

# THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM

## PROVERBS 1

Text: Proverbs 1:7

### **Proverbs 1:7**

<sup>7</sup>The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Introduction:

God gave Solomon the equivalent of a blank check, and he did the honorable thing...didn't ask selfishly, but spiritually.

Solomon became both the wisest and the wealthiest in the world.

Our world today suffers from the most serious lack of wisdom of all of human history; foolishness is rampant.

## **1. THE VALUE OF WISDOM (vs.2)**

### **Proverbs 1:2**

<sup>2</sup>To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

A. Wisdom is Greater than Monetary Power

### **Proverbs 3:13-16**

<sup>13</sup> Happy *is* the man *that* findeth wisdom, and the man *that* getteth understanding. <sup>14</sup> For the merchandise of it *is* better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. <sup>15</sup> She *is* more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. <sup>16</sup> Length of days *is* in her right hand; *and* in her left hand riches and honour.

## **B. Wisdom is Greater than Military Power**

### **Ecclesiastes 9:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> Then said I, Wisdom *is* better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom *is* despised, and his words are not heard. <sup>17</sup> The words of wise *men are* heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools. <sup>18</sup> Wisdom *is* better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.

## **C. Wisdom is Greater than Mental Power**

### **Proverbs 4:4-9**

<sup>4</sup> He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. <sup>5</sup> Get wisdom, get understanding: forget *it* not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. <sup>6</sup> Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. <sup>7</sup> Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. <sup>8</sup> Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. <sup>9</sup> She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

Wisdom gives you the ability to rightly apply the knowledge you have been given. And knowledge is worthless and even dangerous without wisdom holding its hand, guiding it in the right direction.

There's a big difference between being smart and being wise.

You can get knowledge without wisdom, but a man of wisdom WILL get knowledge!

Knowledge is learned – Wisdom is given.

**James 1:5**

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

## **2. THE VOLUME OF BENEFITS (vs. 3-5)**

**Proverbs 1:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; <sup>4</sup> To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. <sup>5</sup> A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

### **A. Wisdom Produces Goodness**

**James 3:13**

<sup>13</sup> Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

## B. Wisdom Produces Meekness or Gentleness

### **James 3:13**

<sup>13</sup> Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

## C. Wisdom Produces Power

### **James 3:17**

<sup>17</sup> But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

- Over Sin
- Over Strife
- Over Stubbornness
- Over Selfishness
- Over Snobbishness
- Over Shams

Close:

Understanding the value of wisdom and the volume of benefits from wisdom, where is wisdom obtained?

**Proverbs 1:7**

<sup>7</sup>The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Proverbs 9:10**

<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.

**Psalms 111:10**

<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do *his commandments*: his praise endureth for ever.

The word fear means to reverence or have respect of God.

When we know God, not just about God, but when we know God, we'll respect and reverence Him and that is the beginning of knowledge.

When we know God, we'll get to know ourselves, and discover we're not wise apart from Him.

In other words we are completely dependent on God for wisdom.