Our Destination : Wisdom **8.17.08**

What is "Wisdom?"

Definition: Insight, prudence, discernment, understanding, **Living skillfully.**
Praises for wisdom: Better than jewels (8:11), Better than gold (3:14, 16:16), greater than strength (21:22, 24:5-6),
Commands to It: (1:20-33, 3:21, 4:5, 7, 5:1, 6:6, 7:4, 8:33, 9:12, 23:19, 23, 27:11)

WISDOM is the DESTINATION for the journey on which the Book of Proverbs takes us.

Wisdom and Jesus:

1. As we grow in Christ-likeness, we should grow in wisdom.
2. God has not just given us principles but a Person.
    a. In Jesus, we have both the example and means toward wisdom.
3. Growth happens when we live our lives in light of these principles through God's power at work within us through the Holy Spirit.

What Does Wisdom Look Like in Practice?

- Accepts reproof (9:8)
- Accepts instruction which leads to greater wisdom (9:9)
- Receives commandments (10:8)
- Lays up, seeks and commends knowledge (10:14, 15:2, 18:15)
- Captures souls (11:30)
- Listens to advice, accepts instruction (12:15, 13:10, 19:20)
- Receives instruction which leads to knowledge (21:11)
- Hears his father's instruction (13:1)
- Overlooks insults (12:16)
- Makes his speech judicious (16:23)
- Sees danger and hides himself (22:3)
- Is cautious, turns away from and is wary of evil (14:16, 27:12)
- Is full of strength (24:5)
- Turn away wrath (29:8)
- Quietly holds back his spirit (29:11)

Where is there evidence of wisdom in my life? Where do I need to grow in wisdom the most? Are there people speaking into my life that can help me in these areas?

What Are the Benefits of Wisdom?

- Blessing, long life, riches and honor, peace (3:13-18)
- Wealth, treasure and provision (14:24, 21:20)
- Wise will inherit honor (3:35)
- Makes your father/parents glad (10:1, 15:20, 23:15, 24, 29:3)
- Will lead to a future and a hope (24:13-14)
- Longevity, lack of fear, better sleep (3:21-24)
- Appeases wrath (16:14)
- The tongue of the wise brings healing (12:18)
- The lips of the wise will preserve them (14:3)
- Leads to deliverance (28:26)
- Will have the favor of leaders (14:35)
- Leads to ruling and leading (17:2)

How Do We Walk in It?

1. Recognize that wisdom comes from the Lord (2:6).
    a. It begins by us getting to know the Person of wisdom—Jesus.
2. Recognize that it requires surrender.
    a. Prov. 3:5-6. Memorize. Live. Teach to your children.
3. Seek it diligently
    a. 1 Kings 3—pray like Solomon
    b. Prov. 2—cry out for wisdom!
4. Walk with the right people (13:20)—**character is contagious.**
    a. The man who has understanding (10:13).
    b. The righteous (10:31).
    c. The humble (11:2).
5. Ask ***"What is the WISE CHOICE in this situation?"***

Are these actions a habit in our lives? If not, what needs to change?

Homework:

1. Meditate on the key passages of Prov. 2, 8 in the book. Journal your thoughts.
2. Parents! Look for ways to teach your children both the practices and benefits of wisdom in real life situations.
3. Read a chapter of Proverbs a day (31 chapters). Soak in it!
4. Pray for wisdom like Solomon did. God will answer this prayer!
5. Continue asking "*Where do I most need wisdom in my life?"* Ask God. Ask others.
6. Begin asking ***"What is the WISE choice in this situation?"***

Visit www.crossinglouisville.com for more helpful resources.

Works Consulted : Expositor's Bible Commentary, Life Application Bible, MacArthur Study Bible, Messages by Steve Hart, Tim Keller, Darrin Patrick, Mark Driscoll, Introduction to the Old Testament