

## Proverbs - Chapter 2

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### **READ [Proverbs 2:1 – 4](#)**

Chapter 2 starts with a plea from Solomon to his readers to be attentive to what he is sharing with them. Here again, he uses the phrase “My son” just as a loving father would relate wisdom to his child. The fact that he refers to “my words” and “my commandments” in v.1 does not contradict the fact that this is still the Holy and inspired Word of God. In fact, we need to view this as our Heavenly Father relating His wisdom and instruction to us, His children.

He encourages the reader to receive this wisdom, to make it a part of their daily living. He also encourages the reader to “hide” these commandments in their hearts. We are to make this wisdom a part of our very makeup. It should be a part of who we are – every day. The psalmist writes, **“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”** ([Psalm 119:11](#)).

In a couple verses (v.3 - v.4), Solomon uses words and phrases like “...criest after knowledge...”, “...liftest up thy voice for understanding...”, “...seekest her as silver...”, and “...searcheth for her as hid treasures...”. All of these imply that wisdom is not only something that is precious, but also something that must be sought after. Wisdom is both a God-given gift, but is also the result of a tireless search.

- It is something that has to be pursued, because real wisdom can be elusive (criest after knowledge).
- It is something that we need to question to ensure we have a complete understanding (liftest up thy voice for understanding).
- It is something that is valuable (seekest her as silver / searcheth for her as hid treasure).

### **READ [v.5](#)**

v.5 – We are told here that if we seek after knowledge and wisdom, we will have several benefits.

First, we will fully understand the respect and awe we should have for God. We should reverence Him, not because we view Him as someone we need to be afraid of, but because He is the source of all wisdom – He knows all – and He’s the only one who does.

Secondly, we will find out what truth really is. We will truly KNOW God with a knowledge that is from the heart, not the head.

Lots of people have “head knowledge” about a variety of things. For instance, when you ask me who Ronald Reagan was, I know he was the President of the US, I know he was an actor, I know he was Governor of California, I know he survived an assassination attempt in which he was wounded, I know he was married to Nancy Reagan, and I know he was known as The Great Communicator for his negotiation skills. I heard him speak on many occasions. I have knowledge in my mind of who this man was, and I know several facts about him. However, I never met him face to face. I didn’t know personal facts about him like his wife probably did. I didn’t know him personally, as a good friend may have. I knew him with my head, not my heart.

Many people have a head knowledge of who God is. They know He is the creator of the universe, and they know that He sent His Son into this world to die on a cross for our sins. They may even be able to quote a few verses of scripture referencing what God has to say. They may even know His Ten Commandments from memory. But until a person allows Jesus Christ to occupy that part of our heart that only He can, and experiences salvation for themselves, they will only have a head knowledge of who God is, not a heart knowledge.

### **READ [v.6 – v.8](#)**

[v.6 – v.8](#) – The starting point of all wisdom is God and His Word that He reveals to us through study. In that sense, wisdom is God’s gift to us. But He gives it only to those who earnestly and diligently look for it. It’s usually not an easy search, and it’s even more difficult to put it into action. It takes time, effort, and diligence. But as we search for God’s wisdom in our lives and in our church, we find that true wisdom is God’s, and that we cannot create it by our own efforts, even on our best days.

### **READ [v.9 – v.10](#)**

[v.9 – v.10](#) – We gain wisdom from a process of growing. Just as a person should know more when they are older than when they are young, so too must we grow in wisdom the more we remain focused on the tenets presented in this book. There is an order to our growth:

First, we must trust and honor God. Without this as a starting point, we are simply fools. **“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of**

**knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”**  
**([Proverbs 1:7](#))**

Second, we must realize that the Bible is the source to have God’s wisdom revealed to us. This is the Word of God – divinely inspired, inerrant, and complete.

Third, we must strive to make right choices our entire life. This is not selective wisdom – it doesn’t apply to one situation and not the next. To be properly used, the wisdom God reveals to us must be used daily, in all situations.

Fourth, when we make mistakes (and we do) even as seasoned Christians, we need to learn from them so as not to make the same mistakes again.

*“If history repeats itself, and the unexpected always happens, how incapable must man be of learning from experience?” (George Bernard Shaw)*

We will probably not develop all these aspects of wisdom at once. For example, some people have more insight than discretion. Others may have more knowledge than common sense. Still, we can pray for all aspects of wisdom to be revealed to us by immersing ourselves in God’s word.

**READ [v.11 – v.15](#)**

[v.11 – v.15](#) – Discretion is discernment, the ability for us to tell right from wrong. It enables a Christian to detect motives which are evil in men (v.12). NOTE: We’ll see in v.16 that this includes evil motives in women also. It helps us evaluate what actions we need to take in concert with our Christian life, and it also enables us to weigh these actions in terms of the resulting outcomes or consequences.

I am sure you have seen people who you felt that their ability to “read” people was a gift. I think this is true – I know a few like that. But more often than not, it is something that is developed by using God’s truths on a daily basis to make wise and informed choices. This requires discipline according to Hebrews:

**“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised (trained) to discern both good and evil.” ([Hebrews 5:14](#))**

*Story of Hobbs High School Baccalaureate Address*

**READ [v.16 – v.19](#)**

v.16 – v.19 – Earlier we heard about the evil motives of men; now it's the women's turn. Remember, Solomon is speaking specifically to young men, so seeing that this could be a severe hurdle for them to overcome, he takes the time to address the fact that "everything that glitters is not gold".

A "strange woman" as he references this may be a woman who is seductive or even possibly a prostitute. Pride and immorality are difficult temptations to resist. Both are enticing. Our pride sees something and tells us "I deserve it." Our immorality sees something and tells us "I need it". These are enough to captivate us alone, but in combination, their appeal is deadly. **"None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life."** ([Proverbs 2:19](#)).

Solomon says that the only way to overcome these temptations is by reliance on God's strength and provision. By looking to God, He can fill our minds with His wisdom and our hearts with His love. We need to remember what God says about who we are and what we were meant to be. We need to ask for strength to resist these temptations – and He'll grant it.

**"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man. But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able. But will with the temptation also make a way to escape that ye may be able to bear it."** ([1 Corinthians 10:13](#))

Isn't it amazing that with all of Solomon's good advice to stay away from these "strange women" he spoke about, he actually brought nearly 1,000 of these into this kingdom, eventually leading to his downfall and a split in the kingdom?

**READ [v.20 – v.22](#)**

[v.20 – v.22](#) – Solomon ends this chapter with a comparison of the outcomes to those that cleave to the wisdom God gives to us, and the consequences to those that reject it.

**“For evildoers shall be cut off. But those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.” ([Psalm 37:9](#))**

**“The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever.” ([Psalm 37:29](#))**

**“And it shall come to pass that as the Lord rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you, so the Lord will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought. And ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.” ([Deuteronomy 28:63](#))**

**“Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright. For the end of that man is peace. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together. The end of the wicked shall be cut off.” ([Psalm 37:37 - 38](#))**