

Josh Payne

SESSION 5 | Wisdom: The Prize & the Pursuit

TEXT: Proverbs 4:1-9

I. THE PRIZE: WHY GET WISDOM?

A. Wisdom is a matter of life and death

1. Everyday life
2. Hints of eternal life

B. Wisdom is from God

C. Jesus is the Wisdom of God

- Glory, but in the background:

“We should do Proverbs a poor service if we contrived to vest it in a priestly ephod or a prophet’s mantle, for it is a book which seldom takes you to church...Its function in Scripture is to put godliness into working clothes; to name business and society as spheres in which we are to acquit ourselves with credit to our Lord, and in which we are to look for his training.” Kidner, *Proverbs*, TOTC, 32.

II. THE PURSUIT: HOW TO GET WISDOM?

A. Just do it

GET WISDOM! DISCERNMENT FOR DAILY LIFE FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

“What it takes is not brains or opportunity, but decision. Do you want it? Come and get it.” Derek Kidner, *Proverbs*, TOTC, 64.

B. Cultivate the fear of the Lord

C. Read Wisdom!

- 13:13 – “Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded.”

D. Wisdom from others

- 18:1
- Receive: 10:17, 12:1, 13:18, 15:31-32, 17:10, 19:20, 19:25, 19:27, 29:1, 31:1
- Seek: 15:12, 15:22, 20:18
- Weigh: 14:7
- Give: 13:14, 15:7, 23:9, 25:11-12, 25:20, 26:1-11, 29:9
- Different relationships: 13:20
 - a. Parents: 13:1, 13:24, 15:5, 22:6, 22:15, 23:22, 23:26, 29:15

“Not only in [the] early chapters but in every section of the book it is assumed that truth is to be learnt first at home, instilled there with firmness and affection as lessons for the mind and training for the character.” Derek Kidner, *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes*, 20.

- b. Peers: 27:5-6, 27:9, 27:17
- Humility: 11:2, 12:15, 15:33, 26:12, 29:23

E. Hold Firm to Grace

- Careful Interpretation: Concentric Circles - Text, Context, Old Testament, New Testament
- Skillful Application