**Walk with the Wise**

*Proverbs 13:20*

**Introduction**

1. **Proverbs 4:7-9** – Wisdom is extremely important, and we must seek to acquire it.
   1. ***“principle thing”*** – *rê’šiyṯ* – the first, in place, time, order or rank (specifically, a firstfruit): — beginning. (Strong)
   2. **Wisdom, therefore, is fundamentally most important. It is necessary for proper living according to the design of God.**
   3. We must seek wisdom, and acquire it because it is of such importance.
   4. When we do we will greatly benefit from it **(v. 8-9** – Wisdom personified).
   5. ***“The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire wisdom; And with all your acquiring, get understanding.”*** (NASB – takes the Hebrew word and translates it with the word “beginning” instead of the concept of it being first in priority, although that is still evident)
      1. The beginning of wisdom consists in GETTING WISDOM.
      2. **Wisdom does not simply come to those who idly wait for it. It must be searched for.**
2. Wisdom is made available. It is in abundant supply for those who wish to possess it. – **Proverbs 1:20-23, 33** – It calls for us (Personification of wisdom.) (**It blesses those who obtain it – physically and spiritually, but more importantly SPIRITUALLY.)**
3. **Proverbs 13:20** – One of the ways God has provided for us to gain wisdom is association with those who are wise.
   1. Such association is of great benefit.
   2. The converse is true as well (**v. 20b**) – one way in which we become foolish is keeping company with fools. (This brings spiritual – as well as physical – destruction.)
4. **It is good for us to spend time with, seek the counsel of, and walk with the wise.**
5. The Beginning of Knowledge/Wisdom
6. The Fear of the Lord
   1. **We must first understand that man is fallible, and our fear of God must supersede our relationships with, and perceptions of man.**
   2. **Proverbs 1:7** – Reverential fear of the Lord is the beginning (foundation) of knowledge, and applied knowledge – wisdom.
      1. Life is traced back to God who created it.
      2. The knowledge of all facets of life is found in the reverence had before Him.
      3. **We cannot know without submitting to the One who knows all, and created all.**
   3. We consider wisdom as the proper application of knowledge in any setting and instance.
      1. **How do we know, and then put what is known to proper use?**
      2. We fear God, and thus submit to His declaration of wisdom.
      3. **This rings true most importantly with spiritual matters.** Although, it is true with physical matters as well – **cf. 1 Timothy 4:8** (godliness – Godward piety, or fear, or reverence) (fear of the Lord)
   4. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom **because it is the general purpose of our existence** – **cf. Ecclesiastes 12:13** (*To fear the Lord is to take the step in the proper direction of our created purpose, and thus to know more about the specifics concerning said purpose.*)
   5. Our reverence for God leads our search for wisdom to Him – the true source of wisdom – ***“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” (James 1:5).*** 🡪
7. Seek Wisdom from the Proper Source
   1. **James speaks of two different wisdoms:** wisdom that ***“does not descend from above,”*** and ***“wisdom that is from above” (James 3:15, 17).***
   2. **Wisdom from above is true, and profitable. Wisdom from “the father” of lies causes great damage to the soul.**
   3. **1 Corinthians 2:6-13** – If we wish to attain wisdom, we must go to the One who is infinitely wise.
      1. Paul had established that the message of the cross is not man’s wisdom, or human philosophy. **He now begins to note that it is wisdom that came from God 🡪**
      2. **(v. 6-9)** – The true wisdom Paul (and the other apostles) speaks is not from man, but wisdom of God which **man cannot possibly know UNLESS IT IS REVEALED.**
         1. Man’s wisdom is not sufficient. We cannot rely on it.
         2. Without revelation from God, man cannot act properly in this life.
         3. **Those who crucified God’s Son acted on their own wisdom.**
      3. **(v. 10-13)** – The apostles received the HS in order to be revealed the things of God.
         1. **We find wisdom from the proper source: God’s Spirit of revelation.**
         2. The HS takes spiritual things, and reveals them in spiritual words.
   4. ***“in [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3).***
8. We must ultimately seek the wisdom of God. **However, God has provided us a way in which we can grow in that wisdom by associating with others** (**cf. Proverbs 13:20**).
   1. ***If one has grown closer to God, and thus grown in His wisdom, it is logical that time spent with such a person will be of great benefit.***
   2. We must choose to walk with the wise 🡪
9. Walk with the Wise
10. Parents
    1. **Proverbs 1:8-9** – Instruction from parents is of great value.
       1. **The instruction from parents, and the wisdom they offer is something that, if followed, will be a blessing to our life.**
       2. **Ephesians 6:1-4** – Children are to obey, because parents are to impart the wisdom of God to the children. (It promotes and prolongs life.)
          1. *This obedience is not to be out of spite, or begrudgingly.*
          2. **Honor – *timaō* – to prize, i.e. fix a valuation upon. (YOU VALUE YOUR PARENTS AND THE WISDOM THEY OFFER.) 🡪**
    2. **Proverbs 2:1-5** – Those who listen to the wisdom of their parents, and seek out that wisdom as **SILVER and TREASURE** will come to know God.
    3. **Proverbs 1:1; 1 Kings 2:1-4** – Solomon was a man of wisdom, who had a father who was wise and gave counsel to him.
       1. David died, and Solomon followed the Lord for some time, heeding the wisdom of his father.
       2. **Then Solomon followed after those who were unwise in his foreign wives, and they influenced him to turn from God.**
11. Older, Wiser Men
    1. **There is great value in seeking to learn, and grow in wisdom by observing, talking with, and spending time with those who are proven, experienced Christians.**
    2. **Paul and Timothy**
       1. **Acts 16:1-3a** – Paul met Timothy, and desired for him to follow him on his journey.
          1. This grew into a close relationship – ***“To Timothy, a true son in the faith” (1 Timothy 1:2).***
          2. *The apostle Paul took Timothy under his wing, and Timothy learned much from him, and grew in the wisdom of the Lord.*
       2. **Philippians 2:19-22** – Paul spoke well of Timothy. They became closely knit in their mindsets and character – ***“He who walks with wise men will be wise” (Proverbs 13:20).***
       3. **2 Timothy 3:13-15** – Timothy spent much time in the word with Paul. Paul taught him the gospel of Christ thoroughly, and as such he was equipped for every good work – *this was in addition to the wisdom gained by Timothy in the instructions of his mother and grandmother* **(v. 15)**.
    3. Elders (Office and general)
       1. **Titus 2:1-8** – Older men serve as an example to younger men. Women to young women as well.
          1. This requires a willingness to seek the counsel of an older man/woman.
          2. They have much to say that is of much value.
       2. ***“Wisdom is with aged men, and with length of days, understanding” (Job 12:12)***.
          1. It is logical that if we desire wisdom, we walk with those who have great experience.
          2. They are to be honored. The wisdom they have to offer is of great value.
          3. **We must not, like Rehoboam, reject the advice of the elder men with wisdom, and turn to *“the young men”* who are of our age and experience. (cf. 1 Kings 12) (That is folly.)**
       3. **These truths about the value of an older man’s wisdom is seen in God’s design of the office of the eldership.** (Older men who qualify to hold the office implemented by God.)
          1. **1 Peter 5:5** – We are to submit to them, and seek their counsel.
          2. **Hebrews 13:7** (Concerning elders who had since passed.) – They serve as examples, and we should follow them.
          3. **Hebrews 13:17** – They watch over our souls, and what they have to say is for our own good!
          4. **If we listen to the elders, we will become wise ourselves.**

**Conclusion**

1. God has given us a blessing in those who are older, wiser, and simply of the same mindset in Christ.
2. ***“He who walks with wise men will be wise” (Proverbs 13:20).***
3. We must surround ourselves with those who are seeking to follow God’s word.
   1. Even more so, with people who have been doing so successfully for a long while.
   2. **We need to see the value in those who are experienced Christians.**
   3. This requires humility, and will cause immense growth in the faith.