**Wisdom for Living – Pro. 1:2**

*To know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, to receive instruction in wise behavior*

**Focal Truth: To know wisdom is to live wisely**

**Observations**

1. **Living wisely requires spiritual wisdom from God**
2. Living wisely is **knowing & learning** God’s wisdom – *to know wisdom & instruction*
3. Living wisely is **discerning** the words of God’s wisdom – *to discern the sayings of understanding*
4. Living wisely is **practicing** wise living – *to receive instruction in wise behavior*

“*Wisdom is the art of living skillfully in whatever actual conditions we find ourselves*. It has virtually nothing to do with information, as such, with knowledge as such…*wisdom has to do with becoming skillful* in honoring our parents and raising children, handling money…going to work…using words well and treating friends kindly…it is cultivating emotions within ourselves and attitudes toward others that make for peace.”

Proverbs concentrates on these concerns more than any other book in the Bible. Proverbs distills it all into riveting images and aphorisms that *keep us connected in holy obedience to the ordinary.*” Eugene Peterson

1. **Living wisely is knowing God’s wisdom**
2. The wise know God’s wisdom

Know = to **become aware** of something, to **discover something**, to **become acquainted** with something, to have **knowledge of something**

1. The wise become acquainted with wisdom from the Word of God & the life of Christ

To know wisdom = wisdom = skill, dexterity

* They discover a way of thinking not like the world’s thinking
* They learn new ways of dealing with life issues not like the world’s ways
* They build knowledge of God’s wisdom & ways rather than man’s wisdom & ways

**Proverbs promises to give the skillfulness of God’s wisdom to all who will receive, learn & live by it!**

*To know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, to receive instruction in wise behavior* – Pr. 1:2

Ps. 78:72 – *so he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands*

1. **Living wisely is knowing Jesus Christ the wisdom of God**

a. Jesus Christ is the Wisdom of God – Col. 2:3 – *in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*

b. The preaching of the cross of Jesus Christ is foolishness to the world – 1 Cor. 1:18 –

 *for the preaching of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing*

1. The preaching of the cross of Jesus Christ is the power of God to the saved

1Cor. 1:18 – *but to those who are being saved it is the power of God*

d. God has made the wisdom of the world foolishness – 1 Cor. 1:20 – *where is the wise*

 man? *Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of the age? Has not God made foolish*

 *the wisdom of the world?*

e. God in his wisdom through the message of the cross saves those who will believe

1 Cor. 1:21 – *for since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well – pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.*

f. Christ preached is the power of God & the wisdom of God – 1 Cor. 1:24 – *but to those*

 *who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of*

 *God*

g. God’s foolishness is wiser than man & God’s weakness is stronger than man

 1 Cor. 1:25

h. Christ is for the believer the wisdom of God – 1 Cor. 1:30 – *but by His doing you are in*

 *Christ Jesus, who became to us, wisdom from God, and righteousness and*

 *sanctification, and redemption*

**The proverbs reveal the wisdom of God - the Lord Jesus Christ – Pro. 8:22 - 31**

* He is the wisdom of God in the creation of all things
* He is the wisdom of God in His words & teaching
* He is the wisdom of God in His death on the cross
* He is the wisdom of God in His coming rule & reign on the earth

**Col. 2:3 – *in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge***

1. **Living wisely is practicing the wisdom of God**

a. How can you know who is wise in the world? – James 3:13

b. How can you know who has understanding in the world? – James 3:13

c. Good behavior is the result of knowing the gentleness of wisdom – 1 Pet. 2:12

*Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation*

1. Good works reveal a skillfulness from wisdom

James 3:17 – ff – *the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, with hypocrisy.*

1. Wisdom of the world is earthy, unspiritual and demonic – James 1:15 – *this wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic*
* The worldly - wise think they are wise in themselves – they fool themselves 1 Cor.3:18
* The worldly - wise live in their fleshly wisdom – they fool themselves

2 Cor. 1:12

* The worldly - wise live in the deception of the lies of the devil – they fool themselves

Thess. 2:8 – 12 – *then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.*

***And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace***

 ***James 3:18 -* This is living wisely in the skillfulness of wisdom!**