understanding.

**What is Discretion?** It is knowing how, when, and what to do in various circumstances.

**What is Understanding?** It is discerning a situation, hidden dangers, subtle errors, and the right course of action. It is departing from evil (*Job 28:28*).

These terms overlap in meaning, but they also have their own shades of meaning. Our context shows they are related to wisdom and knowledge (*Proverbs 2:10*). See the comments on *Proverbs 23:23*.

The benefits of acquiring discretion and understanding are also found in our context (*Proverbs 2:12-22*).

Discretion and understanding will protect you from the lives and choices of the evil man and the strange woman, both of which are on the pathway to destruction.

**Proverbs teaches discretion (*Proverbs 1:4*).**

Discretion teaches when to speak and when not to speak (*Proverbs 26:4-5; 15:28; 29:11*),

Discretion teaches when to be angry and when not to be angry (*Proverbs 25:23; 19:11*).

Discretion is: guiding your affairs well (*Psalms 112:5*).

A woman without it is like a sow (*Proverbs 11:22; Titus 2:5*).

The knowledge of how to plant, harvest, and process various grains is an example of discretion (*Isaiah 28:26*).

And Joseph is an example of a man with it (*Genesis 41:33-40*).

Proverbs teaches understanding (*Proverbs 1:2*). Animals do not have it (*Job 39:17; Psalm 32:9*).

Understanding's foundation is the knowledge of the holy, and it is built by God's Word (*Proverbs 9:10; Psalms 111:10; 119:98-100, 104, 130*).

Understanding is dependent upon a man rejecting his own understanding (*Proverbs 3:5*).

Adultery, listening to vain persons, and being an easy surety prove a lack of understanding (*Proverbs 6:32; 12:11; 17:18*).

Understanding involves ruling your spirit (*Proverbs 14:29*) and pursuing knowledge (*Proverbs 15:14*).

Understanding is a source of happiness (*Proverbs 3:13*), leads to the good life (*Proverbs 13:15; 16:22*), and

Understanding causes a person to be of an excellent spirit (*Proverbs 17:27*).

Daniel clearly had understanding (*Daniel 1:20; 5:11-14; 6:3-4*).

Discretion and understanding will preserve and keep your soul and life. They are aspects of godly wisdom that will protect you from foolish errors, wicked persons, and sin.

Discretion and understanding will keep you out of all sorts of trouble, spiritual and physical.

Discretion and understanding will bring you peace, security, success, and happiness.

### **Life Without Discretion and Understanding Is A Hard And Difficult (*Proverbs 13:15; 22:5*)**

Discretion and understanding are easy to obtain, **If** you will apply yourself to learning the Word of God.

You also need to be in a church where the Word of God is taught faithfully and frequently, and you need to apply yourself in personal reading, meditation, prayer, and study. Then you must apply your learning to the life situations that God will bring your way (*Hebrews 5:12-14*).

God has given you the means to protect your life from pain, trouble, and difficulty. God has given instruction for happiness and success. Are you applying yourself as diligently and regularly in acquiring these two things as you do in protecting your body and money?

***Proverbs 2:12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;***

Wisdom, knowledge, discretion, and understanding provide the precious ability to identify evil men and avoid them.

Knowing the way of truth clearly, and the danger of friendship with fools, a wise man is saved from their destructive lifestyle and efforts at seduction. These evil men often expose themselves by a froward, or perverse, mouth.

This Proverb is in the middle of an eight-verse sentence of Holy Spirit (*Proverbs 2:10-17*).

The Holy Spirit first described acquiring wisdom, knowledge, discretion, and understanding (*Proverbs 2:10-11*).

This verse tells of the benefit of avoiding evil men (*Proverbs 2:12*).

Men who have wicked character and conduct (*Proverbs 2:13-15*).

And Solomon described the further benefit of avoiding whorish women (*Proverbs 2:16-17*).

Mankind Exists In Two Categories. There are the sons of God and the sons of the devil. The one have new hearts with life and light; the other have hearts black and dark as hell.

- There are wise men and there are fools.
- There are good men and evil men.
- There are noble men and base men.
- There are the righteous and the reprobates.
- There are twice born men and twice dead men.

The line is drawn! The ability to use personal discrimination is holy and right! So make sure you have understanding.

The evil man often gives himself away by his perverse mouth. He contradicts himself, disdains holy things, criticizes authority, belittles others, commends himself, presumes he is right, promotes vanity, and mocks the pattern of a righteous life.

The evil man is difficult to please, unreasonable, ungovernable, disobedient, untrustworthy, and wicked. He is obnoxious and profane.

A wise man can discern and identify evil men. He knows their coming judgment, both natural and spiritual, so he rejects them (*Psalms 1:1-6*).

A wise man can see through their pompous words and schemes. He laughs at their vain projects. He marks them and avoids them (*Proverbs 14:7; Romans 16:17-18*).

A wise man chooses the way of understanding for his life, so he encounters few evil men, since he is seldom in the same places or doing the same things with them.

David's three nephews by his sister Zeruiah served him devotedly for many years, but he wisely saw their evil hearts in their dealings with others. He drew a wise and holy difference between himself and them. He said, "These men the sons of Zeruiah be too hard for me: the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness" (*2Samuel 3:39*). And on his deathbed, he told his son Solomon to get rid of Joab, the greatest evil doer of them.

As David wisely chose to keep his house free of such men (*Psalms 101:1-8; 119:63*).

So the Son of David wisely discerned what was in evil men and kept Himself from them (*John 2:23-25*), rebuked them (*Matthew 22:15-26*), and condemned them (*Matthew 23:13-36*).

***Proverbs 2:13 Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;***

### **Backsliders Are A Grave Danger! Carnal Christianity Is A Threat To The Soul!**

Evil men do not stay in the way of righteousness, even when taught well. They soon compromise what they were taught in order to pursue sin (*Proverbs 2:12-15*).

The purpose of wisdom, knowledge, discretion, and understanding is to save you from such wicked compromisers (*Proverbs 2:10-17*).

Both testaments of Scripture describe the inherent folly of men, who cannot and will not stay faithful to the old paths in which they were taught.

Consider a few Old Testament examples (*Judges 2:1-23; 1Samuel 8:8; Psalm 78:40-42; Jeremiah 6:16*).

Consider a few New Testament examples (*1Corinthians 15:12; Galatians 1:6-9; 4:9; Philippians 3:18-19; 2Timothy 4:10*).

It is every man's duty to learn the wisdom, knowledge, discretion, and understanding of God to avoid compromisers and their sins (*Proverbs 2:10-17*).

Every man must be solidly established in the Word of God in order to identify, despise and reject any other opinion (*Psalms 119:128; Romans 16:17-18; 2Thessalonians 3:6; 1Timothy 6:3-5*).

This always requires learning wisdom (*Proverbs 2:1-9; Colossians 1:23*)!

God hates backsliding! And He severely punishes those doing it (*Proverbs 14:14*).

When God blesses you with the truth, which is a great thing, He expects you to use it or lose it (*Luke 8:18*).

The privilege of knowing the truth, acknowledges you will be judged with greater severity for turning against it (*Luke 12:47-48*).

Paul severely warned the Hebrew Christians numerous times about turning back (*Hebrews 2:1-3; 6:4-6; 10:26-31, 38-39; 12:25-29*)!

You live in the perilous times, of the last days (*2Timothy 3:1 - 4:5*).

These 25 verses from Paul to Timothy foretell the rise of an effeminate and compromising brand of Christianity, which is obsessed with pleasure and has only a weak pretense of religion.

This warning covers the great majority of "Christians" today, for they will no longer endure sound doctrine. They want teachers who will give them fables rather than truth!

David was committed to not departing wickedly from God; and though he sinned heinously with Bathsheba, he quickly repented, when confronted (*Psalms 18:21*).

David avoided sinners as much as he could, and he chose the righteous for his friends (*Psalms 101:3-8; 119:63*).

To be like him, you must have God's Word firmly fixed in you (*Psalms 18:22*)!

The primary purpose of a local church is to keep one another from departing from the living God through the deceitfulness of sin (*Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:23-25*).

And it is the duty of parents to indoctrinate their children against this departure (*Psalms 78:1-8*).

For the glory of Jesus Christ, you should either convert or reject all backsliders (*Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20*).

### ***Proverbs 2:14 Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;***

The wicked enjoy sin. Their conscience is seldom grieved, and their soul is seldom vexed.

The wicked are excited about the opportunity to sin, and they count it great sport to see the perverse actions of other sinners.

The wicked do evil, and they take pleasure in others doing evil. This is the character of wicked men, and wise men will avoid them at all costs.

Solomon taught his son the benefits of wisdom, knowledge, discretion, understanding and instruction (*Proverbs 2:10-11*).

These heavenly blessings would deliver him from wicked men and wicked women (*Proverbs 2:12-19*).

These heavenly blessings would lead him into the company of godly men and their blessings, and they would keep him from the judgment of the wicked (*Proverbs 2:20-22*).

The wicked never think about God: He is not in all their thoughts (*Psalms 10:4*).

The wicked rush into life with thoughts only of pleasing themselves. They do not tremble at God's warnings.

The wicked are excited about evil. Like Ahab, they sell themselves to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD (*1Kings 21:25-26*).

### **Their Damnation Slumbereth Not (*2Peter 2:3*)!**

These wicked men are not like Lot, the righteous and just nephew of Abraham. His soul was vexed daily while he lived as a carnal Christian, compromising with the sin in Sodom (*2Peter 2:6-8*).

The wicked are only vexed when they cannot sin (*Proverbs 4:16; Micah 2:1*)!

The wicked love sin! And they love watching others sin, even heinously! Think Hollywood!

The world is filled with such madmen. Paul described them as "*being past feeling*" and giving "*themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness*" (*Ephesians 4:17-19*).

The reason for this horrible condition is the vanity of their minds, their darkened understanding, and their blinded hearts. He warned against living like them.

Men rejected God's truth in creation, so he blinded them (*Romans 1:18-21*).

They foolishly created versions of gods to their own liking, so God blinded their minds further to do abusive and inconvenient things to themselves (*Romans 1:22-31*).

Though they knew such sins deserved death, they sinned and enjoyed others sinning also (*Romans 1:32*).

Our generation flatters wicked men. Sin is no longer a horrible thing with consequences. It is good material for comedies and jokes. But only fools mock at sin (*Proverbs 10:23; 14:9*).

The great value of wisdom is salvation from such wicked men (**Proverbs 2:10-15**).

Love and seek wisdom, to be saved from their lifestyle, and horrible judgment. *Delight thyself in the Lord (Psalm 37:4). Flee youthful lusts (2Timothy 2:22). Pursue sobriety instead (Titus 2:6).*

***Proverbs 2:15 Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:***

The world is crazy! When men reject the knowledge of God and His Word, they greedily run for crooked ways and froward paths.

The world is crazy! They love their crookedness and frowardness! **If** you try to correct them back in the straight and right way, they will hate you for it!

The world is crazy! And every child of God is a stranger here.

Worldly men call Christians straight! And they are right! Christians call worldly men crooked, and they are right!

Sin has twisted the heart and mind of man, so that worldly men rush headlong into crooked ways and down froward paths. Only the fear of the LORD will save a man from the crookedness and frowardness of the world.

The Holy Spirit's long sentence here explains the saving virtues of wisdom, knowledge, discretion, understanding and instruction (**Proverbs 2:10-17**).

These gifts from God will protect you from the evil and froward man, "*whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths.*" (**Proverbs 2:12**)

Crooked ways, are lifestyles deviating from what is right; they are dishonest, wrong, and perverse.

Froward paths, are lifestyles that are unreasonable, unruly, perverse, and evil. Crooked and froward have very similar meanings. These ways are mean, wrong and perverse (**Proverbs 3:32; 4:24; 6:12; 8:8; 11:20; 17:20; 21:8; Deuteronomy 32:5, 20; Psalms 18:26; 101:4; 125:5; Isaiah 59:8**).

When men reject the obvious display of God's existence in the natural creation, and are not thankful for His kindness, God darkens their minds and turns them over to reprobate thinking, to do inconvenient things (**Romans 1:18-32; Ephesians 4:17-19**).

How inconvenient? Very crooked and froward! Very wrong and perverse!

They profess themselves wise, just weeks after learning not to mess on themselves; and they make images of

bugs to worship, rather than the Creator (**Romans 1:22-23**).

Consider the most crooked way and froward path of all! God confuses them to dishonor each other by performing vile perversions with the same sex (**Romans 1:24-27**)!

Then God gives them over to more thoughts and acts to dishonor themselves further. Fornication, covetousness, malice, envy, murder, deceit, whispering, backbiting, rebellious children, covenant breaking, and implacability are a few of their ways and paths! (**Romans 1:28-32**)

The froward are "*without understanding*" and "*without natural affection.*" Not only do they do such things, they take pleasure in being with and watching those who do them!

**If** the truth were told, as you well know, your depraved heart and mind from Adam is as crooked and froward as any.

Paul said, "*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing*" (**Romans 7:18**).

But there is a new man within, created in righteousness and true holiness, which we are to put on (**Ephesians 4:24**).

By God's grace, we are not to conform to the world, but be transformed from it (**Romans 12:1-2**).

God has called you to a different lifestyle! Paul called on saints to be "*blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world*" (**Philippians 2:15**).

Are you as different from the world as you should be? There should not, even be a resemblance!

How do we do this? By wisdom, knowledge, discretion, understanding and instruction (**Proverbs 2:10-11**)!

Where do we find such precious things? In the Word of God, of course! We esteem God's precepts right on all subjects, and we hate every false way (**Psalms 119:128**).

There is no shortcut; and there is no cheating. The only wisdom on earth is in the Word of God (**Isaiah 8:20**)!

There was only one Man, Whose ways were perfectly straight, and His paths perfectly right. There was nothing crooked or froward in Him. Paul said Jesus was "*holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners*" (**Hebrews 7:26**).

What did this world do to Him? They mocked and tortured Him, before hanging Him by nails on a cross; and they would do the same thing again, if they had

another chance. And they want the same for His followers.

But the next time they see Him: Jesus Christ, will not be coming to die on the cross for His own; He will be coming to destroy His enemies!

There will be no quarter or mercy given in that day, as judgment is poured out on the crooked and froward.

They will call in vain to their Mother Earth, even *"the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Revelation 6:16-17).*

*"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day" (2Thessalonians 1:7-10).*

***Proverbs 2:16 To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;***

God loves His sons, and Solomon loved his son.

A great danger facing men is fornication, which we meet often in Proverbs. Both God and Solomon warn against immoral women, who increase this sin much among men (***Proverbs 23:28***).

Let every father and son take heed, for here is a warning of extreme importance, to the safety of your soul.

Those with high character will let the wisdom and knowledge of Proverbs enter into their heart and be pleasant unto their soul (***Proverbs 2:10***).

Then discretion and understanding and instruction can save you from the strange woman (***Proverbs 2:11***). Here is a deliverance or salvation indeed!

What is a strange woman? She is any woman you have not married, so you have no right to any romantic or sexual pleasure with her. She does not belong to you. More specifically, She is a whorish woman, who entices men to commit fornication with her.

Jephthah's brethren despised him as the son of a strange woman, for his mother was a harlot. Their own mother

was their father's wife, but his mother a whore. (***Judges 11:1-2***).

She is a stranger, for she belongs to another. As saints are strangers in the earth, because this is not our home and we don't belong here.

A strange woman is an evil woman who is away from her home and seducing men other than her husband. We will meet with this warning again and again, as it is a great temptation for men, especially young men (***Proverbs 6:24; 7:5***).

**No man** can play with this temptation and survive, for many strong men have been slain by her (***Proverbs 7:26***).

Samson was powerless before Delilah, so that he told her all his heart, even though he knew she sought to destroy him. (***Judges 16:4-21***)

Determine in your heart beforehand to avoid this woman, for she is waiting to cause you to sin (***Proverbs 23:26-28***).

She does not seek wicked and profane men, but rather those with virtuous souls (***Proverbs 6:26***).

Thus we see Potiphar's wife enticing the man of character, Joseph, who firmly rejected her advances with a soul committed to God (***Genesis 39:7-12***).

You could meet her today. We work with wives of others more than ever, and they are more whorish today than ever.

What can a man do? He must commit his soul to God in all sexual matters, and he must flee any forward or friendly woman.

The flattering attention of a woman is too strong a force to allow around you, for it will lead to the slaughter (***Proverbs 7:21-23***).

Do not lust after a woman's beauty or enjoy her eyes (***Proverbs 6:25***)!

Reject and flee her words of praise and flattery (***Proverbs 6:24***)!

Do not think of her later in your heart (***Job 31:1***)!

Stay away from her presence with great diligence (***Proverbs 4:15***)!

Flattery is kind and friendly speech to win your attention. It is not sincere and virtuous, for the intentions are neither of good character nor righteous.

A woman's praise can take a man easily, so avoid it and disregard it (***Proverbs 5:3; 7:21***).

Of course, she will not say her goal is sin; instead she will praise you, commend herself, describe creative lovemaking and great affection, and say she wants to give you solace and love (*Proverbs 7:13-18*).

Hate her words! Run from them! Reject them! She lies!

Though she seems delightful and pleasant, her end is bitter and painful (*Proverbs 2:18-19; 5:5; 7:27; 9:18*). Solomon wrote much of Proverbs to protect his son from strange women. Wisdom, knowledge, discernment, discretion, understanding and instruction will keep you from her (*Proverbs 2:10-11*).

Know this and understand this, God has condemned all adulterers and whoremongers (*Hebrews 13:4*).

The consequences of adultery are horrific. It is a man's wisdom and discretion to stay far away from any woman but his wife. (*Proverbs 6:26-35*)

The daughters of God must learn to modestly cover their beauty, limit their eye contact, and limit friendly speech with other men.

If you do not, you are kindling a fire that will destroy your own soul and home and those of others as well.

May God give you grace and strength to be faithful to Him and your spouse this day.

### ***Proverbs 2:17 Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.***

The strange woman, a whore or adulteress, is our subject from the previous verse. The Holy Spirit warns often in the early chapters of Proverbs against this dangerous seductress.

The Holy Spirit here in this verse explains that the adulteress, "forsaketh" and "forgetteth", and He condemns the character of such women by these two great offences.

Our perverse nation promotes casual sex and adultery, but godly women must be taught strongly to abhor it. Every father must eliminate, any influence, in his daughter's life that would lessen her horror at the very thought of such a great sin.

Two areas of life demanding strict attention, are friends and various forms of entertainment, such as books, magazines, television, music, and movies.

*Evil Communications Corrupt Good Manners (1Corinthians 15:33).*

The "guide of her youth" is her husband. And she forsakes him in a horrible way, when she is intimate

with another man. Such a betrayal is heinous, since he has been her companion and guide from early youth. In contrast, a father's guidance may be forsaken.

Scripture describes the wife of a man's youth (*Proverbs 5:18; Isaiah 54:6; Joel 1:8; Malachi 2:14-15*).

If girls married nearer biological maturity today, they would be husband and wife of youth. Our Proverb is describing that general fact of Jewish life that marriage occurred early.

A father guides a girl in childhood (*Proverbs 22:15*). And it is the father's duty to preserve her virginity (*Deuteronomy 22:14-17*).

But if marriage occurred early, as with the Jews, fatherly training would end near the time of youth, when the early husband would become the new guide. Husbands have guided wives since Eden (*Genesis 3:16*).

He could annul his wife's vows as easily as a daughter's, and it was his duty to instruct her (*Numbers 30:8; 1Corinthians 14:35*).

Men made the important decisions for their families, as they should (*Genesis 18:19; Joshua 24:15*).

We can divide life: from birth to five as infants, from five to puberty as children, and from puberty to various definitions of majority as youth. Consider the following Scriptures among others: *Leviticus 27:1-7; 1Samuel 12:2; Ecclesiastes 11:10; Jonah 4:11; 1Corinthians 7:9, 36; 1Timothy 4:12*.

The perverse character of the strange woman is her ability to betray the husband of her youth in such a painful way. Let foolish men beware, if she has betrayed her husband, she will betray you even more easily and quickly.

The "covenant of her God" is her marriage covenant (*Malachi 2:14*).

Job made a covenant with his eyes (*Job 31:1*).

Since the woman was made for the man, sexual loyalty is even more binding on the woman. A proper marriage covenant would also include God's will for sexual fidelity (*Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:13-21; 23:17; Hebrews 13:4*).

Let every godly woman read *Numbers 5:11-31* and see the help God gives husbands against cheating wives and the severity with which He judges them. This passage reflects the mind of the Lord, and every compromising thought to the contrary is an abomination.

A father has an important role in training daughters, for he is the main teacher (*Ephesians 6:4*).

A mother cannot do nearly as well. What does a woman know about men? Let daughters be taught and soberly warned about virtuous conduct and profane men by their fathers.

Every girl who fears God should receive her father's instruction with a ready heart.

Every married woman should remember the guide of her youth and the covenant she made before God. Due to her place in creation and God's roles for her, she will be judged severely for sexual infidelity. But for every repentant Mary, there is a forgiving Savior.

Jesus called His saints adulterers and adulteresses to intensify the heinous nature of idolatry and worldliness (*Ezekiel 16; James 4:4*).

The pain, betrayal, and perversity of adultery is an appropriate comparison for any departure from loving Him fully and only.

***Proverbs 2:18 For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.***

The house and paths of the strange woman slope downhill, to death and destruction (*Proverbs 5:5; 7:27; 9:18*).

There is hardly a greater danger to men than a strange woman, an attractive and flattering woman with a whore's heart, who will give her body to destroy your soul (*Proverbs 6:26; 23:28*).

She has wounded and slain many strong men (*Proverbs 7:26*).

Only by God's grace do any men ever recover from sinning with her (*Proverbs 2:19*). Get away from her! Today! Now!

Her house and paths are not limited to those literal places, they include any sexual activity with her, no matter where the sinful liaison takes place.

The place, may even be her pictures in a glossy magazine or adult website.

The place, may be going to bed with a strange woman!

The place, may be even fantasizing of doing so, or it could be choosing her lifestyle. It all brings the same result, death!

There is more than one way to die. Physical death - the death of the body, is only one way to die. Fornicators die physically from STDs, jealous husbands, protective fathers, and capital punishment in moral nations.

Of course, such deaths today are hidden away and disguised, for this wicked generation has glamorized the house and paths of whores.

Fornicators also die spiritually, emotionally, and eternally.

Fornicators lose their fellowship with God. Fornicators can lose reputations, families, wealth, health, ambition, peace, and other essential assets, all of which may be called death, the ruin of a good life.

Fornicators can also end up in hell, the second death, where all whoremongers will spend eternity (*Revelation 21:8*).

The average man lives 73 years, but this is not the life expectancy of whoremongers. The most glamorized movie actors, music stars, and other public fornicators average only half those years! Even the world knows that hard living, hard partying, and whores will steal years off a man's life.

A major benefit of Hollywood is seeing the shorter life expectancy of publicized fornicators.

Young man! older man! Do not be deceived! Do not let this wicked generation paint an illusion over the house and paths of the strange woman! They are sloped down, down, down! They lead to death and hell. *Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

The lie of the devil's music, movies, clothes, and lifestyles, that free love and casual sex are elixirs of life, and won't destroy you. Do not be as blinded by women as Adam, Samson, David, and Solomon! It cost them life and peace.

Once you start down the slippery slope of sexual sin, who can and will pull you back?

The strange woman has no heart or ability to help. She already lives in a hellish life style and likes it.

The fascinating addiction to sexual sin will bring you down. The God, Whom you rejected for a devilish woman, will only help after repentance, which will be hard to find.

**The Cure:**

***Job 31:1 I Made A Covenant With Mine Eyes;  
Why Then Should I Think Upon A Maid?***

***Proverbs 2:19 None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.***

**Adultery Is Fatal!  
It Is A Terminal Sin!**

There is no recovery from adultery without God!

Solomon had just warned his son about the strange woman, a whorish woman, that will have sex with a man other than her husband (**Proverbs 2:16-18**).

In an effort to frighten his son against adultery, he gave a general rule, that is confirmed by Scripture and experience, adultery is fatal.

Parents and pastors must warn against adultery, and they especially must warn young men about its temptations and dire consequences (**Proverbs 6:20-26**).

The deceitful hearts and raging hormones of young men are very vulnerable to it (**Jeremiah 17:9; 1Corinthians 7:9**).

Youth is a time of vanity and much temptation toward this sin (**Psalms 25:7; Ecclesiastes 11:10**).

Therefore, the inspired book of Proverbs has much to say about sexual sins to young men.

Of course, a whorish woman will never tell the truth about the consequences of touching her (**Proverbs 6:29**). Instead:

- She flatters her gullible victim to his ruin (**Proverbs 2:16; 7:21**).
- She describes in the most glowing terms the pleasures that she can give and the certainty of not getting caught (**Proverbs 7:13-20; 9:17**).
- She does not admit that other victims are in hell (**Proverbs 5:5; 7:27; 9:18**)!

The Lord is the only hope of the adulterer. He must spend more time, in reading the Word of God, studying the Word of God and meditating on the Word of God and countless hours on his knees praying to God.

Of course, the world will not help young men. It glorifies and protects adultery by television programming, movies, music, magazines, books, legislation, birth control, popular opinion, peer pressure, immodest clothing, coed dorms, and other inventions.

The world has been committed to adultery from the beginning (**Ephesians 4:17-19; 1John 2:15-17**).

There are many ways to die, and adultery will help you discover and experience all of them.

- Samson found one way, suicide as a blind man!
- You can die at the hands of a jealous husband (**Proverbs 6:34-35**) or you can die by sexual diseases.

In a nation enforcing righteousness, like Israel under the Law of Moses, adultery was a capital offence, even

for women that kept it hidden (**Leviticus 20:10; Numbers 5:11-31; Deuteronomy 22:22-24**).

But there are worse ways to die by adultery! This heinous sin will destroy your reputation and soul.

Men understand some sins, but they do not allow mercy or understanding for adultery (**Proverbs 6:27-33; Song of Solomon 8:6**).

Adultery violates one of the most intimate bonds and trusts in human relationships. It is a heinous sin and should be judged severely (**Job 31:9-12**).

Adultery will destroy your soul (**Proverbs 6:32**).

Adultery will bring guilt and shame like never before (**Proverbs 5:8-14**).

Adultery will bring God's chastening punishment and the massive grieving of His Holy Spirit in your life (**Psalms 51:7-12**).

Adultery will make you a bond slave to sexual fantasies and voyeurism and further sins (**Proverbs 5:20-23; Ecclesiastes 7:26**).

### **You Cannot Save Yourself! Adultery Is Terminal!**

However where things are impossible for men, they are possible with God (**Luke 18:25-27**), even as Paul gave thanks for deliverance from the bondage of his sin of concupiscence <sup>desire for sexual intimacy</sup> (**Romans 7:7-8, 24-25**).

Adultery is terminal as a general rule, where the exceptions are those delivered by the super-abundant grace of God in Jesus Christ (**John 8:1-11; 1Corinthians 6:9-11**).

Why are we told the details of David's horrible sins of adultery and murder? So that other such sinners might find comfort in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God freely forgave David and still honored him as the greatest king in Israel and the namesake father of Jesus Christ (**1Kings 11:4; 14:8; 15:3-5; Matthew 1:1; Romans 15:4; Revelation 5:5; 22:16**).

God chose David in Jesus Christ by sovereign decree before the world began (**Ephesians 1:3-12**).

Jesus died for each of David's sins, including his adultery and murder (**Isaiah 53:4-12; 2Corinthians 5:21; 1Peter 2:24; Revelation 1:5**).

David took enormous confidence in this great salvation by God's free grace in Jesus Christ (**2Samuel 23:1-5; Psalm 32:1-2**). Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect, including David? It is God that justifieth (**Romans 8:33**)!

But God's practical mercy for adultery requires full confession and repentance, which David gave freely and fully (*2Samuel 12:13; Psalm 51:1-19*).

God is faithful to forgive confessed sins, and Elihu described confession well, "He looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not; He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light" (*Job 33:27-28*).

***Proverbs 2:20 That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.***

There are only two kinds of men in the world, good, righteous men and bad, wicked men.

They two live very differently: Their lifestyles and principles are very different. The good and righteous men live a noble life of virtue and integrity. The bad and wicked men live a profane life of vanity and deceit.

Only wise men can see the difference; only wise men understand the choices that lead to a noble and successful life.

This chapter has two purposes:

1. To teach you how to get wisdom and understanding (*Proverbs 2:1-9*) and
2. The great reward of getting them (*Proverbs 2:10-22*).

When a man obtains wisdom, knowledge, discretion, understanding and instruction, he will be saved from dangerous men and women, who walk in the ways and paths of wickedness (*Proverbs 2:10-19*).

It is from this evil lifestyle of worldly men and women that Solomon sought to save his son. He first explained a negative reason for getting wisdom (to be saved from the destructive choices and habits of the wicked) (*Proverbs 2:12-19*).

Then began at this Proverb to explain the positive reason for getting wisdom:

- To follow the choices and habits of great men (*Proverbs 2:20*).
- To receive God's protective, prospering, blessings (*Proverbs 2:21-22*).

The definition of good and bad is not by culture, interpretation, or preference. God settled such simple things in the Bible.

The Word of God, plainly defines what is good and acceptable, and what is bad and despicable. There is no neutral lifestyle. You are living either a good or bad life, and you will either be rewarded or punished for it.

The Word of God, not only defines good and bad; it also gives examples of good and bad men. It compares wise men and fools, it compares virtuous women and odious women, it compares saints and sinners.

The contrast is clearly seen between Abel and Cain, Abraham and Lot, David and Saul, Abigail and Michael, Peter and Judas, Paul and Demas. See the comments on *Proverbs 12:26*.

Good men sin, but they don't wallow in their sin. They may fall seven times, but they will get up; the wicked fall and stay there (*Proverbs 24:16*).

David and Peter sinned grievously, but they repented and showed an overall character far exceeding other men. Judas sinned grievously, and kept right on sinning. His path was final and fatal.

Wisdom Is The Key, to opening the door, to the way of good men and the path of righteous men.

Wisdom is offered freely in the Scriptures, and especially this book of Proverbs.

If Wisdom enters your heart and is pleasant to your soul, you will be able to see and follow the lives of the great men and women before us, the Lord Jesus Christ being the greatest example of all.

***Proverbs 2:21 For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.***

Righteousness has a reward (*Isaiah 58:1-11*)! God promises longevity, peace, and safety to good men.

Good men will be established in their place and have a happy existence.

Good men will remain long after others have been removed.

The reward is in great contrast to the judgment of the wicked spoken of in the next verse (*Proverbs 2:22*).

And this contrast is only magnified in eternity, as the righteous will enter into eternal rest and untold pleasures.

The context of this Proverb is Solomon's warning to his son about the danger of wicked men and whorish women (*Proverbs 2:10-19*).

He instructed and taught his son in order to save him from those terrible companions, and to guide him into the way of good men, and to keep the paths of the righteous (*Proverbs 2:20*).

In this Proverb before you, the Holy Spirit, is explaining why the paths of good men are desirable paths, they have much peace and prosperity.

God delivered His chosen people Israel out of Egypt, and He gave them the land of Canaan for an inheritance, rooting all their enemies out of the land before them (*Genesis 15:18-21; Deuteronomy 7:1-3*).

But the Promised Land was given to them on the condition of their obedience. Rebellion and sin would cause Him to take it away (*Leviticus 26:1-46; Deuteronomy 28:1-68*).

Any man of Israel understood this Proverb in a very profound and powerful way. Longevity, peace, prosperity, and safety are the blessings of God upon the righteous.

These rewards are mentioned often in Proverbs by Solomon and as well by David in the Psalms (*Proverbs 1:33; 3:2,13-18; 4:10; 9:11; 16:7; 28:2; Ps 37:3, 9, 11, 22, 29*).

A happy life with good days is obtained by obeying the Lord, especially by ruling your speech and treating others kindly (*Psalms 34:12-16; 1Peter 3:10-12*).

Righteousness brings blessings (*Isaiah 3:10*)!

Consider God's first commandment with an attached promise.

God demands that children honor their parents, which is much broader than mere obedience. It means to exalt parents and treat them with special reverence at all times, even in thoughts, speech, facial expressions, and support (*Proverbs 20:20; 30:17; Deuteronomy 27:16; 1Timothy 5:4, 8*).

But look at the reward for honoring them, a good life and a long life (*Ephesians 6:2-3*)!

The "Midas touch" refers to a foolish legend.

But the story of Job is inspired history! God put a hedge about him to bless all that he did and had, because he was a righteous man that feared God (*Job 1:1-5, 10*).

And even though God tested Job severely, He blessed him with more in the end. There is truly a reward for the righteous (*Job 42:10-17; James 5:11*).

But the greatest reward is future, dwelling forever in the place called heaven (*Hebrews 11:8-16*)!

***Proverbs 2:22 But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.***

**Things That Do Not Pay!**

**Crime Does Not Pay!  
Sin Does Not Pay!  
Foolishness Does Not Pay!**

Men and women who choose a wicked lifestyle, will be dealt with by God and men and destroyed.

The Proverb is harsh, but it is true. The choice is yours, **If** you choose to follow the evil man or the strange woman in their wicked ways, you have chosen the way of pain and death.

Solomon had described the zealous pursuit of wisdom and every good path (*Proverbs 2:1-9*).

Then Solomon described a great benefit of wisdom in being delivered from the evil man and the strange woman (*Proverbs 2:10-15; 2:16-19*).

Then finally, Solomon described a positive blessing of wisdom in walking in the way of good men and keeping the paths of righteous men (*Proverbs 2:20*).

What is the reward for obtaining wisdom, avoiding the evil man and strange woman, and following the lifestyle of good and righteous men (*Proverbs 2:10-20*)?

Both God and men punish evildoers, so crime does not pay. It is God and man's blessings on your life that lead to security and success. You will be safe and have a long and prosperous life (*Proverbs 2:21*).

Tranquility is a wonderful thing. Understand it! Get it! It means to be free from disturbance or agitation; to enjoy serenity and calmness; to experience quietness and peacefulness.

Tranquility is God's gracious reward for righteous living (*Proverbs 1:33; 3:21-26; 4:7-8; Psalms 25:12-13; 112:6-8; Isaiah 26:3-4; 1Timothy 6:6; 1Peter 3:10-12*).

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was the greatest king in world history. He had more honor, prosperity, and success than any other. But he was proud and did not give God any praise or thanksgiving.

King Nebuchadnezzar was a sinner, and he oppressed the poor. Daniel warned him to end his sins in order to lengthen his tranquility. Because he did not humble himself and choose the way of good men, he spent the next seven years as a beast (*Daniel 4:27-33*).

Lot chose to mingle with the men of this world, but he ruined his entire family in one of the most depraved stories in the Bible (*Genesis 13:12-13; 19:1-38*).

Saul thought he could allow, the fear of man, impatience, and envy in his life; but he and his sons were killed in the same day and nailed to a wall by the Philistines (*1Samuel 31:8-13*).

Saul, his sons and their families were cut off from the earth and rooted out of it. The Proverb is harsh but true.

Alexander the Great lived an arrogant life of violence, and he did not live out half his days, just as God promised such wicked men (*Psalm 55:23*).

The warning about being cut off and rooted out does not just apply to whoremongers and similar rebels.

The Lord Jesus Christ used such language when describing the religious leaders of His day that chose their manmade traditions and politically correct manners over His doctrine of righteousness and truth.

Jesus Christ told His disciples that they would be rooted up and that they were no more than blind leaders of the blind (*Matthew 15:12-14*).

It does not matter, **If** your life is good right now. **If** you continue in worldly compromise or wickedness, God will cut you and your family off and root you and them out of the earth.

**If** your life is good now, it will not last long if wickedness is found in you!

**If** your life is bad now, it can and will get much worse! Lengthen your tranquility by choosing an upright and perfect life (*Proverbs 2:20-21*)!