

## The Way of the Wise – Proverbs 2

Last week we began looking into the “Book of Wisdom” as Proverbs are so often referred to. If you recall, Solomon’s advice to his son is also good advice for us as sons and daughters of a merciful, gracious, and loving God. King Solomon encourages us to stand in awe and reverence for the One who created everything. He also encourages us to allow that same awe and reverence to be the driving force behind our pursuit of knowledge, which will eventually result in wisdom. This morning, we are going to continue with our series of messages based on advice given by the wisest of all men. Turn with me now to Proverbs 2.

We are blessed to live in what I believe is one of the most beautiful places in the entire country. We are blessed with all four seasons, hiking trails which lead to some of the most picturesque views you can lay your eyes on, streams and rivers that wind through beautiful forests and offer some pretty good trout fishing opportunities, beautiful mountain lakes to explore, and the beautiful waterfalls. Did you know that Oconee County, according to [visitoconeesc.com](http://visitoconeesc.com), has over 300 verified waterfalls. This is the time of year where the real beauty of our home stands out. Many people will travel from all over the place just to come ride around and look at the colorful leaves. Man, has God truly blessed us, or what? When people travel through our area, the route they take is “the scenic route.” This is the same route we find ourselves on when we decide to take the journey in pursuit of wisdom. God sometimes takes us directly to the knowledge, but at other times, He takes us on the longer, more beautiful scenic adventure, to get us where we need to be. This is the case with this morning’s passage.

Let’s begin by reading **Proverbs 2:1-11**.

What should we pay close attention to in these verses? Notice that Solomon is addressing his son when he encourages him to receive his words, treasure his commandments, listen attentively, and incline his heart towards the things of importance that he wants to share. For us, the only way God will address us as a child is if we have a relationship with His Son, Jesus. Without this relationship, the only wisdom we will gain is that of a worldly nature. Remember the words of Christ, “*No one comes to the Father except through me.*” If you want to be wise, it begins with your relationship to the source of the knowledge. Will you consider today, giving your life to Jesus? If so, during our time of invitation, be brave and come forward.

Once you have the relationship, the next stop on our journey is the Bible. I say these things often, but I want you to hear it from Solomon. He encourages us to read it, hear it, study it, memorize it, and then apply it. Listen to these words attributed to an anonymous author which speak of the Bible.

“This Book is the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s charter. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully.

It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. Follow its precepts and it will lead you to Calvary, to the empty tomb, to a resurrected life in Christ; yes, to glory itself, for eternity.” It’s a shame we do not know the author, because whoever it is deserves credit for giving us such a great description.

In verse 3 and 4 we are encouraged to ask God for insight, aka knowledge. How? Solomon says, call out, raise your voice. Not in a loud manner, but with a voice bent on getting the attention of the Father. He goes on to say, do this with passion, or a fervent desire. When you pray for knowledge, do you ask for it passionately? Do you seek it like a treasure? If I told you that hidden somewhere in this room was \$50,000, it wouldn’t be long before the room would be torn apart from you all looking for it. How long has it been since you read the Bible with same passion and intent as that of a treasure hunter? Solomon tells us the result of gaining God’s knowledge in our lives, and I think once you read these things, hear these things, trust these things, then you can accept these things as being a part of your Christian life. **Review verses 5-11.** What is gained? Awe for God, Knowledge about God, Justice, Righteousness, Integrity, Powerful works, and finally Protection.

The protections received are explained in verses 12-19. As I read these verses, pay attention to the things God protects His children from. **Read Proverbs 2:12-19.**

He protects us from the evils of wayward men.

He protects us from the evils of treacherous women.

And, then in verses 20-22 Solomon informs about why God wants a relationship with us. Why He blesses us and why He protects us? **Read Proverbs 2:20-22.**