

Proverbs 2:1-22

~ My Son...Seek Wisdom ~

Introduction

What is the **most priceless** possession that you own?

The most priceless possession!

We all own things **in this world** – cats – dogs – homes – cars – shoes – children!

Some of us own nicer **homes** – and nicer **cars** – and nicer **shoes** – and sometimes nicer children!

But we **all own things** right!

We all have items of value that we love and treasure!

What is the **most priceless possession / or treasure** that you own?!?!?

Narnia

I have a 2015 Hardback Narnia set that I got for Christmas a few years ago... that's **pretty precious** to me!

In fact I **haven't even** opened it yet!

It's **still in** the original wrapping!

It's sitting on my shelf upstairs – waiting to be opened!

Han keeps threatening that he's gonna open it and **take a highlighter to them** – and I keep threatening that I know jiu-jitsu:

So we all know things – and we all have things that we love!

Valley of Vision

Someone recently gifted me a **genuine goatskin leather** edition of the Valley of Vision – a Puritan Prayer book because I had **stupidly asked** for one in a sermon (half-jokingly of course) and the person was listening – went online and bought it!

They **gifted it** to me!

They didn't tell me what it was!

I opened it and I was **thoroughly blown away** – I'm still blown away by that!

And I'm scared to **even open that** because it's precious to me!

Diligent Seeking

What is the **most priceless possession** you currently own?!?!

Think about that item for **just a few moments**...and now imagine if you **lost it** – you **misplaced it** – you somehow managed to **lose it**...

How diligently do you think you would **look** for it – and **search** for it – and **seek** it:

Until you found it!

Proverbs 2

The point is – is that when you **lose something** you **look** for it – you **seek** it – you **search** it – you **find** it!

And it's **that idea** of looking – of **seeking** – of **searching** – and **finding** that I want us to have **in our minds** as we come to Proverbs 2!

Proverbs 2 is all about **seeking** and **searching** for the value of **wisdom**

And although this chapter does **NOT directly** speak of an item that is **lost** – it **most definitely** speaks of something that:

Needs to be found!

Us Seeking Her

And so after the **parental instruction** of chapter 1:

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction, and do NOT forget your mother's teaching...

And after the **Solomonic call** of Lady Wisdom in chapter 1:

She cries out in the street; she raises her voice, she calls out above the market; she cries out at the city gates...

No longer is the focus on wisdom to calling us – and wisdom **seeking for us** – and wisdom **finding us** – the focus has **now shifted to:**

Us finding her!

Us seeking her!

Us finding Lady Wisdom!

And that's actually **a common theme** that's picked up **NOT just** in chapter 2 – but in chapter 2, chapter 3, chapter 4 - chapter 5 and onwards – these are **all about:**

Seeking – obtaining – keeping – guarding – and leaning on Lady wisdom!

In fact these chapters are **so similar** in their **content** and **structure**:

That it's **almost as if** Solomon is **just repeating himself!**

He's just saying the **same thing** over and over and over and over again!

To the point where this may get very **awkward & difficult** for me to preach and **NOT repeat myself!**

And maybe there's some benefit in that!

But there's stuff in these chapters that's **almost identical** to chapter 1 & 2 & 3 & chapter 4 and onwards!

Value of Wisdom

And the reason he does that – the reason Solomon repeats himself over and over again – is because Solomon is trying to **sell us:**

The **value** & the **beauty** of wisdom!

He's trying to demonstrate that wisdom is **so valuable** – it is **so precious** – it is so **Narnian in value** (like a Puritan Prayer book of Goat-Skin leather) that **by the time** we get to chapter 10 verse 1:

We are **longing** for the beauty of wisdom – we are **craving** its value – we are **yearning for** its practicality!

Solomon is **trying to show** to us by the time we get to chapter 10 that **if we do NOT** know how **precious** – and **priceless** – and **practical** – and **protective** wisdom is for us – then:

WE WILL NOT MAKE IT TO GOD WHEN WE DIE!

That's how **serious** – how **critical** – how **crucial** the **value of wisdom** is in the life of a Christian!

That's **how serious** we need to be about **seeking & searching** for wisdom:

*Wisdom is a **priceless possession** – and it will guard your very soul!*

So we need to get serious about getting it!

Structure

Solomon is selling to us the **value** and **beauty** of wisdom in these **next several chapters** – because Solomon knows what's **about to come:**

Laziness

Fearfulness!
 Adultery!
 Promiscuity!
 Thievery
 Perjury
 Wickedness
 Greed
 Lying
 Lust
 Folly
 Foolishness

And all manner of things seeking to **rob** our joy and satisfaction in God!

This is everything he's **been talking about** in chapter 1 – everything he's been **setting up** in these **first few verses!**

That **by the time** we get to chapter 10 – we will be **off** – and we will be **ready to tackle** the subject of wisdom!

Seeking/Keeping

And so here in chapters 2, 3, and 4 here's what I think Solomon is doing:
gonna see:

Chapter 2 is about **seeking** godly wisdom!

Chapters **3 & 4** are about **keeping** godly wisdom!

OR if you like:

Chapter 2 is about **looking** for godly wisdom!

Chapter 3 is **leaning** on godly wisdom!

Chapter 4 is **living** with godly wisdom!

Structure

But whatever way you divide the **next few chapters** – the point is that Solomon follows a pattern:

First he gives **an appeal** to his Son:

My Son, if you receive my words – 2:1

My Son, forget not my teaching – 3:1

My sons, listen to your father's discipline – 4:1

And then he will give **a command/ or a plea** to gaining wisdom:

Incline your heart to listen/lift up your voice to call – 2:2

Trust in the LORD with all your heart – 3:5

Keep my commandments and live – 4:4

And then he will give **the benefits or the promises** attached **to that wisdom** – here's what wisdom will **do for you** if you obey:

Protection from evil men – 2:12

Protection from evil women – 2:16

Protection from wicked sinners – 3:25-26

Protection from the path of folly – 4:27

So it's all stuff that **he's already mentioned** in chapter 1 – but he's repeating himself in 2, 3, & 4 because:

He's trying to sell to us the **beauty** of wisdom!

Wisdom is a priceless possession and it's going to guard your very life so get serious about getting wisdom!

Main Point

And so for today – if we come back to Proverbs chapter 2 – this is the **main thing** Solomon is **wanting us to see**:

God grants life giving wisdom to those who diligently seek it!

We're gonna see that in 3 points:

The **search** for godly wisdom (1-5)

The **source** of godly wisdom (6-8)

The **safety** of godly wisdom (9-22)

Proverbs 2

So Proverbs chapter 2 – beginning at verse 1:

*My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, ² **listening** closely to wisdom and directing your heart to understanding; ³ furthermore, if you **call out** to insight and **lift your voice** to understanding, ⁴ if you **seek it** like silver and **search for it** like hidden treasure, ⁵ **then** you will understand the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God...*

Opening Gambit

In his commentary on the book of Proverbs – Dan Phillips gives a **compelling illustration** on the **procurement of wisdom** and the **way** that **we get bread** according to the bible!

Have you **ever thought about** the way that you get bread **according to** Scripture?

Well Jesus says in Matthew chapter 6 that – the **way that you get bread** is:

By praying for it!

Asking for it!

Give us this day our daily bread – Matthew chapter 6 [**The Lord's Prayer**]

And so according to the bible – and according to Jesus – the **way that you get bread** is **by praying for it:**

You pray for your bread – and you **do nothing else?!?!?**

You just lay there – you sit there – you pray and you trust that bread will come to you **as a sign of faith!**

But then you **come over to** the book of Thessalonians and Paul says that:

*If a man **does NOT work** – he **does NOT eat!***

*And if a man **does NOT work** and provide for his family – he's worse than an unbeliever!*

That's what he says **in Timothy!**

Biblical Balance

And so on **the one hand** – the person who **only has** the book of Thessalonians says that:

*The way that we get bread is **by working** for it – **striving** for it – **seeking** for it – **sweating** for it!*

But the person who **only has** Matthew 6 – says that:

*We get bread by **praying** for it – and **waiting** for it – and passively **trusting** God for it!*

But the way that the **Scriptures harmonize** these realities is:

By empathizing both!

Both realities have to be true!

Both realities are to be employed!

We are to **work hard** for our money – **hard** for our bread – hard for our labour and **NOT be lazy** – but at the **same time** we are to be patiently **waiting** and **trusting** and **resting** on the LORD to provide!

The **biblical balance** is **both!**

Both realities are to be at play!

And that's how Solomon describes the **getting of** wisdom in Proverbs chapter 2!

If...Then

Solomon begins by giving the biblical **both/and** formula here in verses 1 to 5:

*My son, **if** you accept my words and store up my commands within you...*

Verse 3:

***If** you call out to insight and lift your voice to understanding...*

Verse 4:

***If** you seek it like silver and search for it like treasure...*

Verse 5:

***Then** you will understand the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God... For the Lord **gives wisdom**; and from **His mouth** come knowledge and understanding.*

So notice:

If...

If...

If...

Then!

We are to **work for** the **attaining of** wisdom – but God is the one **who grants** the **attaining of** godly wisdom!

These are the **biblical ways** and **priorities** of wisdom here in chapter 2!

NOT Passive

Wisdom is **NOT something** that's **just going to come** simply because you're getting older...

More rotations around the sun **aren't atomically** going to make you wise!

Being a Christian **doesn't necessarily** mean that you're going to grow in wisdom:

There's a big **if** involved in this!

There's a huge **if**!

if you accept my words and store up my commandments...

If you call out to insight and lift your voice to understanding...

If you seek it like silver and search for it like treasure...

Then you will understand the knowledge of God and obtain wisdom!

You have to **work** for your **money**!

You have to **work** for your **bread**!

You have to **labour** for your **home**!

And you have to **work** for wisdom!

Wisdom is **NOT** automatic!

Wisdom is **NOT** passively received!

Isaiah

My son Isaiah is at this interesting **stage of life** where he has this **ability** to immediately **give up on** something when he tries and fails the **first time**!

And so if we kick a ball – he tries to kick – he misses – he immediately gives up!

I can't kick a ball!

He tries to lift a heavy object – he can't lift it – I'm just so weak!

Well no you actually have to build your muscles mate!

He goes to colour in – he goes outside the lines – he's the **worst drawer** in the world!

Well no – colouring in takes practice!

And so I try to encourage him:

*Bud you haven't seen your **Mr Han** kick a ball, lift heavy things, or try to colour in – there's hope for you yet!*

Our current struggle with him is that he **immediately thinks** that just because he's 5 years old – he's **automatically going to get it!**

And we're **constantly teaching** him:

No you have to work at these things – you have to train – you have to sweat – you have to labour – you need some resilience!

These things don't come naturally to you **just because** you're a boy!

Earn it

And **in the same way** Solomon says that just because you're a Christian:

Does NOT mean that you will **automatically gain** the knowledge of wisdom!

Just because you trust in Christ:

Does NOT mean that you will **automatically know** how to **be godly!**

In fact what we saw **last week** is that a person can actually grow **more and more** foolish over the course of their life **if they neglect wisdom!**

We are all pilgrims in a market being **pulled** and **pushed** and in all the wrong places!

And if we just coast in the Christian life – and if we're **NOT diligent** in listening for that voice of wisdom:

We will **NOT** grow and be wiser in our later years!

That's why the bible **so highly commends** those who are wise – because the bible understands:

Just **how difficult** the obtaining of **true wisdom is!**

Wisdom is an **art** – it's a **skill** – it is something that needs **progressive labour!**

Word of God

And so if that is the case – if wisdom does **NOT naturally come** to us then:

What are **the conditions** for obtaining godly wisdom?!?!

Well notice what Solomon says:

1. *If you accept **my words** and store up **my commands**...*
2. *If you **listen to wisdom** and **direct your heart** to understanding...*
3. *If you **call out to insight** and **lift your voice** to understanding...*
4. *If you **seek it like silver** and **search for it** like hidden treasure...*

Condition #1 – ***Accept and store up*** (verse 1)

Condition #2 – ***Turn and apply*** (verse 2)

Condition #3 – ***Call out and cry*** (verse 3)

Condition #4 – ***Seek out and search*** (verse 4)

These are the **4 conditions** for **obtaining godly wisdom** according to Proverbs!

Condition #1

And so notice the **first condition** – *to accept and to store up!*

If you accept my words and store up my commandments...

Notice the requirement is **NOT**:

If you follow your own heart...

*If you just lean on your own **understanding!***

If you simply look within yourself!

Then you will obtain Godly wisdom!

No! the requirement is **to look outside yourself!**

To **look beyond** yourself!

To look **outside** of yourself!

And namely you are **NOT just to look to another** person – but to look to **His words** – verse 1:

*If you accept **my words**...*

Verse 1:

*If you store up my **commandments**...*

This is **NOT** just sound advice – it's **NOT** just wise counsel – it is **NOT** just human recommendations:

These are the **very words** of the living God!

Because when Solomon speaks of the commands here (*if store up my commands*) — he uses the Hebrew word **mitzvah** — which is an **Old Testament** expression **often associated** with the laws of Torah!

Psalm 119 says:

*Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long. And your **mitzvah** (your **commandments**) makes me wiser than my enemies...*

In Job 23 – Job **also uses** the concept of *law and commandments* to speak of God's very word – **Job 23:12:**

I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my portion of food...

The point is – is that when Solomon is teaching his son the **value & beauty** – the **obtainment** of wisdom:

He is **NOT just speaking** from his own personal experience!

He's **NOT just drawing from** his own subjective/personal lessons he's **learned as a man!**

But he's **leaning** upon – and **learning** from:

The **very word** of the living God – the bible!

His counsel to his son **comes from** the Scriptures!

Treasure

And Solomon says that it's **NOT enough** to simply hear the word of God – but we must **take** the word of God – **store up** the word of God – and **apply** the word of God!

In fact **the command** is:

To receive and to store up!

The idea is to **hide away** – to **receive and to treasure** – to **hoard away** – to keep it close to your heart!

The Psalmist says:

*I have stored up your word in my heart that I may **NOT** sin against you...*

Literally I have treasured it up in my soul!

This is **Golem** keeping the ring – this is **my precious** – this is *holding it close and keeping it on him the whole time!*

That's the idea here!

This was Mary in Luke 2 – when the Shepherds came to announce the birth of Jesus **from the angels** – the text says that:

She treasured these things up in her heart!

She stored them up – she kept them close – she guarded and protected them!

You **hear** the word of God – you **accept** the word of God – and you **store it close** to you!

It's precious to you!

Matthew Henry says that:

We must lay up God's commandments in our minds and memories, as things which we deem most precious and of lasting value...

That's how we are to treasure the word of God!

To accept and to store up!

Condition #2

The second condition is:

To turn and to apply!

Notice verse 2:

Listening closely to wisdom and directing your heart to understanding...

The idea there is an **active turning**/an **active orientation**!

It is a **turning your ear** toward – inclining your heart **toward**!

Think of a person **cupping their hand** – when someone is **leaning in** to whisper **into their ear**!

It's an **attentive**/ paying **attention**/ listening **deeply**/ diligently **hearing** out that word!

It aligns with Jesus in Matthew 11:

Let him who has ears to hear – let him hear!

It's **that kind of** attention and tuning in!

It means to be captivated – to be arrested **by** – to be consumed **with**!

This is **NOT just** a simple **glance** or **look** when reading your bible – this is a **constant reflection**/ and **constant retention** / a **constant meditation** all the day long – again Psalm 119:

Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day long!

I guess it's kind of like what happens when the bride comes down the aisle on her wedding... and do you **remember fellas** the moment when you **first laid eyes** on your bride...

And you thought of **nothing else!**

And you saw **no one else!**

She came down the aisle – and:

YOU WERE CAPTIVE!

YOU WERE ENTHRALLED!

YOU GAVE **ALL YOUR ATTENTION & TIME** TO HER!

You did **NOT take** your eyes off her **for a second!**

And it's that kind of focused attention that Solomon says:

To turn and to apply!

Condition #3

Third:

To call out and to cry!

Or to lift up your voice!

Verse 3:

*If you call out to insight and **lift your voice** to understanding...*

So this is actually the **same word** used of wisdom in chapter 1 – where wisdom:

*Cries out in the street, and she **raises her voice** in the market!*

The idea is that:

As lady wisdom is crying out to us – we are to be crying out to God for wisdom!

And this is obviously a **poetic way** to speak about how we are:

To cry out to God **in prayer**!

Wisdom is to be a **main focus & significant part** of your prayers to God!

We are to be consistently be asking Him for **more and more** wisdom!

James chapter 1 says that we are to ask God for wisdom **in trials**:

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach...

Literally in the Greek it's:

*Let him ask of **the giving God***

The one who gives wisdom **liberally** – and **generously** – and **abundantly** – and **copiously**!

God has a **storehouse** of **wealth** and of **wisdom** that He wants to give to His saints!

He is storing it up and He is giving to those who seek for wisdom!

This is our great God and King!

Solomon in **1 Kings 3** prayed for *the endowment of wisdom* – and **we saw** in chapter 4:29:

God gave wisdom to Solomon beyond measure... as vast as the sand on the seashore...

Our God is an abundantly generous God – and He **loves to grant** wisdom to those who cry out to him!

The prayer of Moses himself in Exodus 33:

*Now therefore, if I have found favour in your sight, please **show me your ways**, that I may know you to find favour in your sight....*

Moses cried out to God **for wisdom!**

Show me your ways!

Show me your paths!

Show me your glory that I may govern your people Israel!

Charles Bridges in his commentary on the book of Proverbs says:

Let us not only wish for wisdom, but plead for it — to cry out as men famishing for bread...

As **starving men** are famishing for bread – we are to cry out **to God** as **famishing for wisdom!**

Friends have you ever **cried out to God** in prayer like this?!?!

Like a starving man or woman who's in need of food?!?!

Do you consider that wisdom is literally a matter of life and death for you!

It's a matter of being wise or foolish!

The way of the wicked – or the way of the righteous!

I mean wisdom **literally promises** that:

It will guard your path – verse 8
It will rescue from evil – verse 12
It delivers from darkness – verse 13
It delivers from adultery – verse 16

Proverbs 28:26 says:

Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered...

And so in order for us to be delivered from evil and to gain wisdom – Solomon says:

We must lift up our voice and call out to insight!

Condition #4

And then the last condition is there in verse 4:

If you seek for it like silver and search for it like hidden treasure...

And this has the idea of persistently **seeking/** and **searching/**and **pursuing** wisdom – like a pirate digging for treasure – or a miner searching for gold in the heart of the earth!

Job 28

Job uses a similar metaphor in Job 28 – and he compares the pursuit of wisdom to humans digging deep mines in the earth...

And I wish that I could read to you **the entire chapter** of Job 28 – but we don't have time this morning...

But I commend to you to **go home today** and to read the **entire chapter** of Job 28 – and to **be blown away** at **NOT only**:

The preciousness of wisdom and what true wisdom is:

*Like that of gold **to the heart** of the earth!*

But also how much **labour** it takes **to extract** this godly wisdom:

Like miners on the earth digging for treasure!

I mean they didn't have **motors** – and **tractors** – and **excavators** – and **diggers** like us – they **didn't have** things with engines attached – but **they had:**

Axes – and **picks** – and **hammers** – and **wedges** – and **shovels!**

All being operated by the **efforts** of men – and the **labours** of men:

Sweating – and working – and digging to obtain treasure!

And so in Job's mind – when he was thinking of the effort it took to obtain godly wisdom – he understood that:

It's that much **effort** – it's that much **trouble** – it's that much **value** – for gaining godly wisdom that you would have to **labour** and **sweat** and **search** like a miner searches for gold!

That's how precious this wisdom is to us!

Charles Bridges

And again if I could put this in Puritan terms – the Puritan **Charles Bridges** gives this wonderful illustration of working and sweating for wisdom in the Scriptures – he says:

*We must be searching into the sacred storehouse...to read instead of "searching the Scriptures," is only to skim the surface, and to gather up a few superficial notions. But the rule of success is – dig up and down the field; and if the search be discouraging, **dig again!** The patient industry of perusal and re-perusal will open the embosomed treasure...What miner would be content with the first ore? Would he not search deeper and deeper, until he has possessed himself of the whole; not satisfied with taking away much, but **determined to leave nothing!** Thus [he says] let us daily explore "the length, and the breadth, and the depth" of our boundless stores, until we be "filled with all the fulness of God..."*

What miner would be content with the first ore?

If you're simply reading the bible – but **NOT** studying it – Solomon says you are **NOT** on the path of pursuing wisdom!

You are **NOT** serious about attaining godly wisdom in the Scriptures!

This is **NOT simply** a matter of **opening up** the bible and **simply reading** to the words:

But this is mediation!

It is exploration!

It is labouring to show yourself approved!

It is this exhaustive work of mining!

Of Asking questions

Of highlighting verses

Looking at commentaries

Reading bible dictionaries

Listening to sermons

Taking notes

Praying over it

Speaking about it

Talking to others about

Sometimes debating over it

Asking questions

Looking at commentaries

Luke 2

And so you're probably thinking:

Is it really **that much work** to obtain godly wisdom?!?!

YES!

Do you remember Jesus at age 12 in **Luke chapter 2** – when his parents left Him behind in Jerusalem and they're travelling back – and:

*After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His **understanding** and His answers...*

And then **at the end** of Luke chapter 2 – it says that:

Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man...

Jesus was **sitting** – He was **contemplating** – he was **asking questions** – and as a result He became wise and grew in knowledge!

And in the same way – the way that we obtain knowledge and wisdom in the Scripture is

NOT just by accepting and storing – verse 1!

NOT just by turning and applying – verse 2!

NOT just by calling out and crying – verse 3!

But **you are** to be actively **seeking** and **searching** – verse 4!

And when you do that Solomon says – then and only then does Solomon say:

There will be great results!

*Then there will be **the fruit** of your labour!*

Verse 5:

Then you will understand the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God. ⁶For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. ⁷He stores up success for the upright; He is a shield for those who live with integrity ⁸ so that he may guard

the paths of justice and protect the way of his faithful followers. ⁹ Then you will understand righteousness, justice, and integrity—and every good path. ¹⁰ For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will delight you...

This is **everything** he's been **telling us** in **verses 1 to 7** of chapter 1!

It is everything the introduction has promised!

This is basically everything that **Proverbs is about!**

When we seek for wisdom **in these ways** – we obtain:

The fear of the LORD – the knowledge of God – the safety of wisdom – and the **applied labour** of the Scriptures!

Righteous Vs. Unrighteous

And then **form there** the chapter **opens up** as Solomon goes on in the **rest of the chapter** to speak about:

1. The **source** of godly wisdom in **verses 6 to 8!**
2. And then the **safety** of godly wisdom in **verses 9 to 22!**

But we're **NOT** going into the rest of the chapter now – because we have a huge encounter with both of these **dangers** mentioned:

First – the unrighteous men in **verses 12 to 15** – these are ones we've **already met** back in chapter 1 last week where they're gonna try to entice you and turn you away from the LORD & **toward** the path of **evil** – **toward** the path of **folly** – and down to the pits of death!

And then in verses **16 to 19** he mentions a **second serious danger** – the path of the *forbidden woman* or the *adulteress*:

Who forgets the covenant of her God; ¹⁸ her house sinks down to death and her ways to the land of departed spirits. ¹⁹ None return who go to her; and none reach the paths of life....

These are **2 characters** in the book of Proverbs that we're gonna encounter **over and over and over and over and over again** throughout this book!

And these **2 characters** are paths that lead to **death** – and lead to **destruction!**

And so the chapter then ends then in **verses 20 to 22** by once again showing us the **final destination** of these 2 paths in life:

*The **righteous** who will inhabit the land (**verse 21**) – but the **unrighteous** (or the wicked) will be cut-off from the land and the treacherous will be ripped away – verse 22!*

One path leads to **death** – and the other path leads to **life!**

Jesus

And so Solomon comes back to the importance of wisdom and he says that:

*If you are going to make it to God at the **end of your life** – if you are going to be safe and **NOT shipwreck** the security of your faith – then you need the wisdom of the Scriptures!*

And very wonderfully God has given to us **all the wisdom** we need in the person and work of Jesus Christ!

Who according to Colossians 2 is the **beginning** and the **foundation** of all wisdom and knowledge in this world – and He is the most **priceless treasure** and **possession** we are to seek **in the Scriptures!**

And so it's **no wonder then** that Solomon compares wisdom to that of precious treasure!

Conclusion

You know Jesus **also told** a parable in Matthew 13 – about a man who found a **precious treasure** and **he hid it** in the heart of a field:

He treasured it – He valued it – He stored it up!

And upon discovering the price of this one great treasure – he went and he sold everything he had:

To purchase the field!

And so it says that:

***In his joy** he sold everything he had to purchase the field!*

That's the posture that we are to have when it comes to searching for wisdom!

This is a life-long pursuit that takes everything we have to obtain!

This is the fundamental pursuit of the Christian life – because it's the fundamental path to the path of life!

Giving up **all that you** have to purchase a field because you discovered an item that is **far more precious** to you than anything this world could ever give!

And so Jesus reminds us that **joy can be ours** when **in our joy** we sell everything we have:

To find wisdom!

And the only wisdom that is worth obtaining is the wisdom of God found in Jesus Christ!

Humbling yourselves – and submitting yourselves – and coming to the cross so that **NOT only** can you be forgiven – but you can have a treasure that is **far more valuable** than:

Even life itself!

Which path are you on?

Which pursuit are you after!

The path of life that leads to eternal joy – or the path of death that only ever leads to eternal destruction!

Friends:

God grants life giving wisdom to those who diligently seek it!

And so Solomon says that we are to seek it with all that we have!

Proverbs 2:1-22

Discussion Questions

[Read Proverbs 2:1-22].

Main Point: *We must heed to the voice of wisdom if we are to escape the enticement of sinners.*

Q1. What is this chapter about? – How would you summarise the main point of Proverbs 2? – Why is wisdom so critical according to Proverbs 2?

Q2. [Read verses 1-4]. These verses contain a number of "*if...then*" statements. What are the conditions listed for receiving wisdom? – What is the common denominator with all of these actions [**active not passive**]. How do these verses challenge the idea that wisdom will come naturally with age or Christian experience?

Q3. [Read Job 28:1-28]. Talk and reflect on how Job 28 communicates the value of wisdom. – How does verse 28 reflect the Book of Proverbs?

Q4. What role does God's Word play in gaining wisdom? **Explain your answers.** – What does it look like **in practice** to treasure wisdom the way you would a priceless possession?

Q5. What specific dangers does wisdom protect us from in Proverbs 2? **[See verses 12-19].** How do the "*evil men*" (vv. 12–15) and the "*forbidden woman*" (vv. 16–19) represent ongoing spiritual threats? – How does Proverbs 2 point us toward Christ as the ultimate wisdom of God? **[cf. Colossians 2:3].** In what ways does the parable of the treasure in the field (Matthew 13:44) illustrate the same point as Proverbs 2?