

GET SMART

Proverbs 4:5-7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In the late 60's there was a popular TV show called "Get Smart." It was the story of an inept secret agent Maxwell Smart and Agent 99 who worked against the efforts of KAOS. He blundered through each episode and somehow saved the day each time. There is a movie based on that TV show coming out this week.
- B. I thought about the title "Get Smart" and realized there is a good message to us.
- C. While we might word it in a different way, that is what we all need to do regarding God and His will – "Get Smart!"
- D. Much of our study tonight will come from the book of Proverbs.
- E. Proverbs was written by the "ultimate wise man," Solomon, **1 Kings 4:29-34**.
- F. However, remember that this "wise man" did many foolish things. This is the same man who:
 - 1. Took *700 wives* and *300 concubines*, **1 Kings 11:3**.
 - 2. Introduced *idolatry* in Israel, **1 Kings 11:4-8**.
- G. How could a wise man do such foolish things?
 - 1. Just because a man possesses wisdom does not mean that he will apply it properly.
 - 2. I have known some very wise men who have made some tremendous mistakes - not because they did not know better, but simply because they did not use the wisdom they possessed.
- H. Tonight we will study about true wisdom and how we can get it.

I. GET WISDOM, Proverbs 4:5-7.

- A. Get: "to *procure*, especially by *purchase*," (Strong's Dictionary).
 - 1. "*Buy the truth*, and do not sell it; also *wisdom*, and instruction, and understanding." **Proverbs 23:23**.
 - 2. This implies that an effort must be made to get wisdom.
- B. Wisdom: "Ability to judge correctly and to follow the best course of action, based on knowledge and understanding." (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
 - 1. The wisdom of God is greater than the wisdom of the world, **1 Corinthians 1:18-25**.
 - 2. The wisdom of the world may come from a knowledge of facts, or a philosophy gained from study, but the wisdom that comes from above is found in knowing and applying God's will.
 - 3. Another contrast of heavenly wisdom and worldly wisdom, **James 3:13-18**.
 - 4. Too many are content to have the wisdom of the world without any knowledge or wisdom of godly matters.

- C. Understanding: knowledge.
 - 1. Vine's: "to be prudent, act wisely, give attention to, ponder, prosper."
 - 2. Wisdom and understanding found together 106 times in the Bible.
- D. Do not:
 - 1. *Forget*: "to mislay, i.e., to be oblivious of, from want of memory or *attention*." (Strong's Dictionary).
 - 2. *Turn away*: decline (KJV); "to bend away."
 - 3. *Forsake her*: some avoid learning and making wise decisions.
- E. Wisdom will:
 - 1. *Preserve* you: guard; protect.
 - 2. *Keep* you: guard; protect; maintain.
- F. Wisdom is *the PRINCIPAL thing*;
 - 1. Hebrew word: "the first, in place, time, order or rank." (Strong's Dictionary).
 - 2. How important is wisdom in your life?
- G. A REPEATED EXHORTATION: "*THEREFORE GET WISDOM.*"

II. SOLOMON'S PURPOSE IN WRITING, Proverbs 1:1-7.

- A. To *know* wisdom and instruction.
- B. To *perceive* the words of understanding:
- C. To *receive* the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity:
- D. To *give* prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.
- E. Wisdom comes to those who desire it:
 - 1. A wise man will hear and increase learning,
 - 2. A man of understanding will attain wise counsel,
- F. IMPORTANT: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge."
- G. "But *fools* despise *WISDOM* and *INSTRUCTION*."

III. THE WORDS OF DAVID, Psalm 111:10.

- A. *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom*;
 - 1. Note similarity to Proverbs 1:7 above.
 - 2. When I respect God and His word, I'm beginning to obtain wisdom.
- B. A good *understanding* have all those who do His commandments.
 - 1. Some may hear, but not all understand. I can hear Korean, but I don't understand it.
 - 2. When we hear and obey God's commands, we gain wisdom.

IV. WISDOM FROM GOD, James 1:5.

- A. In this context, James is discussing patience that comes from trials.
 - 1. The ability to see great blessings in trials is something that must be acquired.
 - 2. Some wisdom comes only by experience.
- B. It is quite significant that James did not say, "*But if any of you lack wisdom, let him study philosophy, or, let him meditate, or, let him consult the wise.*"
 - 1. The wisdom which we need, and must have, to turn our trials into triumphs is available only from God.
 - 2. Intelligence and education are important, but not as important as knowledge and wisdom concerning God.
- C. But, what about this "wisdom" which only God can give?
 - 1. "Wisdom is the ability to judge soundly and deal with facts, esp. as they relate to life and conduct; discernment and judgment; discretion."
 - 2. *KNOWLEDGE*, when contemplated *apart from wisdom* is an "acquaintance with fact; hence, scope of information."
 - 3. *KNOWLEDGE* is thus the possession of facts; *WISDOM* the ability of judging soundly and correctly regarding them.
 - 4. Knowledge is obtained only through study, wisdom is a gift of God.
 - a. One whose desire is to learn mathematical principles would not resort to prayer but to textbooks dealing therewith.
 - b. One who desires the divine wisdom must get down on his knees.
 - 5. Some believe that this passage (James 1:5-8) teaches that God will give knowledge concerning His Will in answer to prayer.
 - 6. But knowledge comes only through His Word; we must carefully study it if we would know the Will of God.
 - 7. However, the WISDOM to properly use His Word can be received through prayer. (Points 5-7 from Mark Copeland outline on James 1).
 - 8. Of the manner in which God bestows this wisdom the writer does not deal; it is fact of it which is here affirmed. — Gospel Advocate Commentaries
- D. God gives this wisdom liberally:
 - 1. *haplos*: a word meaning either *generously*, or *without bargaining*, either meaning being possible here, and both combining in our word liberally, simply, unreservedly, without any material expectation of return.
 - 2. Without reproach: (upbraideth not – KJV): "to cast into one's teeth, to reproach."

V. DON'T FORGET THE VALUE OF WISDOM:

- A. "For wisdom is better than *RUBIES*," **Proverbs 8:11.**
- B. "How much better to get wisdom than *GOLD*!" **Proverbs 16:16.**
- C. "*HAPPY* is the man who finds wisdom," **Proverbs 13:13-15.**

CONCLUSION:

- A. Wisdom is essential to effectively serving God.
- B. Seek the “wisdom that is from above,” ***James 3:17***.
- C. Do you remember the difference between the **WISE** and **FOOLISH** builders?
Matthew 7:24-27.
- D. Will you be wise tonight and obey the Lord?

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