

“The Way to a Wise Life”

Getting Ready For the Rest of Your Life – Part 2

Today we are going to look at two things:

- Why is wisdom the most important thing that I should want?
- How do I get wisdom?

“Wisdom is more precious than rubies. Nothing else you could ever want is as valuable.” Prov. 8:11

“Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do.” Prov. 4:7

What is wisdom? Wisdom is seeing things from God’s point of view. It’s **not** knowledge. You can get knowledge a lot of places. You can go to school and you can get a lot of knowledge. But a person can be **knowledgeable** and **not wise**. A person can be **educated** and **not wise**. Over and over again in the Bible, **God stresses the importance of wisdom**. He says it’s the **number-one thing you** need to want in life. It should be your **number-one goal**. If you get wisdom, it’s going to affect every other thing in your life for the **better** and for the **good**. (And wisdom is **not just when you get older**.)

Prov. 9:12 says, “If you become wise, you’ll be the one to **benefit**. But if you scorn wisdom, you’ll be the one to **suffer**.” Why? It is because **all of the problems in your life come from a lack of wisdom**. All of the problems in your life come from **making foolish** decisions. This affects **every area** of your life.

Proverbs 14:12 *Before every man there lies a wide and pleasant road that seems right but ends in death.* (TLB) Because I **lack wisdom** I keep running up **against** dead ends. Wisdom **helps us** make good choices and Proverbs gives us **many benefits** for seeking wisdom as our **number one** goal in life.

SOLOMON: THE BENEFITS OF WISDOM

“Wisdom is **good for the soul**. Get wisdom and you’ll have a **bright future**.” Prov. 24:14 (TEV)

“Those who get wisdom do themselves a favor, and those who love learning **will succeed**.” Prov. 19:8 (NCV)

“Treasure wisdom, and it will make you **great**; hold on to it, and it will **bring you honor**.” Prov. 4:8 (NCV)

“Wisdom will multiply your days and **add years to your life**.” Prov. 9:11 (NLT) see also James 1:5 (NIV)

“Wise people have **great power**.” Prov. 24:5 (NCV)

“Wise people will gain an **honorable reputation**.” Prov. 3:35 (TEV)

“Wise people’s lives get **better and better**.” Prov. 15:24 (NCV)

“Wisdom offers you **long life**, as well as **wealth** and **honor**. It can make your **life pleasant** and **lead you safely** through it. Those who become wise are **happy**; wisdom will give them **life**.” Prov. 3:16-18 (TEV)

“Nothing will stand in your way **if you walk wisely**, and you will not stumble when you run.” Prov. 4:12 (TEV) “**Learn** to be wise, and develop **good judgment**.” Prov. 4:5 (NLT)

HOW DO I “L.E.A.R.N” TO BE WISE?

• Listen to God’s Word Everyday

“Start with God. The **first step in learning** is bowing down to God.” Prov. 1:7 (MSG)

“It is **the Lord** who gives wisdom; from him come knowledge and understanding.” Prov. 2:6 (TEV) “A wise person is **hungry for truth**, while the fool feeds on trash.” Prov. 15:14 (NLT)

• Enlist Friends who Challenge Me (It can be a small group of 2 or more)

“**Spend time with the wise** and you will become wise, but the friends of fools will suffer.” Prov. 13:20

“Fools think they need no advice, but the **wise listen** to others.” Prov. 12:15 (NLT)

1 Corinthians 15, “Bad company corrupts good character.” We know this

and it doesn’t just happen with teenagers. It happens with **all of us** – peer pressure. You **need friends** who **build** you up **not tear** you down.

• Ask Questions & Accept Correction

“Intelligent people are always open to new ideas. In fact, they look for them.” Prov. 18:15 (NLT)

“If you **stop learning**, you will **forget** what you already know.” Prov. 19:27 (CEV)

One of the things I’ve learned is that we **have never** learned anything while we’re talking. If our mouth is **moving**, we’re **not learning**. We are only **learning** when we’re **listening**. We **don’t** learn when we’re talking. So we **have got** to learn to **listen**.

• Remember & Reinforce What I Learn

Listen, and I’ll teach you what the wise have said. Study their teachings, and you will be glad if you **remember** them and can quote them.” Prov. 22:17-18 (TEV) “Don’t lose sight of my words. Let them **penetrate deep within your heart**, for they bring life and radiant health to anyone who discovers their meaning.” Prov. 4:21-22 (NLT)

You can’t just **learn** it; you’ve got to **remember** it. And you can’t just **remember** it, you’ve got to **reinforce** it. If you **don’t remember and reinforce** it you end up having to learn the same lesson **over and over and over**.

• Now Do It!

“Don’t deceive yourselves by just listening to the Word; instead, **put it into practice**. If you listen to the word, but don’t put it into practice you are like people who look in a mirror and see themselves ...but once they walk away, they forget what they look like. But if you **look closely** into the perfect law that sets people free, and **keep on paying attention** to it and you **don’t forget it**, but you **put it into practice**—you **will be blessed** by God in what you do!” James 1:22-25 (TEV)