Treasure found: God and His better way

Proverbs 2:5-11 Message

Your vigorous search for wisdom results in discovering priceless treasures: God and His better way

- To enjoy the deep riches of a relationship with God
- To recognize the spiritual advantages of the divinely guarded path



Proverbs 2 - Outline

Treasure offered: detect and dig! (1-4)

Treasure found: God and His better way (5-11)

Treasure guarded: from evil men and women (12-19)

Treasure enjoyed: life instead of death (20-22)

Beauty of Proverbs 2 Structure

к Aleph "A"

If you pursue wisdom (1-4)

Then come two results (5-11)

1: "Then you will understand" to whom wisdom is leading you (5-8)

2: "Then you will understand" wisdom's path (9-11)

PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Walk in integrity Paths of justice The way of His faithful ones Every good track Walk in the way of good men Keep to righteous paths

Contrasting paths of Proverbs 2

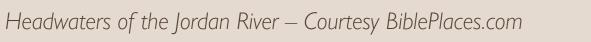
The way of evil Forsake upright paths Walk in ways of darkness Paths are crooked Devious in their tracks Tracks descend to the dead Go to the evil woman Not reach the paths of life

If you make a diligent search for wisdom you will be blessed by two results (Prov 2:5-11):

- I. You will know Yahweh who gives wisdom generously (5-8)
 A. You will understand the right relationship to God (5)
 - B. Because God gives us wisdom generously (6-7a)
 - C. Because God and His wisdom guard us on His path (7b-8)
- II. You will know the path Yahweh guards for us (9-11)
 - A. You will understand the path's divine character (9)
 - B. Because your new regenerate heart will embrace God's wisdom (10)
 - C. Because you will recognize the value in God's wisdom guarding you (11)

Proverbs 2:6-7a

Going to God's word is like finding the headwaters of a river





God gives us wisdom generously (Prov 2:6-7a)

"Divine wisdom begins consciously with God"

(John Piper, Think, p. 149).

Who are His "holy ones" in Prov 2:8?

Hasidim ("holy ones") comes from hesed

Hesed is a key part of God's nature (Ex 34:6)

Faithfulness to keep His covenant, manifested in love, kindness, mercy, grace

Sometimes called loyal love, steadfast love, lovingkindness

Faithful covenant love

We show hesed toward other members of the covenant (Prov 11:17; Isa 57:1; 2 Sam 9; Gal 5:22-23)

The divine character of wisdom's path





Equity is "being upright or fair"



Justice "restores what is right or governs to preserve it".

Proverbs 2:9

Wisdom will be pleasant to your soul (Prov 2:10)

- **Pleasant** is to find something attractive, delightful, lovely (the root of the name Naomi), see it as a glorious treasure
- **Soul** (*nephesh*) can refer to "passionate drives and appetites...hunger for food...yearning...craving" (Bruce Waltke, *Proverbs*, I:90)
- In this verse it has the idea of that part of the inner man where the spiritual appetite is found

Did we treat other members of the New Covenant with *hesed*? (Mt 25:31-46)

