

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Count the Wealth of Wisdom

Speaker:

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Date:

January 22, 2023

Scriptures:

Proverbs 2

Theme: Count the wealth of wisdom and delight yourself forever in her riches.

Introduction: The Bible commands us not to trust in or delight in wealth and riches. Envy and greed are sins that lead our hearts away from God and his grace. However, there is a kind of wealth and riches that Scripture commands us to pursue—it's the wealth and riches of wisdom. This chapter of Proverbs is written as 1 sentence with 22 stanzas: 1 for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It is a carefully composed ode to wisdom, as the father continues to instruct his son.

We find the father appealing to his son under 3 points:

1. Wisdom is hard-won (1-5)

The profitable miner knows that gold is not found on the surface. It requires planning, equipment, and hard work. So, too, with wisdom—it must be sought. It is childish to think that maturity and progress can come without effort or merely by following formulas. Wisdom is hard earned.

The father calls his son to pursue wisdom diligently (vv. 2-4). It requires repeated, determined effort to gain wisdom.

The great prize of wisdom (v. 5) is the fear of the Lord and the knowledge of God.

2. Wisdom is a gift (6-15)

Points 1 & 2 may seem contradictory, but they're not. It's a matter of priority: wisdom is first a gift (just like salvation) before it's something to work on.

Wisdom is a gift in 3 ways: a) The Lord gives it (6a); b) it comes to the upright (7a); and c) it comes into the heart.

Wisdom is not ornamental. It is a changed heart, oriented to God and to his ways in this world.

3. Wisdom will protect you (16-22)

The father applies wisdom to the son, and gives his two, specific warnings.

First is the forbidden woman. The son must avoid her because she seeks to cloud the mind and to lead him to death. Wisdom cuts through her deceit and produces life.

Second is connection to the land. If the son does not gain wisdom, he will rebel and will be cut off from the Lord and his people.

We always pursue some vision of the good life. Instead of following the path of folly and death, we should follow wisdom and gain its riches.

Questions:

1. What are your beliefs about God's word? Is it precious to you?
2. How well do you understand it? Do you use it regularly?
3. Are you walking in any way of folly and sin? Are you listening to the 'forbidden woman'?