

- b. vs. 19 is clear and conclusive. *“None who go to her return or attain to the paths of life.”*

- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

#### IV. Wisdom and the Way (2:20-22)

- A. It ends with the son who pursues wisdom in the ways of the good and on the paths of the righteous.
- B. Who was the only truly godly one, and what was His path?
- C. When we are delivered, we live in “the land” with the rest of those who have been delivered by the Wisdom of God.

#### LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- How does Proverbs 2 show us that the pursuit of Wisdom ends in a relationship with God?
- How do we see the role of parenting, pursuing, and promise as necessary in order to obtain Wisdom?
- What does it mean to *incline* (2:2 ESV) or *bend* our hearts toward Wisdom? Why do we need to do this? How does the promise of 2:10 speak to our need to *incline our heart*?
- Have you spoken to those who wanted to understand God before you would be committed to seek Him? What do you think of the idea that allegiance comes before understanding, or bowing before intimacy with God? Explain.
- How do the truths of Wisdom in this chapter point us to Christ who is Wisdom from God?
- How do the truths of this chapter speak to you?

## Pursuing the Right Foundation

Jerry Cisar — March 22, 2015

Text: Proverbs 2

### Introduction

A. Wisdom and Relationship to Yahweh

D. Bonhoeffer: *The wise man ...knows that reality is not built upon principles but that it rests upon the living and creating God. He knows too, therefore, that reality cannot be helped by even the purest of principles or by even the best of wills, but only by the living God. Principles are only tools in God's hand, soon to be thrown away as unserviceable.*

- B. *Embarking on a life of your own!* What do you need?

### I. Seek Wisdom as if you were seeking treasure. (2:1-4)

- A. The Alien Nature of Wisdom
- i. The wisdom of our age, the philosophy of modern man, is that wisdom dwells within.
- ii. Comes from the east and west.

Rousseau: *“Let us set down as an incontestable maxim that the first movements of nature are always right; there is no original perversity in the human heart. There is not a single vice to be found in it of which it cannot be said how and when it entered.”*

- iii. The book of Proverbs has a different perspective.

Derek Kidner: *“the search, strenuous as it must be, is not unguided. Its starting point is revelation.”*

## B. "The Big If" (1-4)

- i. There is nothing **passive** about how you must approach Wisdom.
- ii. It is your turn to call out.
- iii. Seek Wisdom like you might seek wealth.

## II. And You Will Find (2:5-11)

### A. A Clear Promise (5-8)

- i. *You will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.*
- ii. Bowing to Him comes before intimacy with Him.
- iii. For the Lord gives Wisdom

Clifford: *The search for wisdom brings one into a right relationship with Yahweh. The search does not end with the seeker grasping it but in Yahweh bestowing it (v. 6). These verses hold in perfect balance divine initiative and human activity.*

- a) God guarantees the success of the quest.
- b) Vv6-8 Finding Wisdom is a combined effort of **parenting** (train up a child), **pursuing** (*if you...*), and **promise**: God steps in and answers!

- iv. While you are storing up God's words, he is storing up wisdom for you...awaiting you...just keep seeking. (7a)
- v. The Lord is providentially guiding us to the destination where the reward is. (7b-8)

## B. Another Promise (9-11)

- i. When the Lord gives you Wisdom, you will know God (5), and knowing God, you will love your neighbor (9).
- ii. Knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. (10)

## III. Wisdom will Rescue You (2:12-19)

### A. The Perverse Words of Wicked Men (12-15)

- i. Wisdom comes with protection on this path, to rescue us from deception and the death it leads to.
- ii. 1 Corinthians 1:23-25, 30

### B. The Perverse Words of Wicked Women (16-19)

- i. She speaks *smooth words—deceptive words*.
  - a) She offers life—happiness, love; but her wisdom leads to death itself.