

The Source of Wisdom, part 2

“Patience is the companion of wisdom”
Augustine

Proverbs 22:17-21 Christian Standard Bible

Words of the Wise

17 Listen closely,^[a] pay attention to the words of the wise,
and apply your mind to my knowledge.

18 For it is pleasing if you keep them within you
and if they are^[b] constantly on your lips.

19 I have instructed you today—even you—
so that your confidence may be in the Lord.

20 Haven't I written for you thirty sayings^[c]
about counsel and knowledge,

21 in order to teach you true and reliable words,
so that you may give a dependable report^[d]
to those who sent you?

Something to think about...

Do you believe that fearing the Lord produces instantaneous wisdom? If not, how long do you think it takes to gain true wisdom?

CSB Footnotes

- a. 22:17 Lit Stretch out your ear
b. 22:18 Or you; let them be, or you, so that they are
c. 22:20 Text emended; one Hb tradition reads you previously;
alt Hb tradition reads you excellent things;
LXX, Syr, Vg read you three times
d. 22:21 Lit give dependable words

A CLOSER LOOK

The goal of paying attention, listening, and applying (v. 17) is so that it will be pleasing for you. We all know the benefits of of applying our education and experiences. The satisfaction of a job well done, a torch passed, and a legacy laid. Not only will it be pleasing it will provide the confidence we need in the Lord who is our provider and guide.

In Proverbs 22, Solomon now exhorts the reader to commit to a life of study while pursuing wisdom. Solomon's spirit is similar to Jesus' when he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Mark 4:9). In other words, don't let this information go in one ear and out the other. Take it in. Think about it. Ponder it. Let it change you.

What we say about wisdom will have little value unless it has changed us from the inside out. The goal of gaining this type of knowledge and wisdom is not merely to satisfy curiosity but to change lives. If we want to instruct and disciple others, leading them toward changed lives, we must have our lives changed first!

Wisdom is hard to gain even after you have given yourself to it. It is impossible without commitment to it. Be willing to struggle to understand things that are difficult to comprehend. The struggle sharpens your understanding and increases your wisdom.

“LET US PRAY...”

Father forgive us for having such short attention spans, and for not prioritizing a commitment to growing in Your wisdom. We need your help. We need eyes to see and ears to hear your truth in the midst of so much misinformation. We long to be changed by Your wise words, We are ready to grow inner faith. Amen

NEXT WEEK... *The Benefits of Wisdom, part 1— Proverbs 2:1–22*