

Trusting God's Guidance, part 1

"All I have seen teaches me to trust in the Creator for all I have not seen."

R. W. Emerson

Proverbs 13:14; 14:24; 15:24; 16:22; 17:12; 24:7, 13-14 Christian Standard Bible

13:14 A wise person's instruction is a fountain of life,
turning people away from the snares of death.

14:24 The crown of the wise is their wealth,
but the foolishness of fools produces foolishness.

15:24 For the prudent the path of life leads upward,
so that he may avoid going down to Sheol.

16:22 Insight is a fountain of life for its possessor,
but the discipline of fools is folly.

17:12 Better for a person to meet a bear robbed of her cubs
than a fool in his foolishness.

24:7 Wisdom is inaccessible to^[a] a fool;
he does not open his mouth at the city gate...

13 Eat honey, my son, for it is good,
and the honeycomb is sweet to your palate;

14 realize that wisdom is the same for you.
If you find it, you will have a future,
and your hope will never fade.

Footnotes

a. 24:7 Lit is too high for

Something to think about...

With God's wisdom, life is good. However, nothing but trouble lies ahead if we are foolish enough to ignore him.

How have we experienced the blessing of God's wisdom in our life? In what ways have we ignored God's wisdom and felt the consequences?

 **NOTE:** The last 4 weeks of our devotionals will have a unique format, using a collection of proverbs with similar themes to help us cover the maximum amount of biblical ground as we finish up this study on WISDOM.

A CLOSER LOOK: WISDOM AND FOLLY

13:14; 16:22. In an arid climate like Palestine, nothing could be more refreshing than a fountain. In fact, a traveler's life could depend on it! In the same way, the law (torah) or teaching of the wise not only refreshes your soul, but it preserves your life by guiding you around the snares that would trap you. In 16:22, understanding (good sense, insight) is also described as a fountain of life. But fools lack it and learn only from the punishment that hits as a consequence of their behavior.

14:24. Living according to God's wisdom brings practical benefits. When a person follows God's principles of diligence and honesty, financial success often follows; for him, wealth is an external symbol of God's blessing like a crown. But the person who foolishly ignores God produces nothing but more foolishness.

15:24. The theme of the two paths runs throughout Proverbs, and this verse reminds us that the wise person is on an upward path to life; his wisdom will prevent a premature descent to the grave (Hebrew- sheol).

17:12. What could be more dangerous than facing a mother bear defending her cubs? According to Proverbs, a fool on the prowl can be even more perilous. The bear will only launch a direct attack, but a fool can destroy you in a dozen different ways.

24:7. The word wisdom is plural, emphasizing its importance. It is over the head of a fool; he cannot appreciate or comprehend it. The gate of a city is the place where city leaders met to judge disputes and decide the affairs of the town. The fool has nothing worthwhile to contribute to these serious discussions.

24:13-14. Honey was the sweetest substance known in the Old Testament world, and the father encourages his son to eat it in order to enjoy its sweetness. In the same way, wisdom provides sweet delight because it gives hope for the future. A second command urges the son to seek wisdom—not only because it is right but because it is the shortest route to genuine joy.

The demands of life often outstrip our capabilities. We desperately need God's help to make the right moves.

"LET US PRAY..."

Lord thank you for your guidance, thank you for never leaving our side. I pray that we would pursue your wisdom and trust that you have a plan for each of us. Wisdom and folly are ever before us, Lord give us the ability to discern right paths. AMEN

The above devotional has been summarized and adapted from the Holman Old Testament Commentary on Proverbs cited below.
[Max Anders (2012). HOTC Vol. 13: Proverbs. B&H Publishing Group.]