

Proverbs II
Fairview Church of God
December 1, 2007

When we started our study of Proverbs, we only made it through the first chapter. Today, we will pick up with Chapter 2.

The general theme of the truths found in the proverbs can be summarized as:

1. Wisdom is the most valuable asset
2. Wisdom is available to anyone, but the price is high
3. Wisdom originates in God, not self, and comes by attention to instruction
4. Wisdom and righteousness go together. It is good to be wise and it is wise to be good.
5. Evil men suffer the consequences of their evil deeds
6. The simple, the fool, the lazy, the ignorant, the proud, the profligate, the sinful are never to be admired

Proverbs are not always directly religious in nature, except from the extended perspective that wisdom and living peacefully is pleasing to God. This explains why many of the proverbs are held in high esteem by many who claim no religious connection.

Proverbs 2

- 1 My son, **if** you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you,
 - “receive” = accept or “store up” – carries with it the concept that most teachings cannot be used immediately
 - some time will pass before the teachings are needed
 - if they are taken seriously, they will be recalled when needed
- 2 So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding;
- 3 Yes, **if** you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding,
- 4 **If** you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures;
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- 5 Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.
 - When you seek wisdom, you find God
- 6 For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;
 - God is the source of all wisdom
- 7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly;
- 8 He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints.
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- 9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path.
- 10 When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul,
- 11 Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you,
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- 12 To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things,

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- 13 From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness;
- 14 Who rejoice in doing evil, And delight in the perversity of the wicked;
- 15 Whose ways are crooked, And who are devious in their paths;
 - wisdom will keep you safe from evil men
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- 16 To deliver you from the immoral woman, From the seductress who flatters with her words,
- 17 Who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God.
- 18 For her house leads down to death, And her paths to the dead;
- 19 None who go to her return, Nor do they regain the paths of life-
 - wisdom will keep you safe from evil women
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- 20 So you may walk in the way of goodness, And keep to the paths of righteousness.
- 21 For the upright will dwell in the land, And the blameless will remain in it;
- 22 But the wicked will be cut off from the earth, And the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.

Proverbs 3

- 1 My son (“*ben*” also means children or descendents), do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands;
 - The Law means the Torah
 - My law means the teachings of a parent – home teachings – more personal principles – God’s law with detailed individual personal day-to-day application
- 2 For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you.
- 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart,
 - Make them a part of your nature
- 4 And so find favor and high esteem (*good understanding*) In the sight of God and man.
 - I.e. to be respected by God and men
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- 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;
 - Always be aware that whatever you think you may know – you could be wrong
 - Keep an open mind
- 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.
 - Direct = to make straight
- 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.
 - Revere the Lord

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- Avoid evil
- 8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.
- 9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;
- 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.
 - Tithing?
- 11 My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction;
- 12 For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.
 - Do not be rebellious
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- **13-18 may have been written as a hymn**
- 13 Happy (*blessed – implies heavenly bliss*) is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding;
- 14 For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold.
- 15 She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.
- 16 Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor.
- 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace.
- 18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.
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- 19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens;
- 20 By His knowledge the depths were broken up, And clouds drop down the dew.
 - This concept would be challenged by those believers of the “big bang theory” – that the earth just happened due to a cosmic accident
 - The intricacies of the earth, the sea, the human body, the details of all creation seem to me to indicate they were created by a greatly superior being – God – as the Bible reports
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- 21 My son, let them not depart from your eyes-Keep sound wisdom and discretion;
 - don’t lose sight for even a moment
- 22 So they will be life to your soul And grace to your neck.
- 23 Then you will walk safely in your way, And your foot will not stumble.
- 24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet.
- 25 Do not be afraid of sudden terror, Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes;
 - and it does come – often unforeseen

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- 26 For the LORD will be your confidence, And will keep your foot from being caught.
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- 27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in the power of your hand to do so.
- 28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give it," When you have it with you.
- 29 Do not devise evil against your neighbor, For he dwells by you for safety's sake.
- 30 Do not strive with a man without cause, If he has done you no harm.
 - Frivolous lawsuits?
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- 31 Do not envy the oppressor, And choose none of his ways;
- 32 For the perverse person is an abomination to the LORD, But His secret counsel is with the upright.
- 33 The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the home of the just.
- 34 Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble.
- 35 The wise shall inherit glory, But shame shall be the legacy of fools.
 - Wise and upright behavior pleases God and results in His blessing

Proverbs 4

- 1 Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding;
 - Pay attention!
- 2 For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law.
 - My law means the teachings of a parent – home teachings – more personal principles – God's law with detailed individual personal day-to-day application
- 3 When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother,
- 4 He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live.
 - The voice of experience
 - The first benefit is life - eternal
- 5 Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.
- 6 Do not forsake her, and she will preserve (protect) you; Love her, and she will keep you (watch over you).
 - Second benefit is security
- 7 Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.
 - Wisdom
 - Knowledge
 - Understanding
 - All are different

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- 8 Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her.
- 9 She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you."
 - 3 benefits
 - life
 - security
 - honor
-
- 10 Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many.
- 11 I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths.
- 12 When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble.
- 13 Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life.
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- 14 Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil.
- 15 Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on.
 - “Don’t take the first step, for you may not be master of your destiny thereafter” (commentator Plaut’s paraphrasing)
- 16 For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall.
- 17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence.
- 18 But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.
- 19 The way of the wicked is like (*deep*) darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.
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- 20 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.
- 21 Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart;
- 22 For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.
 - Use your whole body – ears, eyes, heart – listen, watch and believe it
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- 23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.
- 24 Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you.
- 25 Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you.
 - The eyes must be focused on proper goals
 - The wise person will have an unswerving directness
 - The fool is easily distracted
- 26 Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established.
- 27 Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.
 - “The Way”
 - **Matthew 7:**
 - 12 "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

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- 13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.
- 14 "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.