

Walking In Wisdom Series: 5

Seeking Out Wisdom

Proverbs 2.1-11

Receive My Words

“My son, if you receive my words....” (vs1)

In our quest for wisdom we need to first receive the word of God and accept it as the word of God.

Remember Jesus said that the man who “hears these sayings of Mine and does them...” (Matthew 7.24) is like a wise man.

Verse 6 states “For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding”

James 1.22

But just hearing the word of God is not enough – James tells us that those who are just hearers are deceiving themselves. In His teaching about the two house builders Jesus said “whoever hears these sayings of Mine and does them...”.

Action follows the hearing of the word, in this case putting it into practice, doing what it says. James describes this as active faith in chapter 2 (2.14-26) where *faith* is used as believing the word and *works* is used for the action.

But in **James 1.19-21** we have the full application of wisdom:

- swift to hear –
- slow to speak – Proverbs 10.19 says “In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise” and in Proverbs 6.2 “You are snared by the words of your mouth; You are taken by the words of your mouth”
- slow to wrath – because wrath does not produce the righteousness of God which is a result of wisdom (Proverbs 2.10-13, 20-22)

So then, James writes, we need to “lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness” – we need to repent and turn from an unrighteous lifestyle.

- The writer to the Hebrews said the same thing in another way: “...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us..” (Hebrews 12.1)
 - *weight* – a burden, anything that holds us back and restrains us.
 - *sin which ensnares* – the sin that trips us up, causes us to stumble – by getting wrapped around the feet.

And “receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls”.

- receive – to grasp, take hold of; get; give ear to and embrace.
- meekness – in humility and gentleness of spirit.
- implanted – that which is able to germinate and grow
- save – this word has a wide application when used (forgiveness, health, peace) but primarily means to deliver and preserve

This is the heart of wisdom – wisdom as we have read in Proverbs 2.8,12 brings deliverance and preservation.

Treasure My Commands

In the very first lesson a few weeks ago we began by saying that we only redeem something that is precious and valuable.

The same is true for things we treasure – we give them prominence of place, maybe on a shelf or in a display cabinet – we value and appreciate them. We spend our time admiring them or using them.

Solomon instructs his son to 'treasure his commands' (vs1)

He says that we should seek out wisdom 'as silver, search for [wisdom] as hidden treasures' (vs4)

“Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, and all the things you may desire cannot compare with her”
Proverbs 3.13-15

“My son, keep my words, and treasure my commands within you. Keep my commands and live, and my law as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart” Proverbs 7.1-3

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ” Luke 12.34

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.” Matthew 13.44-46

“...my heart stands in awe of Your word. I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure.” Psalm 119.161-162

Do we treasure the word of God like David did? Do we earnestly seek after it, search it out?