

Wisdom Is the Principal Thing; Therefore Get Wisdom

(Proverbs 4:7)

Introduction:

1. The book of Proverbs has much to say about wisdom -- it is often referred to as "the book of wisdom."
2. In our lesson we are concentrating on 2 statements made in Proverbs 4:7.
 - a. First, "*Wisdom is the principal thing.*"
 - b. Second, "*get wisdom.*"
3. Let us begin by considering the fact that . . .

Discussion:

I. WISDOM IS THE PRINCIPAL THING

- A. This is another way of saying that wisdom is a matter of great importance.
- B. Solomon also explained why wisdom is the principal thing.
 1. Wisdom is valuable.
 - a. It "*is better than rubies*" (Proverbs 8:11).
 - b. It is also better than gold and silver (Proverbs 16:16).
 - c. In addition to being valuable, . . .
 2. Special blessings are associated with wisdom.
 - a. Those who find wisdom are "*happy*" (Proverbs 3:13).
 - b. Those who attain wisdom will be preserved and kept (Proverbs 2:10-11).
 - c. Those who get wisdom love their own souls (Proverbs 19:8).
 3. Now that we understand why wisdom is the principal thing, we can better appreciate why Proverbs 4:7 says, . . .

II. GET WISDOM

- A. This is another way of saying that God's people are to attain wisdom.
- B. Solomon showed repeatedly how God's people are to get wisdom.
 1. It is to be gotten and not forgotten (Proverbs 4:5).
 2. It is to be bought and not sold (Proverbs 23:23).
- C. To get wisdom we must go to the Lord for it (Proverbs 2:6; James 1:5).

III. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WISDOM LET US STUDY JAMES 3:13-18

- A. According to vs.13-14, our actions demonstrate the kind of wisdom we possess.
 1. To illustrate, in Matthew 7:20 Jesus said, "*By their fruits ye shall know them.*"
 - a. Jesus said this about false teachers [they can be detected by the fruit that they bear].
 - b. In a similar way we show by our actions the kind of wisdom we possess.
 2. Vs.13 describes a child of God who is wise and endued with knowledge.

- a. His "*conversation*" [manner of life] will be in harmony with God's will.
 - b. His works will demonstrate his wisdom.
3. Vs.14 shows how a person may have a heart filled with jealousy and strife.
 - a. Such a person should not glory because he possesses these traits.
 - b. Also, he should not lie against the truth by pretending to be a follower of Christ.
 4. To help us better understand James' lesson, let us examine the disciples.
 - a. They were concerned about who was the greatest (Luke 9:46; 22:24).
 - b. Their problem was that they possessed the wrong kind of wisdom.
- B. James described the wrong kind of wisdom in vs.15-16.
1. This is the kind of wisdom mentioned in vs.14.
 2. It does not come from above -- it is earthly [worldly], sensual, and devilish.
 3. It produces confusion and every evil work.
- C. James described the right kind of wisdom in vs.17-18.
1. This is the kind of wisdom mentioned in vs.13.
 2. It comes from above -- it is pure, peaceable, gentle, easily entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.
 3. It produces the fruit of righteousness.

Conclusion:

1. Solomon said, "*Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom.*"
2. We have seen that there are different kinds of wisdom.
3. What kind are you endeavoring to attain?