

Acquire and Apply Wisdom -- Without Delay!

Ponder: The immediate need for wisdom.

Scripture: "Whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure without fear of evil" (Proverbs 1:33, NKJV).

Who among us has sufficient wisdom? Virtually all would confess we need more. Jesus' brother, James, wrote that anyone who lacks wisdom should "ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5). This agrees with Solomon's statement that "the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding" (Proverbs 2:6).

Solomon portrayed wisdom as a woman walking about the city urging everyone to listen to her. She goes wherever the people are – the open squares, the main roads, and the openings of the city gates (Proverbs 1:20-21). Clearly, she wants to help people become wise. "Turn at my rebuke; surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you" (v. 23).

Since God is infinitely wise and is the source of all wisdom, the wise woman's words in Proverbs could easily come from the mouth of God. Obviously He wants us to become wise, and He teaches us wisdom by means of His word, by means of godly teachers, and by means of the trials He permits to come upon us (see James 1:2-5). Our duty is to learn by these same means.

Sometimes we foolishly refuse to learn. "Because I have called and you have refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded . . . I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes" (1:24, 26).

The time to learn wisdom is now! Don't wait until disaster is upon you! "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they will not find me" (1:28). Not only in eternity, but even in the here-and-now, we need God's favor. We need God's wisdom to navigate the straits of life. Waiting until disaster is upon us to start seeking wisdom results in destruction. "For the turning away (backsliding) of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil" (1:32, 33).

Seek God's wisdom today and every day. You'll be glad you did!

Song: "Worthy Is The Lamb That Was Slain"

Prayer: Wise Heavenly Father, we happily confess You as the source of sound wisdom. We thank You for Your word, and for the godly, wise teachers You send our way. We thank You even for the trials you allow to confront us, for they also teach us wisdom. Help us to learn, and to apply the wisdom You teach us in ways that will glorify You. In Jesus' name, Amen.