

Finding Wisdom

Introduction

Proverbs 9:10 "The **fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom**, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

1. Wisdom involves practical understanding, a very valuable thing.

Proverbs 3:13-18 **Happy is the man who finds wisdom**, And **the man who gains understanding**; For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace. **She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her**, And **happy are all who retain her**.

Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore **get wisdom**. And in all your getting, **get understanding**.

2. Philosophy = the love of wisdom. As such and when practiced rightly, philosophy is a good thing.

3. Our age places great emphasis on philosophy and wisdom ---- but our age unfortunately ignores a crucial truth found in Proverbs 9:10:

Proverbs 9:10 "The **fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom**, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

What Is the "Fear" of the Lord?

1. **It is a devoted fear in which love is the primary ingredient.**
2. **The fear of the Lord is the attitude which:**
 - A. **Acknowledges Him as Creator.**
 - B. **Honors Him rightly.**
 - C. **Loves Him devotedly.**
 - D. **Shrinks because of love from giving any offense.**

Genesis 39:9 There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, **and sin against God?**"

3. **The fear of the Lord is genuine reverence and respect for Him.**
 1. **It is not merely an attitude, but an active obedience to God.**
 2. **It is not merely a way of thinking, but a relationship with God.**
4. **The man who does not take God's will seriously does not really respect Him.**

Luke 6:46 "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

How Is the Fear of the Lord the “Beginning” of Wisdom?

1. **The reality of God and our accountability to Him are the most basic, obvious facts in the universe.**
2. **One learns these things in the very earliest stages of learning — these facts are the ABC’s of true learning.**

Psalms 19:1 **The heavens declare the glory of God;** And **the firmament shows His handiwork.**

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world **His invisible attributes are clearly seen,** being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that **they are without excuse,**

3. **But more than that, godly fear is the “controlling principle” with which one is able properly to understand everything else.**
4. **Nothing “adds up” without the knowledge of God and true reverence for Him.**
5. **Wisdom is more than the mere gathering of data — it includes the discernment that enables one:**
 - A. **To judge the significance of what is learned.**
 - B. **To use it to good ends.**
6. **Godly fear is what enables one to pass from knowledge to wisdom.**

Why Is it Foolish to Leave out the Beginning?

- 1. It is always hazardous to build a life upon faulty principles.**
Luke 12:16-21
Ecclesiastes 5:18-19
Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

- 2. Yet, there has been and will continue to be many scholars who have built their life's work on false premises.**

- 3. Without proper reverence for God, we are:**
 - A. Unable to see the "big picture."**

 - B. Unable to perceive the relation of one truth to another.**

 - C. Unable to reach correct conclusions about conduct.**

Conclusion

1. **The essence of sin is the substitution of human wisdom and will – for the divine.**
2. **Without God at the center of his thought, the wise man makes a fool of himself.**

Romans 1:21-22 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **Professing to be wise, they became fools,**

3. **The acknowledgment of a personal Creator is not an impediment to good philosophy, but rather its prerequisite.**
 - A. **Solomon was no little philosopher himself!**
 - B. **His conclusion was:**
Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
4. **What about the “fear of the Lord” in our own lives?**
 - A. **Does it characterize our efforts to grow wise in the Scriptures?**
 - B. **Does it characterize our efforts to become discerning in decisions about conduct?**

Hebrews 5:14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, **those who by reason of use** have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Proverbs 9:10 **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,** **And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.**

