

- **Implication:** Whether you are leading your child, grandchild, family, friend, or stranger; your mission is to give them the Gospel and get them reading the Scriptures. Without a "lamp to their feet" and a "light unto their path," without "salt and light," they will be unable to "taste and see" the goodness of the Lord!
- Summary Principle:
 - Knowledge & Fear of God = Relationship with God:
 - **Pr 9:10** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

III. Serve: The Provider of Wisdom

Pr 2:6 For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding; **7** He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; *He is* a shield to those who walk uprightly; **8** He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints.

A. Source

- **Person:** The Lord "gives" wisdom (hokma)
 - *Give:* to hand personally down for edification and building up
- **Personal:** From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.
 - Wisdom = knowledge (who & what) & Understanding (why & how)
- **Implication:** These two verses imply an ongoing, lifelong relationship. We will continue to go to the Lord for wisdom to know and understand.

B. Storehouse

- **Upright:** It literally means straight, not crooked; level and proper.
 - Who are the upright in Proverbs, and what are their actions?
 - Walk/live uprightly (Proverbs 2:7)
 - Blameless (Proverbs 2:21)
 - Not perverse (Proverbs 3:32)
 - Integrity guides them (Proverbs 11:3)
 - They turn to righteousness and away from lust (Proverbs 11:6)
 - Their words bless and build a city rather than tear it down (Proverbs 11:11)

- They pray (Proverbs 15:8)
 - They are not lazy (Proverbs 15:19)
 - They speak truth to those in authority (Proverbs 16:13)
 - They seek the well-being of others (Proverbs 29:10)
 - Who is called "upright" in the Bible?
 - **Job 1:8** The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."
 - What does God think of the upright?
 - **Ps 11:7** For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face.
 - **Warning:** Do not think that being "upright" saves you or guarantees you will go to heaven. Being "upright" is the "fruit" of being saved, not the "root" of being saved.
- "Stores up" is the same word as "treasure." However, the Hebrew implies the wisdom is ancient; the Lord is the treasure of wisdom, and He greatly desires to give His wisdom to the believer!
 - **Jas 1:5** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. **6** But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. **7** For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; **8** he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
 - Jesus Christ
 - **Is 11:2** The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
 - **Col 2:1** For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, **2** that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and

attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, *resulting* in a true knowledge of God's mystery, *that is*, Christ *Himself*, **3** in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

- **Ro 11:33** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

C. Safeguard

- There are three ways in which God providentially safeguards His children
 - **Shield:** refuge, protection, shelter in a time of great difficulty. This word implies there will be times of trouble and tribulation.
 - **Guards the paths of justice:** preserve and protect. This picture reveals God will be just toward the believer. It does not guarantee there will be no injustice, but God will be just in the end.
 - **Preserves the way:** observing, saving, and securing the path for us. This picture reveals God shepherding the believer along the way, moment to moment, keeping us on His path. It includes chastening and challenges, trials and tribulations, as well as times of peace and prosperity.

- **Application:** God is Father and the Shepherd.

- **Question?** Are you allowing God and His word to lead you? Are you on His path, following His way?

- **Meditation: Ps 23:** A Psalm of David. **1** The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. **2** He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. **3** He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. **4** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. **5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. **6** Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Summary: A passionate pursuit of wisdom begins internally with a heart change and then expresses itself externally with a life change!

Warning: You cannot separate God from His wisdom, nor pursue wisdom apart from pursuing God.

Wisdom Calling to the Fool	The Wise Calling to Wisdom
Wisdom speaks her words (but they are not received) (Pr 1:21)	Receive my words (Pr 2:1)
Fools hate knowledge (Pr 1:22)	Treasure my commands (Pr 2:1)
Did not turn at wisdom's rebuke (Pr 1:23)	Incline your ear to wisdom (Pr 2:2)
Refused to apply the wisdom (Pr 1:23)	Apply your heart to understanding (Pr 2:3)
Call on wisdom in distress after rejecting wisdom but is rejected by wisdom (Pr 1:28)	Cry out for discernment (Pr 2:3)
	Lift up your voice for understanding (Pr 2:3)
See wisdom diligently, but won't be found (Pr 1:28)	Seek wisdom as silver (Pr 2:4)
	Search wisdom as hidden treasures (Pr 2:4)
	God stores up wisdom for the upright (Pr 2:7)
Turning away of the simple will slay them (Pr 1:32)	He is a shield to those who walk uprightly (Pr 2:7)
The complacency of fools will destroy them (Pr 1:32)	He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints. (Pr 2:8)

IV. Stay: The Path of Wisdom

Pr 2:9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity *and* every good path.

A. Every Good Path

Note: We saw these terms before in Proverbs 1:3

- a. Righteousness = know what is right /conform to God's standard
- b. Justice/Judgment = Perceive and determine what is right
- c. Equity = Receive, apply with the result of what is right & peaceable

- **Implication:** Only after staying on the path can you gain a deeper understanding of these three aspects of wisdom. You can't see the implications for wisdom at first, but over time you will see blessings of the righteous path.

Question: Why remain on the godly path?

Ps 73: A Psalm of Asaph. **1** Truly God *is* good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. **2** But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. **3** For I *was* envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked. **4** For *there are* no pangs in their death, But their strength *is* firm. **5** They *are* not in trouble *as other* men, Nor are they plagued like *other* men. **6** Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them *like* a garment. **7** Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish. **8** They scoff and speak wickedly *concerning* oppression; They speak loftily. **9** They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth. **10** Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full *cup* are drained by them. **11** And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?" **12** Behold, these *are* the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase *in* riches. **13** Surely I have cleansed my heart *in* vain, And washed my hands in innocence. **14** For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning. **15** If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. **16** When I thought *how* to understand this, It *was* too painful for me— **17** Until I went into the sanctuary of God; *Then* I understood their end. **18** Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. **19** Oh, how they are *brought* to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. **20** As a dream when *one* awakes, *So*, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image. **21** Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind. **22** I *was* so foolish and ignorant; I was *like* a beast before You. **23** Nevertheless I *am* continually with You; You hold *me* by my right hand. **24** You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me *to* glory. **25** Whom have I in heaven *but* You? And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You. **26** My flesh and my heart fail; *But* God *is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever. **27** For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry. **28** But *it is* good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, That I may declare all Your works.