

## Old Stuff - Good Stuff

### Proverbs 2:1-12

#### Preface

Today is “Old Fashioned Day.” We will sing old songs and enjoy an old fashion service.

Illus: My son and I went out of town for a morning on Thursday. We left at 5:00 AM and he was smart enough to bring a thermos of coffee. As I mooched his coffee and admired his new thermos, I began to tell him about the thermoses we had when I was a kid. You may remember they had glass inserts that would break if the thermos was dropped or bumped. Those thermoses kept things hot or cold but they were really dangerous. You might pour out a cup of soup only to find glass in it. They have certainly improved.

On the other hand, have you purchased a gas can lately? They are all plastic and they have a new type of valve cap that last about a week before they break. It takes about three times as long to pour out the gas. The old ones on the other hand were much better quality and lasted for a lifetime.

The point is that not everything that is old is good and not everything that is old is bad. Most older things were much better quality construction than they are today. The emphasis today is on cheap fast production.

One thing of old that will always outperform the new is wisdom.

Illus: One of our Deacons recently said to me, “The older I get the smarter my father gets.” He was making reference to the fact that the older and smarter he gets, the more he realizes how much wisdom his father had.

When we are young, we tend to think we are super smarter and our parents are pretty dumb. In reality, it is exactly the other way around. As we mature, we come to understand our parents are filled with wisdom and experience and we would do well to heed their instructions.

Sadly many adults make the same mistake about God’s Word. They think they are super smart and God’s Word is just old fashioned and not applicable. It is true that God’s Word is old but it is alive and eternal in it’s applicability.

#### Scripture (also used 10/25/2009)

*<sup>1</sup>My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, <sup>2</sup>turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, <sup>3</sup>and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, <sup>4</sup>and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, <sup>5</sup>then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.*

*<sup>6</sup>For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. <sup>7</sup>He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, <sup>8</sup>for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.*

*<sup>9</sup>Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path. <sup>10</sup>For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. <sup>11</sup>Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.*

*<sup>12</sup>Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse... Proverbs 2:1-12 NIV*

#### Introduction

In our youth we long for popularity and acceptance. What we really need is wisdom for it would guide us into the future with confidence and safety.

As young adults we seek financial gain and the ability to acquire more things. Wisdom would be the greatest wealth we could ever possess as it would help us avoid so many mistakes.

As senior adults we long for health and the vitality of our youth. Yet wisdom will allow us to make our mark in life and experience the fullness of what remains.

God offers His children wisdom that rises far above the simple thinking of the world. God offers wisdom that can light up our life with enthusiasm if we will trust it. Like a Q-Beam in the midst of darkness, wisdom is the brightness of the soul.

The world calls it blind faith but **real faith has eyes that pierce the darkness and see the glory of God’s plan.**

## 1. We Must Seek God's Wisdom

Real wisdom comes from God and God alone. God's wisdom is not stumbled upon or found by chance. God's wisdom must be sought after.

Quote: "A wise man continuously seeks wisdom; a foolish man thinks wisdom seeks him."

Notice in verses 1- 5, we are admonished to: accept, store up, listen, apply, call out, cry aloud, look for and search for God's wisdom. And if we do we will find and understand.

Quote: Abraham Lincoln said, "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go."

To discover God's wisdom, we must call upon the Lord. We must find the time to be alone with God and call upon His wisdom and guidance in our life.

Each Sunday when I see people come to this altar to pray, I am deeply blessed. I understand what is happening. They are seeking God's answers; they either have no answers or don't trust their own answers, which is wisdom at work. We must call upon the Lord for wisdom.

You will discover God's wisdom by being in His house worshipping and learning His word. But, we must also seek God's wisdom through prayer, Bible study, walking with him and exercising our faith.

Do you read your Bible searching for wisdom and guidance or do you depend on the opinion and suggestions of others?

Through God's word, we learn how to deal with our wants and desires, our struggles and challenges, our shortcomings, our failures and successes, our conflicts with others, our aspirations and our desperations.

God's word holds the answers. If we will seek wisdom we will find it and spare ourselves untold heartache. **If we ignore wisdom, we are certain to stumble and make unnecessary mistakes.**

God's wisdom must be sought after with all our heart.

## 2. Wisdom Helps Avoid Life's Pitfalls

<sup>12</sup> *Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse, <sup>13</sup>who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways, <sup>14</sup>who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil, <sup>15</sup>whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways. Proverbs 2:12-15*

If we will keep our eyes on God's wisdom, we will be spared many of the dangers of the world. We can avoid the crooked paths that others will try to lead us down. The Bible says we are protected from the evil things that can lead us astray.

When we walk in God's wisdom, we handle life with others in a godly manner. We deal with others with honesty and integrity. We are more considerate of others and we never lose sight of the importance of others coming to know Christ.

Lack of wisdom on the other hand, causes us conflict and strife.

<sup>14</sup> *But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. <sup>16</sup>For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. James 3:14-16*

When we do not walk in wisdom, we become earthly minded, filled with envy and selfishness - and that's when we make terrible choices that bring us years of heartache.

Illus: We all make mistakes. However, some people so lack wisdom in their youth that they make horrible mistakes that haunt them throughout adulthood.

With God's wisdom, alcohol is kept in its place. Without God's wisdom, alcohol will consume your life.

With God's wisdom you will make wiser financial choices, career decisions and much more.

With God's wisdom, the right mate and friends can be found. **Without God's wisdom others will lead you where you said you would never go.**

God's wisdom protects us from danger.

### 3. Victory Is Yours If You Open Your Heart

<sup>7</sup>He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, <sup>8</sup>for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

We sing the song “Victory in Jesus”. God’s word tells us there is victory in Jesus and walking in wisdom allows us to experience it.

Wisdom is not something you just learn. **Godly wisdom is a lifestyle. It is the way you live, not just the way you talk.**

Walking in wisdom is not a once-a-week hobby; it is a daily discipline of seeking God’s guidance. Wisdom must be sought but **wisdom can be found and victory awaits the ones who find it.**

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. James 3:13

With wisdom, you won’t compromise your integrity. With wisdom you won’t lose your reputation.

*(Prov 10:9 NIV) The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.*

With wisdom, you won’t antagonize others; the Bible says you will be peace-loving. *(Prov 20:3 NIV) “It is to a man’s honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.”*

With wisdom you will recognize your weaknesses and strengths. Wisdom understands these things and lives accordingly.

With wisdom you will avoid the pitfalls of sin and temptation. The person who walks in the way of wisdom detects the deceit of those who are out to bring evil into his life.

When we receive God’s word and obey them, we have the wisdom to make the right decisions. As God’s children we have the privilege of *“walking in the ways of good men (v20)”*.

I like what verse 11 promises; <sup>11</sup>*Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.*” Discretion, protection and understanding; isn’t that what we all need regardless of our age?

God’s wisdom leads us to a life of victory.

### Conclusion

Key Verse: <sup>8</sup>he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones (Saints, KJV).

Some old things are just that – old things. Some old things are no longer useful and must be thrown out. But wisdom from God, wisdom from our parents and wisdom from the elderly is to be valued like precious silver.

<sup>15</sup> She is more precious than rubies; <sup>15</sup> nothing you desire can compare with her.” Proverbs 3:15

Quote: ***“If you lack knowledge, go to school. If you lack wisdom, get on your knees.”***

Illus: An old man tells the story of being a young boy out with his father and brother. The father asks “What is the hardest word to say in the English language?” The young boy responds with “Supercalafragalisticexpealadoist, 33 letters.” The father informs him that is not even a real word and is not the hardest word to say in the English language. The older brother gives his answer as “Antidisestablishmentarianism.” To which the father informs him that is the largest real word in the English language but not the hardest to say. Exasperated, the two boys ask, “What is the hardest word to say in the English language?” The father says, “No.” It is very often difficult to say “No” to the temptations of the world. The man telling of this experience goes on to say he now carries a head full of grey hair and he can say with confidence, the two letter word “No” is the hardest word to say in the English language.

We need to say “No” to the worlds temptations and offers of wisdom and say “Yes” to God’s instruction in our life.

Cute: After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him.. The moral of the story is: When you’re full of bull, keep your mouth shut.