

# THE WISDOM OF GOD

**BIBLE TEXT** : Proverbs 1:1-33; 2:1-22.

LESSON 275 Senior Course

**MEMORY VERSE:** "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7).

## **BIBLE TEXT** in King James Version

**Proverbs 1:1-33** <sup>1</sup> The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;  
<sup>2</sup> To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;  
<sup>3</sup> To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;  
<sup>4</sup> To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.  
<sup>5</sup> A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:  
<sup>6</sup> To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.  
<sup>7</sup> The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.  
<sup>8</sup> My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:  
<sup>9</sup> For they *shall be* an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.  
<sup>10</sup> My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.  
<sup>11</sup> If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:  
<sup>12</sup> Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:  
<sup>13</sup> We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:  
<sup>14</sup> Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:  
<sup>15</sup> My son, walk not thou in the

## **BIBLE REFERENCES:**

### **I The Call Of Wisdom**

- 1 Proverbs are given to teach wisdom, Proverbs 1:1-6;  
**Matthew 13:10-11** <sup>10</sup> **And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?**  
<sup>11</sup> **He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.**  
**Mark 4:10-12** <sup>10</sup> **And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.**  
<sup>11</sup> **And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all *these* things are done in parables:**  
<sup>12</sup> **That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and *their* sins should be forgiven them.**
- 2 Parental instruction is an ornament of grace, Proverbs 1:7-9;  
**Exodus 20:12** <sup>12</sup> **Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.**
- 3 Avoid evil enticements, Proverbs 1:10-19;  
**1 Thessalonians 5:22** <sup>22</sup> **Abstain from all appearance of evil.**  
**1 Corinthians 15:33** <sup>33</sup> **Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.**
- 4 The voice of wisdom is heard everywhere, Proverbs 1:20-23;  
**Psalms 19:1-6** <sup>1</sup> **The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.**  
<sup>2</sup> **Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.**  
<sup>3</sup> **There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.**  
<sup>4</sup> **Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,**  
<sup>5</sup> **Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.**  
<sup>6</sup> **His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.**  
**Luke 9:6** <sup>6</sup> **And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.**  
**Acts 8:4** <sup>4</sup> **Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.**  
**Romans 1:18-21** <sup>18</sup> **For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;**  
<sup>19</sup> **Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them.**  
<sup>20</sup> **For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:**  
<sup>21</sup> **Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**
- 5 Judgment is meted to the scorner, Proverbs 1:24-32;  
**Proverbs 29:1** <sup>1</sup> **He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth *his* neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without**

way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

<sup>16</sup> For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

<sup>17</sup> Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

<sup>18</sup> And they lay wait for their *own* blood; they lurk privily for their *own* lives.

<sup>19</sup> So *are* the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; *which* taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

<sup>20</sup> Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:

<sup>21</sup> She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, *saying*,

<sup>22</sup> How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

<sup>23</sup> Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

<sup>24</sup> Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

<sup>25</sup> But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

<sup>26</sup> I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

<sup>27</sup> When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

<sup>28</sup> Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

<sup>29</sup> For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

<sup>30</sup> They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

<sup>31</sup> Therefore shall they eat of the

remedy.

## II The Reward for Answering the Call

- 1 Harkening brings a reward, Proverbs 1:33;  
**Jeremiah 38:20** <sup>20</sup> **But Jeremiah said, They shall not deliver thee. Obey, I beseech thee, the voice of the LORD, which I speak unto thee: so it shall be well unto thee, and thy soul shall live.**
- 2 A diligent seeker will find God, Proverbs 2:1-5;  
**Jeremiah 29:13** <sup>13</sup> **And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.**  
**Matthew 5:6** <sup>6</sup> **Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.**  
**Matthew 13:44** <sup>44</sup> **Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.**
- 3 The Lord giveth wisdom, Proverbs 2:6-9;  
**James 1:5** <sup>5</sup> **If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.**
- 4 Discretion shall preserve thee, Proverbs 2:10-22;  
**Daniel 4:27** <sup>27</sup> **Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.**

### **NOTES:**

#### **Wisdom Personified**

**"Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:**

**"She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words" (Proverbs 1:20, 21).**

There is a prophetic strain that runs through the Book of Proverbs. When Solomon was writing these stirring words there must have been in his heart a spirit that caught the note of God's plan for humanity in ages to come. This Wisdom that is spoken of is nothing more or less than a Person: Wisdom personified is Christ Jesus – not the wisdom of the world, not the wisdom that men are seeking today in this world, but the wisdom which is from above.

The Son of God stood in that last great day of the feast and cried, saying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink" (John 7:37). In this passage of Scripture we see that "wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets." Jesus stood in the streets; He was found in the market places; He taught in the great concourse where people were gathered.

#### **God's Wisdom**

The wisdom of God is all contained in Jesus Christ. In the Epistles we read that in Him "dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily," and in Him "are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3, 9). The Word of God is declared to be the wisdom of God; and when a man or a woman cherishes the Word of God, and lets those precepts be written and engraven upon the fleshy tables of the heart, he is wise unto salvation; he then knows the thing that is worth knowing above

fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

<sup>32</sup> For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

<sup>33</sup> But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

**Proverbs 2:1-22** <sup>1</sup> My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

<sup>2</sup> So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding;

<sup>3</sup> Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding;

<sup>4</sup> If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures;

<sup>5</sup> Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

<sup>6</sup> For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.

<sup>7</sup> He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: *he is* a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

<sup>8</sup> He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

<sup>9</sup> Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; *yea*, every good path.

<sup>10</sup> When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

<sup>11</sup> Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:

<sup>12</sup> To deliver thee from the way of the evil *man*, from the man that speaketh froward things;

<sup>13</sup> Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;

<sup>14</sup> Who rejoice to do evil, *and* delight in the frowardness of the

all things – his spiritual standing in the sight of God. Paul, speaking to the Corinthians, said, “We preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God” (I Corinthians 1:23, 24).

### The Folly of Neglect

The cry of wisdom in the streets was, “How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity?” Those “simple ones” are people who are carelessly going on in the world, not thinking of the God of their salvation, nor considering their latter end. There is a note of warning sounded in the Word of God, which says, “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?” (Hebrews 2:3). Some people today are just neglecting their salvation and thinking that the goodness of God will overlook their carelessness and eventually will open the Gates of Heaven to them and give them a royal welcome into the City of Gold; but the Scriptures declare plainly and unmistakably that there is no escape for the “simple ones” who neglect so great salvation.

### Worldly Wisdom

You may be concerned about earthly wisdom, and you may be pursuing the course that the world is taking today. There is a mad rush for knowledge in this world, a desire for learning and higher education. Schools, colleges, and universities that are being built all over the world are monuments to the mad search after knowledge and understanding. We cannot begin to comprehend the wonderful research and discoveries that men are making today. But with all this worldly knowledge men’s souls are being lost – just as hopelessly lost as the unrepentant soul of the poor ignorant man in the uncivilized jungles.

### The Scorer

Knowledge is crying out in the streets; wisdom is sounding forth her voice: “How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? And the scorers delight in their scorning?” (Proverbs 1:22). There is another class of people who are mocking the very name of Jesus, holding this Bible in ridicule, saying, “We need a new Bible suited to a modern age.” They are lost as surely as those who neglect so great salvation. “How long . . . will . . . fools hate knowledge?” (Proverbs 1:22).

God did not call men fools because they were imbeciles – not at all! They were called fools because they did not consider their latter end, because they did not take into consideration that which was of utmost importance to the welfare of their immortal soul.

Jesus spoke of a man who had much goods laid up in store for many days; but in the very time of his most secure moments God spoke out of Heaven and said, “Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee” (Luke 12:20). God did not call him a fool because he was mentally deficient; God spoke to him because he had neglected the wisdom, which was from above. He was self-centered; he sought for those things which would satisfy his carnal desires, and he found them; but right in the midst of his prosperity he heard the voice of God say, “Thou fool”. He had not heeded the Voice of Wisdom that cries to all men everywhere, “Turn you at my reproof” – repent, prepare to meet God.

wicked;

<sup>15</sup> Whose ways *are* crooked, and *they* froward in their paths:

<sup>16</sup> To deliver thee from the strange woman, *even* from the stranger *which* flattereth with her words;

<sup>17</sup> Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.

<sup>18</sup> For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.

<sup>19</sup> None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.

<sup>20</sup> That thou mayest walk in the way of good *men*, and keep the paths of the righteous.

<sup>21</sup> For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.

<sup>22</sup> But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. For what purposes are proverbs?
2. What is the attitude of the fool toward instruction?
3. To what is the instruction of parents likened?
4. What is the way of those that are greedy of gain?
5. Who are the "simple ones" mentioned in Proverbs 1:22?
6. What is the fate of those who refuse the call of God?
7. What parable did Jesus give that is similar to Proverbs 2:1-5?
8. Where is the seat of wisdom in the individual?
9. What are some of the rewards of those who find wisdom?

### **The End of Those Who Refuse**

Oh! The sad state of those who refuse to turn from sin, to whom the voice of God will say: "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: "I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh" (Proverbs 1:24-26). The Word of God declares that those who have rejected Him and His call shall "eat of the fruit of their own way" (Proverbs 1:31).

A burning hell and eternal torment are such fearful things to contemplate that it seems impossible that any sane-thinking, rational person would fail to hearken to the voice of God. Yet thousands are on the way to destruction with very little concern as to where they will spend eternity. On their downward way they smile and make light of the Gospel invitation; but it will be a different story when the tables are turned and God says, "I also will laugh at your calamity." How will the puny smile or mock of the scorner fare when "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh"; and "the Lord shall have them in derision" (Psalm 2:4).

### **A Search for God**

The man who wants to escape the judgments of God must hearken to His call. God is merciful and faithful; but no one is saved without the exercise of his own will in true repentance. We are called upon not just to listen, but to apply our hearts to understanding. "Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God" (Proverbs 2:2-5).

The search for hidden treasures has led men to chop their way through dense jungles, to cross perilous icy passes, to plunge into the depths of the ocean, and to risk their lives in many other daring ventures. The call of Wisdom is certainly to no lesser zeal or activity. It is God's will that men should muster the same courage, fight with the same tenacity, and search with the same diligence, in order that they might obtain the secrets of the Kingdom of God.

Greater wealth than the earth reveals is found in the knowledge of God. Earth's treasures are temporal, while the wisdom of God is eternal. Many a quest for the treasures of earth has ended in death and disaster, but the fear of the Lord leads to life everlasting. The challenge of the Gospel is that men of courage stand against the opinions, sneers, and ridicule of the scorner, defy the armies of Satan, and uphold the truth of the Word of God. The paths of righteousness, of judgment, and of equity, and every other good path are free of access to all who apply their hearts to understand the ways of God.

**"The upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.**

**"But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it" (Proverbs 2:21, 22).**