

Message #9

Proverbs 2:10-22

WHEN GOD IS ACTUALLY IN THE PROCESS OF GIVING HIS WISDOM TO AN INDIVIDUAL, THAT INDIVIDUAL WILL HAVE A CRAFTY ABILITY TO AVOID EVIL AND PRAISE GOOD.

In other words, the person who is developing his mind to the point that he or she is saying “no” to evil things and “yes” to good, godly things is one who is receiving the wisdom of God.

This basic message comes from **verses 10-11** and the word “when” or “for” (**2:10a**) is a time-related word. The moment of time that Solomon is speaking of is the moment when God starts moving in a person’s life and begins to give him His wisdom and knowledge. When God is giving this to an individual, then, as **verse 11** says, “discretion” will guard or preserve you and “understanding” will keep you and watch over you.

The word “discretion” is one that refers to crafty insight and counsel. The word “understanding” is one that refers to intelligent insight.

What Solomon is teaching his son is that when you discover that you are being guarded and kept from evil by the fact that you have a crafty ability to choose what is right and avoid what is wrong, God is at work in your life and is giving you His wisdom. There are three results that will be produced in an individual who is really gaining God’s wisdom:

RESULT #1 – The wisdom of God will deliver a person from evil men. **2:12-15**

The infinitive “to deliver” (used in **verse 12** and again in **verse 16**) comes from a Hebrew word that speaks of a liberating escape. When God is placing His wisdom in a person, that person will have the ability to liberate himself and to escape from evil ways and evil men. Four major characteristics of evil men:

(Characteristic #1) - The evil man has an evil speech. **2:12b**

The word “perverse” is one that refers to something that is turned, converted, changed or twisted. An evil person tries to seduce others through twisted speech.

(Characteristic #2) - The evil man has an evil discretion. **2:13**

The word “uprightness” **always** seems to have a theological coloring to it.

(Characteristic #3) - The evil man has evil attitudes. **2:14**

(Characteristic #4) - The evil man has evil ways. **2:15**

His entire bent of life is crooked and twisted, just the opposite of a straight direction.

RESULT #2 – The wisdom of God will deliver a person from an evil woman. **2:16-19**

Another major key to being a wise person is to stay away from sexual immorality. Four facts Solomon wanted his son to know about an immoral woman:

(Fact #1) - She is forbidden. **2:16a**

The word “strange” describes a woman who is off-limits.

(Fact #2) - She is smooth-talking. **2:16b**

The word “flatter” is a Hebrew form of a verb that indicates that this was a habitual practice. This kind of woman is accustomed to picking up men!

(Fact #3) - She is unfaithful. **2:17**

There have been three interpretations concerning “companion or guide of her youth”: 1) Jehovah (Jer. 3:4); 2) parents; 3) husband. The context best favors husband.

There are two areas of unfaithfulness for an immoral woman: first to her husband and second to her covenant. God considers marriage to be a covenant between a man and a woman.

(Fact #4) - She is destructive. **2:18-19**

The “death” spoken of is probably not a reference to eternal death, but rather to a literal, physical death. The penalty for one who tampered with another man’s wife was a stoning execution (Deut. 22:22).

RESULT #3 – The wisdom of God will cause a person to pursue righteousness. **2:20-22**

For one pursuing this path, his company, speech, direction and attitudes are entirely different from those who are evil.