

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Those Who Seek, Find

Speaker:

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Scriptures:

Proverbs 8:1-21

Theme: God wants to give wisdom to us, so seek her in faith.

Introduction: Have you ever noticed how faith is connected to seeking? A child goes on an easter egg hunt because he trusts that if he searches diligently, he will find the prize. Wisdom works similarly; though in its case, the Lord does not make it difficult to find. He wants us to have wisdom, and he places her squarely in our path.

We can consider the father's offer in 4 parts:

1. Wisdom is not hard to find (1-3)

We might think that wisdom is only some arduous trek or painful task; but that's not how God works: he freely offers it to us.

But wisdom operates differently than folly: folly tries to seduce, prowling for the fool and leading him to death.

Wisdom cries out; but she is not brash and seductive like folly. She stands at prominent places and lifts her voice, calling us to heed her.

2. Wisdom is better than anything else we may desire (4-11)

God made wisdom for humanity, and he means for us to prosper by her. Ungodly philosophies seek to destroy humanity and they lead to death.

Wisdom confronts two kinds of people: a) the simple, who are immature; and b) the foolish, who are willfully stubborn and proud. Both have misplaced desires and both resist wisdom, but the fool is more guilty.

The way of growth is to take responsibility for our folly and sin, humbling ourselves under God's hand and looking to him.

3. Wisdom is necessary to glorify God (12-16)

God gave wisdom to mankind for a purpose: so that we can glorify him.

Wisdom includes hatred for what God hates: "The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil..." (Prov 8:13). What the world hates is often just outrage masquerading as morality; but God hates what is wicked and evil (e.g., divorce—Mal 2:16).

If we would be his people and glorify him, we must hate those things, too. To fail to hate evil is to fail to fear the Lord, which is the definition of folly (Prov 1:7).

4. God loves to give wisdom to those who seek her (17-21)

The Lord makes wisdom readily available and places her directly in our path. Like an adult leading a child to an obvious easter egg in the middle of a room, the Lord directs us to wisdom if we will but seek her. If we seek diligently, we will find her.

Questions:

1. Are there areas of your life where you tend to blame others for your problems?
2. Do you know what God hates? Do you hate those things?
3. How have you grown in wisdom?