

Matthew 11:7–15  
Pursuing Wisdom, Obtaining God

Monday, September 2, 2024 • Read Proverbs 2:1–9

Questions from the Scripture text: Whom does v1 address? What two things does it say to do? What should he do with his ear (v2a)? With his heart (v2b)? For what two things should he cry out (v3)? In what manner should he seek and search for wisdom (v4)? In this way, what will a man understand (v5a)? And find (v5b)? To Whom must all this seeking for wisdom bring them (v6)? For whom does He store up sound wisdom (v7a)? What is He, unto them (v7b)? What paths and way does He guard and preserve (v8a)? For whom (v8b)? What will a man understand, when he comes to the Lord for this wisdom (v9)?

**How ought we respond to wisdom's invitation?** Proverbs 2:1–9 looks forward to the sermon in the midweek prayer meeting. In these fourteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **when we seek wisdom truly, we seek God Himself, Who gives Himself to us, along with the understanding that we need.**

**What to do with wisdom's invitation, v1–4.** (a) Receive. Attend upon God's words, both as they are formed in the mouth of a parent, and as they are formed in the mouth of an undershepherd. "Incline your ear." Be there to hear them. Give your attention while they are being spoken; think carefully and intentionally. "Apply your heart." Bring your heart under them, to be convinced in your will and moved in your affections. (b) Treasure. The second half of v1 corresponds to v4. In this inclining our ears and applying our hearts, we must be valuing wisdom with more desire than we desire for any earthly treasure, delighting in it more than any delight, guarding it as precious. (c) Ask. v3 fills out, for us, the source of this attending and treasuring: God's grace. Wisdom is something unto which to put forth effort, but it is not obtained by that effort. It is a gift. We must "cry out" for it and "lift up our voice" for it. Prayer is an essential component of your response to wisdom's invitation.

**What (Whom!) we find, when we seek for wisdom, v5–6.** When our prayers for wisdom are answered, and God blesses our quest for wisdom, that quest brings us to a person, to a Being: Himself. When we seek, successfully, for wisdom, what do we find? We "find the knowledge of God" (v5). Wisdom is attained through "the fear of YHWH" because it comes from Him as a gift ("YHWH gives wisdom," v6), and a very personal one at that ("from His mouth").

Seeking wisdom as if it can be obtained merely as a set of ideas, like a theological system or a conceptual abstraction, is more like the wisdom of the world than the true wisdom of the Bible. True wisdom can be had only in relationship with the living God, only in the personal knowledge of Him that He gives us by means of His Word.

**What we get from God, when He gives Himself to us, v7–9.** The relational nature of wisdom does not mean that there is no doctrinal or practical aspect to it—far from it! Those who are right with Him are granted to make choices that are effective and successful (v7a). This is "stored up" for them, the Lord keeping this "sound wisdom" in abundance for them. His instruction is a means by which He Himself shields them (v7b–8a). This, too, is not merely transactional (uprightness or integrity in exchange for protection). It is personal; He does this for them, because they are "His saints." If we have Him Himself, He will give us to "understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path." These are important, but they are not the substance of wisdom but the consequence of true wisdom, which is the knowledge of God.

How does your diligence for hearing God's Word, and your treasuring of it, appear in your habits and choices? How easily do you give up reading the Word? Meditating upon it? Worshiping by means of it with your family? Worshiping through it in the public worship? Sitting under the preaching of it? How do the true answers to these questions reflect your actual relationship to the Lord (regardless of how you perceive that relationship)? What (in Whom) is your hope for a life wisely and safely (in a spiritual and eternal way) lived?

*Sample prayer: Lord, grant unto us that, by Your Spirit, we would long for Your Word and love Your Word. And that, by Your same Spirit, we might have You Yourself by means of Your Word. Give us to know You, and to live in relationship with You. And, for the sake of Your love toward us, give us to thrive in Your service in this life, and forever, in Christ, through Whom we ask it, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP119C "That I May Live and Keep Your Word" or TPH225 "Lord, My Weak Thought"**

**"(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))"**

Proverbs Chapter 2 verses 1 through 9. These are God's words. My son, if you receive my words and treasure my commands within you, So that you incline your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding. Yes, if you cry out for discernment and lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver and search for her, as for Hidden Treasures, Then you will understand the fear of Yahweh and then find the knowledge of God.

For Yahweh gives wisdom. From his mouth, come knowledge and understanding. He stores up sand wisdom for the upright. He is a Shields to those who walk uprightly. He guards the paths of justice and preserves the way of his Saints. Then you will understand righteousness and Justice. Equity. And every good path.

Amanda sends this reading of Gods inspired and Aaron toward We had. The last part of chapter one. The invitation of wisdom, the call of Wisdom. And how urgent that call is and how dangerous it is not to respond to it. Well, now, in chapter 2, We begin to hear how.

To respond. Verse 1 and 2. And it tells us to receive and treasure in verse 1. And incline, our ear and apply our heart. In verse 2. not just the Inclining of our ear. Which of course, isn't poetic and it's describing how whenever we have opportunity. to receive the word of God, to have the word of God, we should take that opportunity.

Not. Take for granted that we have Bibles now not to miss easily the family worship. Our households. The public portion. Which, if we? And make a choice to miss, that is even a profaning of the Lord's day. Which is grave indeed. But in addition to not Of violating the fourth Commandment.

We are to come to the worship Desiring to be addressed by God in his word as we read it as we sing it. Even as we form. Our prayers by it, and come to him. And Shaped in that way. And of course, as we hear it preached. So there's this inclining of the ear by which is represented the inclining of our whole self to it.

That we have. This habit of Desiring the word and taking advantage. Of opportunity. to have it to read it, to sit, under it to meditate a product. And it's that last part the meditating upon it that Bridges from this receive and incline to this treasure. My commands within you and apply your heart.

To understanding. And hiding God's word and our heart is not merely memorizing for the memorizing is good. but installing in our hearts so that it shapes our thoughts. So that it shapes Our affections, so that it shapes our desires, our choices, our Wills, Hiding God's word in your heart.

Like concealed carrying. Always having his word. For use. And, In this case, not a rare use. Yeah. Hopefully you conceal carry and never have to use your weapon but we can still carry the word of God because we constantly need the word of God. And so it is that which should be you know, kept in Our pocket folded into Our clothing.

treasured. carried around, you know, there are those who had never well, it used to be there are those who would never leave home without their wallet. Now, a lot of the things that were in the wallet are on the phone. There are those who would never leave, go go anywhere do anything without their phone on them, and if their phone is not in the pocket where it goes.

They? Naked. Unequipped. We ought to be like that with the word, it should be our greatest treasure. that we have with us everywhere. We go to to be applied. And so, there's not just this receiving in this treasuring. We also need to ask. Because we actually aren't able.

To shape our own thoughts by the word to stir our form and warm instruct, our own affections by the word. To determine and bend our Wills, or desires, our choices by the word, these are things that if they're going to be done. They have to be Accomplished by God's grace.

We're dependent upon him to make his word effectual to us. And so you should never have the word or try to employ the word or sit under the word without prayer. And so that's covered in verse three. If you cry out for desertment and lift up your voice for understanding.

And so God has bring brought his word near us, and we should be taking advantage of that. but we are unable in and of ourselves. To take advantage of it. so we should we must pray as well. and so there is this treasuring, which also this treasuring?

Verse 4. Seeker is silver search for her is for hidden Treasures. That. Corresponds to the hiding and valuing and always employing. and therefore not letting it go easily. on the back end and Seeking out and doing. valuing it enough that you are willing to be much inconvenienced in order to get it and you are willing to put forth, much effort, in order to get it.

And so that's what to do with wisdom's invitation. And when we do this, when we seek wisdom, when we seek the words, when we hide them in our hearts, when we ask That we would have understanding and discernment understanding. discernment from verse 3. If that prayer is answered, What we find is what we get is not merely a what?

But a whom Then you will understand the fear of Yahweh. And find the knowledge of God. Well, how is it that your hunt for wisdom? If you do it in the right way, and if it if it is met with success. Ends up not at an object merely. Wisdom or understanding or discernment.

But a person, the Lord himself. That is the fear of the Lord. You, you want to know what is wise and you come out not just with the knowledge of facts. And the ability to handle situations. But you come out with the knowledge of God himself, verse 5. Well, the reason that the what quest of wisdom has a whom End of success.

Is because wisdom comes very personally from the Lord. You see that in verse six, For Yahweh gives wisdom. And not just as a gift. But in personal interaction because the rest of verse 6 says from his mouth Come knowledge and understanding. And so, We know that God doesn't have an actual physical mouth.

God is a spirit, and he has not a body like men. So when it says from his mouth come knowledge and understanding, it's using that language that picture To communicate how personal the receiving of wisdom is. So as you grow in knowledge and discernment and understanding and wisdom, It's actually God himself.

Personally. Communicating these things to you. And you may be and rightly ought to be Amazed and grateful. That you are given this relationship with this interaction with The living God, who made all things? The Triune and ever. Blessed God, who is from all eternity? how wonderful then wisdom is not just because It can make you a very effective person.

But because it makes you an affected person. Who are affected by and with, God himself. And so, what to do with wisdom's, invitation receive treasure and pray. What we find when we seek for wisdom. God himself, whom we find when we seek from seek for wisdom. And what does he give us?

Then, When we find him and we have this interaction with him. And that we see in verses 7 through 9. he stores up sound wisdom for the upright. So, it's not like we will just have barely enough to get by. But that there is this. Abundance because God is the one who has stored it up.

And he has as it were infinite reserves. and yes we he may by his grace just give us whatever is sufficient for the moment. Whatever is sufficient for the day. but that does not come with or a must not come. Whether be responded to by the anxiety as if the supply is going to run out.

No, it's God. Who is supplying it? We may only have enough for each moment, but he has an abundance for forever. And he is supplying an East doors apps and wisdom for the upright. He is a shield to those who, Walk uprightly. And so not just that, we will have protection but that we will have him.

He is our Shield. Not just that we'll be guarded verse 8 but he guards. The paths of Justice. Not just, that will be preserved. Second part of verse 8. He preserves the why Why does he preserve their way? Because for say, they are his Saints. And so, it's not just that we get sound wisdom and protection.

And preservation. It's that we get him as the Proportions out to us wisdom from. The stores that he has, we get he him himself as our shield and our guard. Because we are his Saints. And so, It's almost anticlimactic. In verse 9, everyone wants. To understand righteousness and Justice, everyone wants to be able.

But to live rightly and with Integrity or at least we should to live rightly and with integrity and to walk in paths that are good not just Technically legally right before God, but are Godly and are beneficial for ourselves. And for others, and show forth the goodness of God.

We want those things in verse 9, says that if you seek wisdom and find God and have him, That you will have all these things in verse nine. But they're actually, when you look at verses seven through nine, they're actually the smaller part. Of the gifts that we obtain.

The gifts that we receive. Because the great gift. As God himself. They are not the substance of wisdom. They are the consequence. Of true wisdom, which is the knowledge of God. And of course, This is most of all in the Lord Jesus himself. It is in his son. That God has given himself to us, which is one of the reasons why the Apostle Rights to the Corinthians that Christ is for us.

not just The power of God, but he is for us wisdom. Sanctification. And righteousness. Christ is the wisdom of God for us. Because true wisdom is to know, God himself. To know your creator, you're made. Everything is made by the Creator, but you are made. In His image to know him.

And to be known by him to have fellowship with him. God does not have Fellowship. With trees and rocks and dogs and cats. But he created. to have fellowship with him. And, Have bestows upon us as having fellowship with us. And that's what has the consequence. Of righteousness, Justice Equity.

Every good path. it is impossible that we would have these genuinely Apart from fellowship with him, they are a consequence. Of belonging to him and being his. So to pray that he would give us this knowledge of him, this knowing of him. And all that comes with it.

No gracious. God in our heavenly father, we pray that you would Help us. Now, as we Go to the rest of our day. And that you would help us in the rest of our life. We definitely need lore to understanding. Skill of living and handling things in life. But as we have just been reminded When?

Seek and receive and treasure. your It's a means by, which you give yourself to us. That wisdom comes from your mouth. Help us to know you and to love you to Rejoice. At knowing you and being known by you and living in fellowship with you. Thank you. Forgiving yourself to us, especially in and by Your son, our Lord Jesus.

And the indwelling of his Spirit. Who is your spirit? And we pray that you would. Make us those who attend upon your word. Make us those who have. a habit of prayer and Who cry out to you, not merely at set times but live our life as a walking with you and A knowing of you.

Granted to us, we ask for your glory. Especially in your son. Our Lord Jesus. Through whom we ask it. Amen.