

A landscape scene featuring a tree on the left with one side bare and one side green, several birds flying in a sky transitioning from blue to orange, and a green field in the foreground. The text "That They May Have Life" is overlaid in white script.

That They May Have Life

Proverbs 8

Wisdom Cries Out:

“For he who finds me finds life
And obtains favor from the Lord.
But he who sins against me injures himself;
All those who hate me love death.”

(8:35-36)

Life & Wisdom

1. What is wisdom?
2. How do we find wisdom?
3. Why should we find wisdom?
4. What if we don't?

What is Wisdom?

- *Wisdom = Worldview*
 - Who am I? Why am I here? Does life have meaning? What am I to do?
 - *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom* (Ps. 110:10; Prov. 9:10)

What is Wisdom?

- Wisdom in the OT
 - Insight into how to live life (Ps. 34:11f)
 - Code of moral conduct
 - Based on *love* for God and neighbor
 - Touches every area of life

What is Wisdom?

- Wisdom in the OT
 - Expression of faith/trust
 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding – Prov. 3:5-6; cf. 16:20; 22:19; 28:25; 29:25

What is Wisdom?

- Wisdom in the OT
 - Expression of faith/trust
 - There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.
 - Prov. 14:12

What is Wisdom?

- Wisdom in the OT
 - Expression of faith/trust
 - ... Fools despise wisdom and instruction – Prov. 1:7
 - The way of a fool is right in his own eyes... – Prov. 12:15

How Do We Find Wisdom?

- “For he who finds me” (8:35)
 - Meditation / *Wrestling* – 1:1-6
 - Instruction / Teaching – 1:3; 8:33; 9:9
 - Fear God – 1:7; 3:7; 8:13
 - Hear / Listen (obey) – 1:8-33

How Do We Find Wisdom?

- “For he who finds me” (8:35)
 - Ask – 2:3, 6; James 1:5-8
 - Seek / Search – 2:4; 8:17; 15:14
 - Rebuke / Discipline – 3:11-12; 9:8; 19:25

How Do We Find Wisdom?

- “For he who finds me” (8:35)
 - Reflection – 24:30-34; Matt. 11:16-19
 - In Christ – 1 Cor. 1:24, 30; Col. 2:2-3
 - Scripture – 2 Tim. 3:15-17

Why Should We Find Wisdom?

- “For he who finds me finds life” (8:35)
 - Teaches the fear of the Lord (2:1-5)
 - Delivers from death (13:14)
 - Shows the path of life (10:17)
 - Walks in righteousness (8:20; 12:28)

Theological Wordbook of the OT

“True wisdom for man involves knowing the Holy One. So, men are to listen to the wisdom of God with attentive ears (Prov. 2:2). In fact, inner happiness only comes when man attains this wisdom (Prov. 3:13) through strenuous search

Theological Wordbook of the OT

“(Prov. 2:4), which is actually a search for God himself (Prov. 2:5). Skeptics will never find this wisdom and will never know the full meaning of life (Prov. 14:6f).”

Why Should We Find Wisdom?

- He who finds me ... obtains favor from the Lord (8:35)
 - Favor and good repute – 3:1-4
 - God's delight: wisdom, just balances, the blameless, those who deal faithfully, prayer of the upright

Why Should We Find Wisdom?

- He who finds me ... obtains favor from the Lord (8:35)
 - He is intimate with the upright – 3:32
 - The Lord favors those who fear Him –
Ps. 147:11

Proverbs 8

- God used wisdom to create
- God infused wisdom in His creation
- Man must walk in God's wisdom in order to experience God's fullness of life and creation

What If We Don't?

- He who sins against me injures himself
 - So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way – 1:24-33
 - His own iniquities will capture the wicked – 5:22-23

What If We Don't?

- He who sins against me injures himself
 - The wicked will fall by his own wickedness – 11:5
 - The treacherous will be caught by their own greed – 11:6

What If We Don't?

- He who sins against me injures himself
 - The wicked are filled with trouble –
12:21
 - The way of the treacherous is hard –
13:15
- All those who hate me love death (8:36)

So What?

- The call of wisdom is the call to renew our minds
 - We cannot trust our own thinking; we must adopt God's way of thinking
 - Prov. 3:5-6; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:17-24; Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:9-12; 3:9-11

So What?

- The call of wisdom is the call to redirect our hearts
 - He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But he who walks wisely will be delivered. (Prov. 28:26)

So What?

- The call of wisdom is the call to redirect our hearts
 - Listen, my son, and be wise, And direct your heart in the way. – 23:19

How?

The poor man utters supplications,
But the rich man answers roughly.
(18:23)

How?

He who is slow to anger is
better than the mighty,
And he who rules his spirit,
than he who captures a city.

(16:32)

How?

He who conceals a
transgression seeks love,
But he who repeats a matter
separates intimate friends.

(17:9)

So What?

- Renew your mind with God's wisdom
 - Meditate on one proverb a day
 - Research a topic / struggle
 - Spend time in Proverbs 2
- Wisdom walks in the ways of God