

Proverbs 2:10–22
How Wisdom Saves Us from Hell

Monday, September 9, 2024 ▫ Read Proverbs 2:10–22

Questions from the Scripture text: What will enter where (v10a)? What will the soul's experience be (v10b)? What will discretion and understanding do (v11)? From what will it deliver you (v12a)? From whom (v12b)? What do they speak (v12b)? Where do they go (v13)? In what do they rejoice and delight (v14)? What are their paths like (v15)? From whom else does wisdom deliver you (v16a)? How does she speak (v16b)? Whom does she leave (v17a)? What/Whom does she forget (v17b)? Where does her house lead (v18a)? Where do her paths lead (v18b)? How many survive these (v19a)? How many get back (v18b)? In which way, therefore, must we walk instead (v20a)? In what paths (v20b)? Who will dwell there (v21a)? Who will remain where (v21b)? But who else will suffer what consequences (v22)?

How does wisdom save? Proverbs 2:10–22 looks forward to the sermon in the midweek prayer meeting. In these thirteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **wisdom brings us into the perfect path and perfect pleasure: God Himself as our purpose and blessedness.**

What wisdom is to us (v10–12a). We have been warned about the enticement of sinners (cf. 1:10–19) and apprised of wisdom's competing offer (cf. 1:20–33) and how we should respond to it (cf. 2:1–9). Now we learn that wisdom's offer is not only a competing offer but a counteracting offer. The right path (v10a, 20) keeps you from the wrong ones (v12a, 15, 18b–19). The right joy (v10b) displaces the wrong ones (v14). So, the fear of YHWH directs us, delights us, and defends us. Evil is wrong in and of itself, but all the more so because it diverts us from our Creator, our Redeemer, our Purpose, and our Blessedness. Wisdom, the fear of YHWH, is right and good in and of itself. And all the more so because it diverts us from every evil path and pleasure.

Delivering us from wicked men, generally (v12b–15). The wicked man doesn't just leave the path of uprightness and walk in the way of darkness (v13); he even delights in doing so (v14). Even worse, the person of deviant path and deviant pleasure isn't content to be alone. He speaks perversely (v12b) to turn others from the straight path into his crooked one. These are they about whom we have been warned (cf. 1:10–19).

Delivering us from the immoral woman, specifically (v16–19). There is a special class of the immoral person: the immoral (literally strange/foreign) woman (v16a). She is a stranger to you, because providence has not selected her for you as your wife. She "leaves the companion" of her own youth (v17a). She is a stranger to God, because her deviant path departs from the covenant of her God (v17b): both the covenant of grace (in which we are His) and the covenant of marriage (in which it is He that has joined her to her husband).

But, like the wicked man generally, the "strange woman," specifically, doesn't go to death alone. Other victims in her house of death, are get stuck in the gravity well ("down," v18a) from which they cannot escape (v19). There is nothing that promises such emotional or physical pleasure, but delivers such permanent and devastating pain, as "romance" apart from marriage. The strange woman isn't the only way to Hell, but she is a sure way there. If we are truly to escape that path, we must have purpose and pleasure in God Himself.

To save our life (v20–22). You can't walk both paths—the strange woman's path of death (v18) and the way and path of life and goodness and righteousness (v20). "The land" in v21 is not merely a comparatively small parcel in the ancient near east, but a better and lasting country (cf. Heb 11:10, 13–17). Indeed, the "homeland" of v21 is not "merely" (!) the new heavens and the new earth, but the Lord Himself (cf. Ps 90:1, 91:9; Rev 21:3)! In that context, the cutting off from this land (v22) is a cutting off from the blessedness of God; it is that Hell in which His presence and glory would express themselves upon us in fury forever (cf. 2Th 1:7–10).

But God summons us by His Word, by His Son, by His Spirit—His wisdom offered to us by the instrument of preaching, by the life and power and virtue of the divine Persons. By bringing us into Himself, and by bringing Himself into us, and His Word into us (cf. Jn 15:7; 1Jn 2:14; 3Jn v3), He delivers us from wicked men generally, from the strange one specifically, and from our own guilt and sinfulness. What a gospel! Hallelujah!

How are you making use of God's Word to actively determine the path of your life? What do you know and feel to be your purpose on day-by-day, hour-by-hour basis? What are your delights in life? What can you hardly wait to enjoy each day? In what do you find deepest contentment and satisfaction? How does your answer bode for whether you are coming into everlasting blessedness or everlasting agony?

Sample prayer: Lord, grant to us that fearing You would control our thoughts, feelings, and choices. Be the delight of our soul. And keep us from paths and pleasures that lead to incomprehensibly long and incomprehensively painful death, we ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP128 "How Blessed Are All Who Fear the Lord" or TPH128B "Blest the Man Who Fears Jehovah"

"(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)

Proverbs Chapter 2 verses 10 through 22. These are God's words. When wisdom enters your heart and knowledge is Pleasant to your soul. Discretion will preserve you. Understanding will keep you. To deliver you from the way of evil. From the man who speaks perverse things. From those who leave the paths of uprightness.

To walk in the ways of Darkness. Who Rejoice in doing evil. And Delight. In perversity, the perversity of the wicked. Whose ways are crooked and Who are devious in their paths. To deliver you from the immoral woman. From the seductress who flatters with her words. Who forsakes the companion of her Youth and forgets the Covenant of her?

God. For her house leads down to death. And her paths to the None who go to her return. Nor do they regain the paths of life. So, may you walk in the way of goodness. And keep to the paths of righteousness. For the upright, will dwell in the land and the blameless will remain in it.

But the wicked will be cut off from the earth. And the Unfaithful. Will be uprooted from it. Amen, that sends this reading of Inspired. And And Aaron tort Well, we were warned about the enticement of Sinners. in chapter one beginning in verse 10. My son of Sinners entice, you do not consent.

And we were apprised that wisdom gives a competing offer a competing invitation, a competing welcome. In verses 20 through 33, wisdom calling aloud and Urging. To respond to her. And then in the opening part of this chapter in Proverbs Chapter 2, We have heard. To respond to wisdom's call.

By attending upon. The word of God and applying ourselves our hearts. To his word and treasuring. his word so that we find, not just ideas and How skills, how to live but that we find God himself. That he is the one who teaches us how to live and he is the one.

Who leads? And so now we hear about the benefit. Of wisdom in our life, when wisdom enters your heart. And knowledge is Pleasant to your soul. Etc. And The great benefit. To us of knowing god and belonging to him being led by him by his word. Is that we are delivered.

We are delivered from Wicked men generally And so, you have the verse 12 to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things. And then a monk men generally who are wicked and who would lead us astray because our own Hearts, would be let us stray our own Hearts, would walk in the path of evil apart from the wisdom of God.

And we have this complicating factor that there are others. who Reinforce the sinfulness that is in our own Hearts by how they speak and what they do. They have a wrong Delight. They rejoice in doing evil and Delight in the perversity of the wicked. They are walking on the wrong path.

Their ways are crooked and their paths. Devious deviate go astray from God's path. But they are not. Satisfied to be alone. They speak these perverse things verse 12. And so we are in danger From the wicked generally and specifically. In the area of romance in seventh commandment. issues.

So that there is this. specific species if you will of The wicked man and that is the strange woman. So verse 12 to deliver you from the man who speaks perverse things. And then verse 16, further more following up on this reinforcing this to deliver you from the strange woman.

She is strange. Because she is. Not the one that Providence has selected for you as your wife. Now, this of course, is addressed as to a son But addressed as to a daughter, there is also the Allure of the strange, man. Of finding emotional pleasure and even physical pleasure with the one whom Providence has not appointed to you as Your husband.

This strange man is a stranger to us. And just, as she is not. Wife. Wife of our youth. So she forsakes the companion of her youth Verse 17. And so she's a stranger in that way, but she's also a stranger to God. She walks a crooked path that deviates that goes astray from him.

She doesn't just leave the companion of her youth first part of verse 17. She forgets the Covenant. Of her God both. The Covenant of Grace. In which God Saves us for himself to be holy unto him. And, One. Enters into romantic interaction or identity or affection, or action. with someone who There's not the one that Providence.

Selected for them is sinning and sinning against God. And this is forgetting the Covenant of her God. So this is a professing believer. In this case, And, One who is enticed by her. The desires is that romantic identification with her or affection with and to, and from her or action with her?

He too may be a professing believer. It may be his God, whose Covenant, he is forgetting. And so there is the forgetting of the Covenant of Grace. In which the Lord brings us to be his very own people and gives us his law. reminding us that he is Yahweh, our God, Yahweh, our God, Yahweh our God.

The first five Commandments if you take the preface with the first commandment, All making that. And so she forgets the Covenant of her God. But it's also Not only a reference to the Covenant of Grace, but the Covenant of marriage. It is God who joins a husband and wife together.

It is God, who gives them? That identity. Where the two become one flesh, identified with one another? where the two become? One, not just an identity, but in affection and even in physical, Interaction. To have or pursue any of these apart from Marriage is to forget. The Covenant of marriage that God has given us marriage as a lifelong Bond.

Between two people in which they are covenant and sworn to one another and not just One to the other. But joined bound together by God himself. What God has joined together, says the scripture. Let no man separate And so, This passage. Highlights for us. One of the most intense.

Important. Ways in which we may be led astray into evil. If we do not have wisdom. But what does wisdom then do for us? Well wisdom is The fear of the Lord. To belong to him. To be bound to him and walk with him to live in Wonder at him and to offer our life as worship unto him.

This is what it means to fear God. And as wisdom does this, that enters our heart verse 10. And this wisdom, this knowledge wisdom as the knowing of God. Verse 5, it is Pleasant to our soul. So, we have the true and Genuine controlling of our heart and delighting of our soul.

So that we will be delivered from preserved, from kept from The way of evil. The man who speaks perverse things the strange woman. The way we are kept out of those paths. Is not merely by trying to stay away from those paths. The way that we are protected from those wrong Pleasures.

Those wrong Delights is not merely by refusing to have that Delight. We are kept from the wrong path by walking in the right path. We are kept from the wrong pleasure. By taking and having the right pleasure. And so, we are spared. From going with the wicked man or the strange woman, how many have fought to themselves that they might be able to enjoy some romantic pleasure, some physical pleasure, the the pleasure of being identified with this woman or in the case of a young lady Of that, man.

And Providence is not assigned. To them. Their husband or in the young man's case. their wife. But, their path leads down to death, their house leads, down to death and the word down in verse 18 is because the phrase leads down is trying to translate this sinking word.

The idea that you can walk with the Lord and have this other as well, at the same time is a self-deception. the the wrong romance and the sexual sin, the indulging of romantic lust or physical, lust or identity lust, is like a gravity. Well, that you cannot get out of And so Verse 18, her house leads down sucks, you down into death, her paths to the dead in verse 19.

None who go to her return. Northern do they regain the paths of life? And so what wisdom does it makes us walk in the right path. It makes us take our Delight. The pleasantness of our soul, find the pleasure of our soul in God himself. So that we will walk in the way of goodness.

And keep to the paths of righteousness. And have God himself as our blessedness. That's the point in verse 21 for the upright will dwell in the land and the blameless will remain in it. That was never so much about a parcel of land in the ancient near East. It was always about the city The lasting City whose Builder is God.

Hebrews chapter 11 verse 10. It was always about the better country, not just the new heavens and the new Earth, although certainly that but having God himself as our Dwelling place in the new heavens and the new Earth, this is What verse 21 is referring to? What has always been the hope of genuine Faith.

According to Hebrews, 11 verses 13 through 17. And so, we stick to God's paths, and we stick to finding in God, our pleasure. And our purpose, our identity. And that saves us from our own wickedness. Of which other wicked ones would take advantage, and especially the strange woman. The wicked.

He says, will be cut off from the land. It's the same word as land in verse 21 and it's the counterpart. The wicked will perish in Hell forever. The Unfaithful will not enjoy God as their Dwelling place. They will not enjoy his favor forever. They will suffer his Fury.

Forever. And so the benefit of wisdom is having God. God himself as our guide. Our protector. Are Delight. That we would not walk. Or be lured into. The Crooked paths that we would not be flattered. By the seductress's words. Oh my God. Your lives, each of you. Summoning You by his word, calling you to himself in his son by his spirit that you would find your whole identity in him.

That the great pleasure of your life, the great joy. Of your life would be. In him. He does this by his wisdom, especially It is the instrument of his preaching that he uses. To give us Faith to save our souls to sanctify us. To equip us for. Good work.

And so it is this wisdom. The Of God, which he makes to abide in us to dwell in us to enter our heart. As verse 10 says, It is by the use of his word and his wisdom. That he delivers us from our own sin. From wicked men generally from the strange ones, specifically.

Praise God, for his Mercy. Which comes to us. By way of by means of his wisdom. In his. Let's ask him. To wash it to us. Our Father in Heaven. How we thank you. Thank you. That you protect us from ourselves. And from others.

And from others who would lead us astray from you. Give us to have you as our identity and our pleasure. Now, for the rest of this, life and forever. We ask through Christ. Amen.