

INTRODUCTION

- * Proverbs 1:5-7⁵ A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,⁶ to understand a proverb and an enigma, the words of the wise and their riddles.⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- * This passage provides us the Precept and Principle upon which the book of Proverbs is built. We have seen this precept and two-pronged principle continuously cropping up in each of the messages on the book of Proverbs so far. Today will be no different!
- * Everybody has, in some manner, a "Wish List" ... or a "Bucket List" ... of things that they would like obtain, see, or accomplish.
- * What is it that you TRULY WANT? What is on your BUCKET LIST? Where is wisdom on that list?
- * Today, we want to begin considering Our Passion for Wisdom ... by considering The Pursuit of Wisdom for which this book calls. We will be considering this topic over the next two weeks. Our primary passage is established as a conditional statement with multiple requisites and results. As well, we are given the rationale, or reasons, for the results. Our goal today is to consider the Requisites, but first peek at the Results ... in order to fully appreciate having the passion for which the passage calls.

INSTRUCTION

I. THE REQUISITES

A. If You Receive My Words and Treasure My Commands (2:1)

- * **Receive**
- * **Treasure** (cf. Exodus 2:2-3; Joshua 2:4; Psalm 27:5; Psalm 31:19; Psalm 119:11)

B. If You Incline Your Ear to Wisdom and Apply Your Heart to Understanding (2:2)

- * **Incline** (cf. Isaiah 28:23; Isaiah 42:23; Jeremiah 6:10,17-19; Prov 4:1,20; 5:1; 7:24)
- * **Apply** (cf. Genesis 12:8; 26:25; 33:19; 35:21; Exodus 6:6; 7:5,19; 8:5,6,16,17; Proverbs 1:24; Psalm 45:10; 49:4; 71:2; 78:1; 86:1; 88:2; Proverbs 4:20; 5:1; Judges 9:3; 1 Kings 11:1-3; Psalm 119:36, 112; Psalm 141:3-4; Proverbs 22:17-19; Isaiah 44:19-20)
- * **Understanding** (v.2,3,6,11; cf. Exodus 31:3; 35:31; 36:1; 1 Kings 4:29; 7:14; Job 12:12-13; Proverbs 3:13,19; 21:30; 24:3; Jeremiah 51:15)

C. If You Cry Out for Discernment and Lift Up Your Voice for Understanding (2:3)

- * **Cry**
- * **Discernment** (cf. 1 Chronicles 12:32; Proverbs 3:5-8; 4:5-7; 7:1-4)
- * **Lift Up**
- * **Understanding**

D. If You Seek [Wisdom] as Silver and Search for [Wisdom] as Hidden Treasure (2:4)

- * **Seek** (cf. Genesis 37:15-16; 43:30; Exodus 33:7; Leviticus 19:31)
- * **Search** (cf. Genesis 31:35; Genesis 44:12; 1 Samuel 23:23; 1 Kings 20:6; Proverbs 20:27)

II. THE RESULT ... *Then you shall understand!*

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| A. The Fear of YHWH (2:5) | C. Righteousness (2:9) | E. Equity in every Track of Goodness (2:9) |
| B. The Knowledge of God (2:5) | D. Justice (2:9) | |

III. THE REASON

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| A. YHWH Gives Wisdom | B. YHWH Guards the Paths of His Saints |
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INTROSPECTION

- * What is it that you TRULY WANT? What is on your BUCKET LIST?
- * Where is wisdom on that list? Is it?
- * How passionate and diligent are you in seeking to obtain wisdom and understanding?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think ... and therefore act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Considering our calling in Hebrews 10:25 to stir one another toward love and good works ... How can we assist one another - individually and as an assembly - in pursuing wisdom and understanding?