

June 14, 2020

“Value Wisdom”
Lesson 2 of Unit

Psalm 2:1-11

Intro

Today’s passage uses the literary technique of *parallelism*, used frequently in Hebrew writings, especially poetry. In parallelism, two or more lines make the same point using synonyms (same ideas in different wording). In Prov. 3:17, Solomon says of wisdom: “her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.” The phrase “her ways” in the first part means the same as “all her paths” in the second part. The phrase “pleasant ways” in the first half means the same as “peace” in the second half.

The purpose in doing this repetition is to emphasize the point being made. We usually need to hear something multiple times, especially words of wisdom, before they sink in. That seems (to me at least) to be one of the purposes of the use of parallelism in today’s passage.

Solomon talked to his “son” in last week’s passage about things that could entice one away from the path of righteousness. Today, he is trying to impress the superiority of finding wisdom.

Read Psalm 2:1-11

1. Verses 1-4 use multiple “if” statements, which implies a “then” to follow. What are all the “if” conditions that Solomon asks his son to do in verse 1-4?
2. What is the value / purpose of “storing up my commands within you” from vs. 1?
3. In vs. 2, what does it mean to turn your ear to wisdom?
4. What does it suggest about the individual’s intent if that person “calls out” and “cries aloud” for something (vs. 3)? What does it say about the individual if the things called out for are insight and understanding?

5. According to vs. 4, how important are insight and understanding supposed to be to us? Why use silver and treasure in this comparison?

6. If the son does all the “if” parts of vs. 1-4, what is the reward, the “then”, in vs. 5?

7. How would you explain to a new believer the relationship between *fear* and *knowledge*, the terms used in vs. 5? How would your explanation differ for an unbeliever, if at all?

8. Verse 6 says the Lord gives wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. How are these 3 terms related? How might they be different, or at least contain unique elements?

9. Verse 6 also says that these things come from “his mouth”? What does that mean to us today?

10. What is the context message of this week’s passage? How does that connect in vs. 7 to the concepts of God holding success in store for the upright, and Him being a shield to those who are blameless?

11. Again, based on the context, how does God guard and protect the just and the faithful?

12. Verse 12 begins with the word “then”. What has happened before to bring us to “then”?

13. According to vs. 9-11, what benefits will come to the person who seeks after wisdom?

14. Which is it more important to gain first: discretion or understanding? Why so? Perhaps as a Bible study during this next week, you may want to look at these verses that use these terms. All are from Proverbs: 1:4, 2:2-3, 2:6, 3:13, 3:19, 5:2, 8:1, 10:23, 11:12, 14:29, 15:21, 17:27, 18:2, 19:8, 20:5, 24:3

Application: Today's lesson puts forth a challenge for each of us to continually seek out wisdom. We are told to cry out for it, to seek it. But it is easy (perhaps easier as we grow older?) to lose that passion, that fire, we have felt and displayed at earlier times.

This would seem to call for self-examination as the starting point. Where am I in seeking God daily? In seeking after wisdom? Obviously, Bible study (and not just reading—I've done that too!), prayer, and regular fellowship with other Christians is essential.

What can you do starting this week to seek after wisdom more than you have before?

Prayer: Father God, we want to have our thoughts and actions be pleasing to You. That means we need to have your wisdom guiding us. Show us this week where we are in our seeking after Your wisdom. Help us to make the changes that You show us need to be made. Thank you for lovingly showing us how to follow you better. In Jesus' name, Amen.