

80. HOW TO BE WISE

Aim: To make us wise in all our dealings with God and man.

Bible Reading: Proverbs 4:1-27; 8:1-9,18.

Introduction: People can learn wisdom in three ways:

- a) From the Bible - this is the best way.
- b) From other people's mistakes - a good way.
- c) From their own mistakes - the worst way.

A great problem existing today is that:

- many people lack wisdom.
- this leads to situations being handled badly.
- this leads to conflict.
- this leads to broken relationships.
- this leads to loss of productivity, and loss of happiness.

What is the solution? Get wisdom from an early age, from church, parents, the Bible and from other's mistakes. "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Proverbs 22:15. We all start out foolish. We all must learn wisdom.

There are five crowns in Proverbs:

- a) Wisdom (4:9) gives a crown of glory.
- b) Virtuous Woman (12:4) is a crown to her husband.
- c) Riches (14:24) is the crown of the wise.
- d) Hoary (grey) head (16:31) is the crown of glory.
- e) Grandchildren (17:6) are the crown of old men.

1. FACTS ABOUT WISDOM

- a) **Definition:** Intelligent, sensible, judicious, using facts and reason carefully and correctly, skilful to judge, insight into problems, knowledge and love of the will of God. Handling life and its problems from the Bible's point of view; moral insight. Skill in the affairs of life, sound judgment, good sense, prudent with others and knows how to regulate circumstances.
- b) "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom; and with all thy getting get understanding." Proverbs 4:7.
- c) "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Proverbs 9:10. Reverencing God is where wisdom starts.
- d) "Wisdom is better than rubies." Proverbs 8:11. It is very valuable and important to have wisdom, because if you have wisdom, you can achieve many other useful things.

- e) "The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." James 3:17.
- f) Four things are exceeding wise in Proverbs 30:24-28.
 - i) Ants - they prepare their meat in the summer. **Plan Ahead.**
 - ii) Conies - they make their houses in the rocks. **Shelter from enemies.**
 - iii) Locusts - they go forth by bands. **Strength is in Organisation and in Numbers.**
 - iv) Spiders - they are found in King's palaces. **Get to the top. Get eternal life.**

2. HOW TO GET WISDOM

- a) **Come to Jesus** for salvation. "In whom (Christ) are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:3.
- b) **Fear God** - respect God and be afraid of sin and its consequences.
"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Proverbs 9:10.
- c) **Read the Bible** - "From a child thou has known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation." II Timothy 3:15.
- d) **Ask God for wisdom** - "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God." James 1:5. "For the Lord giveth wisdom." Proverbs 2:6.
- e) **Be righteous** - "He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous." Proverbs 2:7.
- f) The **rod** and **reproof** give wisdom; but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." Proverbs 29:15.
- g) **Seek understanding**- "Wisdom rests in the heart of him that has understanding." Prov 14:33

3. WHAT A WISE PERSON DOES

- a) **Is keen to learn.** "A wise man will hear and increase learning." Proverbs 1:5. "Wise men lay up knowledge." Proverbs 10:14. Be keen to learn, open to God teaching us, study, learn from other's mistakes and from circumstances.
- b) **Listen to Wise Men and Avoid Fools.** "Hear the words of the wise." Proverbs 22:17.
"A wise son hears his father's instruction." Proverbs 13:1.
"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise, but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." Proverbs 13:20. Listen to your father, mix with wise men and avoid fools.
- c) **Be humble** - "With the lowly is wisdom." Proverbs 11:2. Don't think that you are too great to help people and mix with people. Be a servant, putting yourself out to help people.
- d) **Know what to say and when to say it** - "He that hath knowledge spareth his words. Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise." Proverbs 17:27,28.
"He that refraineth his lips is wise." Proverbs 10:19.
"There is.....a time to keep silence and a time to speak." Ecclesiastes. 3:7.
Think before you speak. It can be very humbling to take back wrong words.

- e) **Be a Soul winner** - live for eternity. "He that winneth souls is wise." Proverbs 11:30.
A wise man looks at people and life from an eternal viewpoint. He invests for heaven.
He lays up treasure (people) in heaven. Let us rescue people from hell.
- f) **Be a teacher** - "The lips of wise men disperse knowledge." Proverbs 15:7.
Pass on God's truths to others. "Righteousness exalteth a nation." Proverbs 14:34.
The more people who know God, the better any nation is.
- g) **Be a peacemaker** - "Wise men turn away wrath." Proverbs 29:8.
"A wise man will pacify (anger)." Proverbs 16:14.
Live peaceably with all men, try to keep friendships.
- h) **See the consequences of events** - "A prudent man **foreseeth the evil** and **hideth himself** but the **simple** pass on and are **punished**." Proverbs 22:3.
Many Jews fled Europe to the U.S. before World War II broke out when they saw Hitler's anti-Jewish policies. Many Jews stayed in Europe, ignored the signs & died in gas chambers.
How well do you see the consequences of your actions on you and on your children? This is a reason to live righteously and wisely.
- i) **Be an achiever** - "Through wisdom is an **house builded**." Wisdom achieves things.
"A wise man is strong." Proverbs 24:5. He is unlikely to fall in time of trouble.
"By wise counsel thou shalt make thy war; in the multitude of counsellors there is safety." Proverbs 24:6. Wisdom wins a war, in particular the spiritual war with Satan.
- j) **Wise men get rewarded** - "The wise shall inherit glory." Proverbs 3:35 and 24:14.
- k) **Wise men don't touch alcohol** - "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Proverbs 20:1. Alcohol destroys wisdom.
- l) **Wisdom shows in your face** - "A man's wisdom maketh his face to shine." Ecclesiastes 8:1
- k) **A Godly wife is wise and kind** - She opens her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness." Proverbs 31:26.
- l) **Wise men often become rich** - "The crown of the wise is their riches." Proverbs 14:24.

CONCLUSION

Much more is spoken of wisdom in Proverbs. Read it, search it and do it. You will then become a wise person, you'll have a happy life, and your children and grandchildren will be wise, happy and blessed.

Wisdom starts at salvation. It is grown in an environment of humility, where we avoid wrong companions, admit our sins, learn from our mistakes and pick ourselves up to carry on pleasing God.