

DECISION POINT OF WISDOM Text: Proverbs 2

Decision Determines Destiny

"We stand at the crossroads, each minute, each hour, each day making choices. We choose the thoughts we allow ourselves to think, the passions we allow ourselves to feel, and the actions we allow ourselves to perform. Each choice is made in the context of whatever value system we've selected to govern our lives. In selecting that value system, we are, in a very real way, making the most important choice we will ever make." – Benjamin Franklin

1. Theme of Proverbs—> Wisdom from above to make right choices on earth

—Formulated as a choice: 1. The Path of Life 2. The Path of Destruction 3. The Decision we face

2. We see this theme repeated — in Ch.1 / in Ch. 2 / and overall in Ch. 1–9¹

I. THE PATH OF LIFE (v.1-9)

A. SEEKING (v.1-4)

1. The Search for Wisdom Requires Personal Commitment...

Notice the imperatives required... You have to WANT it!

- a) If you receive My words, treasure my commands / Incline your ear, Apply your heart
- b) Seek and Search, Cry out in prayer to God

2. This is NOT a COMPLACENT Faith—but an ACTIVE Faith

- a) *'the complacency of fools will destroy them' (1:32)*
- b) A Complacent faith is easily bored...
- c) They don't want to take time to be Holy — They just want to have a good time

3. An ACTIVE FAITH is SEEKING, ASKING, KNOCKING, STUDYING, LISTENING, READING, PRAYING, GROWING

"There's a price to pay if we would gain spiritual wisdom, but there's an even greater price to pay if we don't gain it. We must walk with God through the study of His Word..."

"Obtaining spiritual wisdom isn't a once-a-week hobby, it is the daily discipline of a lifetime."²

4. ACTIVE FAITH is being real with God—spending time in His word...

B. FINDING (v.5)

1. The Benefit of Wisdom is that it Leads You to God

- a) True Wisdom is from God and Leads You back To God
- b) This is about Knowing God and Walking With God

2. When you get real with God—then God will get real with you...

And That is When Real Life Change begins! (Jer. 29:12-13)

C. CHANGING (v.6-9)

1. God gives wisdom ONLY to those who search for it and seek it...

- God gave manna to Israel in the wilderness; but they still had to go gather it up
- Christ gave the blind man sight; but he still had to wash in Pool of Siloam to receive it.
- God gives men wisdom; but serious study is still required in order to receive it.
- God saves us by a gift of grace—but we must be born again in baptism to receive it

¹ See Proverbs, by Robert Harkerider, Wisdom for Modern Man

² Warren Wiersbe, Be Skillful, p.36

2. **Wisdom From Above Will EMPOWER you and CHANGE you...**
Wisdom From Above will HELP you, and PROTECT you...
 3. **Because When you get real with God—then God will get real with you,
and that's when real life change can happen**
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II. THE PATH OF DESTRUCTION (v.10-19)

A. WISDOM EMPOWERS US AGAINST THE POWER OF EVIL (v.10-12)

1. **God's Wisdom empowers you and protects you from the power of evil**
 - a) If you stay close to the word of God and hold fast the word of Truth
then you won't be deceived so easily.

But the path of the just *is* like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.
The way of the wicked *is* like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble. (4:18-19)

2. **We are surrounded by the Dark influence of evil in this world...**
 - a) Atheistic ideologies are taught to our children.
 - b) Immoral influences saturate TV, Media and the Internet.
 - c) The Faith and the Truth are Mocked by an insanely self-centered world.
3. **And there are spiritual forces of evil arrayed against us (Eph. 6:12 ESV)**

B. WISDOM RESCUES US FROM THE INFLUENCE OF EVIL MEN (v.12-15)

1. **Have you ever been around someone like this?**
 - a) You all have a mental image of someone—a wife beater or alcoholic or controller
 - b) But what if they're well dressed? w/ a great smile? intelligent? charming even?
what if they go to church?
 - c) But there are alarm bells and warning lights going off in your head.
 - d) Wisdom will warn you to avoid these people who cause so much harm
2. **They walk in darkness, rejoice in doing evil, twist and pervert words...**
 - a) But This is not limited to foul profanity or obscene language...
 - b) Perverting words is when people use good words—to push bad ideology
 - c) Twisting the truth so they can call evil good and good evil.
 - d) It includes telling Lies to target people's character to destroy their reputation
 - e) Teaching False Doctrines or using gossip to cause division
3. **These are controlling people who found what works to get their way**
 - a) They gain some perverse pleasure in using other people for their own gain
 - b) People of the Lie who attack others rather than face their own failures

C. WISDOM RESCUES FROM INFLUENCE OF IMMORAL WOMEN (v.16-19)

1. **Wisdom warns against immoral women who seduce w/ flattering words**
 - a) The Bible deals with reality—so it is NOT bound by cultural narratives...
—like the popular belief that all women are victims of men.
 - b) There are wicked and abusive men—but there are also wicked and abusive women
 - c) Who use Flattering speech—and smooth words (**Proverbs 5:3**).

2. It is beyond comprehension how many lives, families, marriages, children have been wrecked by adultery.
 3. The damage of infidelity can last a lifetime — and even for eternity.
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III. THE DECISION YOU FACE (v.20-22)

A. THERE ARE TWO PATHS... (v.20–22)

1. We tend to think of gaining Wisdom as an optional upgrade...
 - a) Like some form of self-improvement — or self-empowerment...
2. It's much more than that! — it's a Matter of Life & Death! (Dt. 30:15, 19-20)
3. The Narrow Way Leads to Life—Broad Way to Destruction (Mt 7:13–14)

B. JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY

1. God made a way where there was no way—by Sending His Son to be the Substitutionary Atoning Sacrifice for our Sins
2. You can search all the Religions of the World,
 - all the philosophies of World, all the ideologies of the World...
 - But You Cannot Find Grace in ANY of them! –NONE!
3. You Can Only Find Grace in Jesus—He is the WAY (John 14:1-6)
 - JESUS is the way to Forgiveness
 - JESUS is the way to Peace
 - JESUS is the way to God
 - JESUS is the way to Eternal Life

C. YOU HAVE A CHOICE—AND THE POWER TO CHOOSE!

1. No One Has to Stay Stuck the Way They Are—You have a choice!
2. You Can't Change the Past—
But by God's Grace You Can Change the Future!
3. You can be forgiven! (Romans 6:23)

CONCLUSION:

You don't have to live in REGRET anymore... or GUILT anymore...

You don't have to live in CONDEMNATION anymore...

You Can Believe, Repent, Confess, Be Born Again in Baptism, become a Child of God!