

## **PROVERBS**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Proverbs chapter 2 as we continue our study through the Bible. As we saw last time the book of Proverbs is a book about wisdom. It is a book that deals with living a godly life in an ungodly world! And I do understand that this is not an easy thing to do and yet, it is something that we can do; it is something we can attain.

In saying that please understand that I am not saying we can accomplish this in the power of our strength but by the power of God working in us as we surrender to the Holy Spirit and walk accordingly. Paul put it like this in Galatians 5:16, **“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”**

As we seek God’s Word and apply God’s Word, His instructions to our lives, we can deal successfully with the things we will encounter in this life. We will know how we are to respond to God, parents, neighbors, government and-so-on. It is as Solomon said in Proverbs 1:7, **“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.”** And make no mistake about it, you will know that you are gaining knowledge; you will know you are becoming wise when you find yourself not wanting to grieve the Father and when you are no longer interested in that which once intrigued you. That is wisdom, applying the truths of God found in the Word of God to your life!

As we begin tonight we will see Solomon continue to give instruction to his son, wise counsel that he should take to heart. With that said, let’s begin reading in Proverbs chapter 2 starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

## PROVERBS 2

### VERSES 1-5

1. Isn't it amazing the time we spend watching movies or television shows, the amount of time we watch sporting events, the amount of time we are on the Internet or Facebook or one of those social media sites, the amount of time we spend texting people and that list can go on-and-on!

And yet, when it comes to God's Word, "I just don't have the time" we say!

Solomon is telling us that you can't afford not to be in God's Word! And I am not talking about a casual reading of God's Word, but digging deep and mining out the silver nuggets that are in there!

2. In I Timothy 5:17 Paul tells us, "**Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.**" The Greek word that Paul uses for "**labor**" speaks of work, "to work to the point of perspiration." How many of you are involved in that kind of study of God's Word on your own? "My pastor takes care that for me!" Really, how do you know he is speaking forth the truth? Now I don't want to scare you because I do my best, but it is your responsibility to mine the truths of God found in the Word of God!

As you dig into God's Word, as you study God's Word that is how you learn. How hungry are you? Let me share this story with you because it will help to drive home this point and hopefully encourage all of you to dig into and mine the treasures that God has for you in His Word.

The story is told of a young man who came to Socrates and said, "Give me understanding, wisdom, and knowledge."

Socrates said one sentence: “Follow me.”

As the young man followed the great philosopher, Socrates walked through the city until he came to the edge of the ocean. He walked out waist-deep in the ocean, grabbed the young man by the neck, and thrust him beneath the water.

Finally, the young man fought his way up for some air and gasped, “Master, what are you doing?”

Socrates said, “When you want knowledge and wisdom and understanding as badly as you wanted that breath of air, that’s when you begin the journey.”

- Source Unknown

You will not gain wisdom; you will not grow in the Lord if you place the Bible under your pillow at night! You will gain wisdom; you will grow in the Lord as you dig into His Word on your own! Psalm 42:1-2a tells us this very thing, seeking after God’s Word to know God. The Psalmist wrote, “**As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for the God, for the living God.**”

3. What Solomon is doing here is giving to us *complementing couplets*. What I mean by that is that the second thought completes the first thought, if you do this than this is what will happen in your life. We see this in Proverbs 4:10 where Solomon says, “**Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many.**” If you obey Solomon’s words, his wisdom then you will have a fruitful, a fulfilled life!

We see this here in these verses we have read in Proverbs chapter 2. If you **“receive my words,”** if you **“incline your ear to wisdom,”** if you **“apply your heart to understanding,”** if you **“cry out for discernment,”** if you **“lift up your voice for understanding [crying out to God for understanding],”** if you **“seek her as silver,”** if you **“search for her as for hidden treasure,”** the result will then be that **“you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.”**

God does not hide this wisdom from us but He wants us to dig it out, to search for it. And you know what, if God’s Word is that important to you, then you will dig these nuggets out and if it is not that important to you, then you won’t. But let me also say this. The things gleaned from God’s Word can change our life where as the things of this world tend to be useless or they don’t help us but hurt us, they bring us down instead of lifting us up. One example is that of a body builder. He or she has muscles where many don’t even realize muscles existed. But what are they used for? Did you ever think about that? They are good for nothing except for standing in front of the mirror or in front of a crowd of people and flexing. Set your priorities to know, to understand the fear of the Lord and He will give you the wisdom you need in life!

James tells us, **“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”** James 1:5. Do you lack wisdom in a given situation? Then ask God and He will give to you what you will need. Extract those treasures that God has for you.

4. How do I know if I have the wisdom of God in my life? That is a good question. The proof lies in the fear of God. You see, you can't claim to be a wise man if you are not living in the fear of God. You will know that you have it when you are humbled before Him. It is the beginning of wisdom!

#### VERSES 6-9

1. Why are so many Christians in a fog today regarding their lives? Why are so many Christians walking aimlessly through life not knowing where they are going? Because they are not seeking the wisdom that God has for their life. "But Pastor Joe, I don't have a degree in theology!" I will let you in on a little secret, neither do I! God gives us wisdom as He speaks to us through His Word. It doesn't say that the Lord takes away wisdom from us, He wants to give it to us but we have to be willing to seek it.

We see Christians involved in all kinds of sin today and again, the reason is simple. They are not seeking the wisdom of God for their lives, for the situations that they are facing. The protection that Solomon is speaking of is the protection from getting caught up in sin. We are told in Psalm 119:9-11, "**How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.**" And in Psalm 19:7 we are told, "**The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.**"

The problem for us today is the problem in all generations and Dr. Harry A. Ironside nails it in this statement that he made years ago. He wrote, "It is to be feared that even among those who hold and value much precious truth, diligent Bible study is on the wane." May we have a hunger to know God through His Word and allow Him to give us the wisdom we need to live every moment by!

#### VERSES 10-15

1. Notice what happens in your life when you allow the wisdom of God to enter your heart, when you rejoice in the things of God instead of rebelling against what He is saying. You will have discretion regarding situations and people that will protect you. You will have understanding that will keep you on the right path! In other words, you won't be deceived so easily and you will not be taken in if you stay close to the Word of God, if you apply God's Word to your life!
2. I hope you can see how important God's Word is to your life if you did not understand that before. Or maybe you are coming back to God's Word since you have seen what it is like to be apart from it, doing your own thing and the consequences that kind of living brought to your life!

Make no mistake about it, you are going to be pulled in many directions and the only way to know the path you should follow is by letting the Word of God light your path as He imparts wisdom into your life.

3. I am sure you would agree with me on this thought, that this world is blatantly evil today and that evil is displayed for all to see. In fact, a tsunami of sin is slamming us in our world today, and all of us have been affected by it some way or another. We are under those waves you might say! And thus, we need to be on guard, we need to be alert, we need to know what to do when that tsunami hits. What are we to do? Go to higher ground. That makes sense for a physical tsunami but what does that mean for this spiritual tsunami we are facing every day. The higher ground I am speaking of is the Lord, go to the Lord and His Word and walk accordingly!

And I think we are aware of these things but just to give you a sample. We have a President that is supporting homosexuality, gay marriage, is proud of the Boy Scouts accepting homosexuals into their troops. We have a Super Bowl that has commercials and a half-time show that years ago would be considered pornographic or on the boarder of being pornographic but today is displayed for all to see. I don't know if he is still on television with his show anymore but I am sure most of you have heard of Jerry Springer and know of the guests that he had on his show. They flaunted their sin, they flaunted their evil that they were involved in with no sense of remorse and the people loved it. Now those same evils are portrayed on television shows that are supposed to be comedies so we can laugh at our sin! Know where you are walking, be wise, stay on the higher ground!

And here is the warning and the cure for those who would draw you down that evil path. Fill yourself up with the things of God, be guided by Him and don't go down those paths that led to destruction, avoid them like the plague! First of all Solomon says that if you follow this wisdom of God you will be saved from ungodly men who misrepresent the facts and distort the truth – **“the man who speaks perverse things.”** Their speech cannot be trusted at all, and thus, avoid them!

We are also saved from those paths that are filled with evil, people who love to do evil and trying to entice us to follow after them. They are sly, they are devious and if you follow after them they will turn your world upside down and that is not a good thing. And we must be careful in this world we are living in because sin is in and righteousness is out. They call good evil and evil good! Thus, we must draw close to God and fill ourselves up with the things of God. We need to do as Paul said in Philippians 4:8, **“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things.”**

Why is that so important? What good can come of focusing on the good things of God? Paul finishes up by saying in verse 9, **“The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”** Philippians 4:9. Do these things and as you follow after the Lord the peace of God will fill your life!

4. Now, as we will see, it is not only that we are saved from ungodly men but we will see as we read on that we are also saved from loose women! Discretion, wisdom, and understanding will not only keep you from the path of the evil men, but it will keep you from the allure of the strange woman! Let's read on and see the warning that Solomon is giving to his son and to us.

VERSES 16-19

1. This thought here takes us back to verses 10 and 11 that deal with each person allowing the wisdom of God into their hearts, rejoicing in the things of God, what He has said in His Word and applying those things to your life. When you do you will have discretion regarding situations and people that will protect you. You will have understanding that will keep you on the right path! In other words, you won't be deceived so easily and you will not be taken in if you stay close to the Lord and you apply God's Word to your life! And specifically here, you will not fall prey to the seductress woman who flatters with her words!

And the reality with this is it can go both ways, the man can seduce the woman and the woman can seduce the man and thus, be on guard, use the wisdom that God has given to you and avoid situations that can bring death and destruction to your life! Solomon is speaking to his son and thus, the seductress woman he is warning him of.

2. Notice that it speaks of flattering words, what does that mean? "Wow, I am sorry to hear how your wife treats you. You really are not appreciated in your home as you should be. You are the man of the house and she does not respect you! And you truly have so much to offer someone. I can see how you need real love and a sympathetic ear and I am here if you need me." And how many marriages have been destroyed by flattering words! And once you begin down this path your life will never be the same. I wish more people would think about that before they begin to lust after others.

3. Notice that it also says that she “**forgets the covenant of her God.**” In other words, the commandments of God she is negating so she can be involved in this relationship, this lifestyle. Now don’t forget that the man is doing the very same thing as he is breaking his marriage vows and he is breaking the commands of God!

So Solomon’s warning is very simple and we would be wise to heed it. “Son, don’t get involved with strange women. Don’t negate your covenant with God and with your wife. Be wise because once you get involved in a relationship like that, the damage is irreparable. There will be scars that remain!” Wise words!

4. Now some may feel that God is being unfair. That He is some kind of cosmic killjoy and He is ruining all our fun! Is that really what God is doing in our life? Is He plotting and planning on how He can ruin our lives? I know that is not true and if you are not sure about that, if you are doubting that God has good for your life, then look at the next few verses and you will see what God desires for your life!

#### VERSES 20-22

1. Here’s the thing. As you walk in His ways, as you follow after the Lord and shun evil, you will be rewarded in this life and in the life to come. And look at what God wants for our life; He wants us to have the good life in a sense. He wants us to walk down the right path. James reminds us in James 1:17, “**Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.**”

Please understand that God's goodness is constant, it does not change from moment to moment but there is "**no variation or shadow of turning.**" There is not even a shadow, a glimmer that God's goodness is going to change or go away. He is light and there is no darkness in Him at all and thus, what comes into our lives is what we need even though we may not always like it or want it because God's goodness is constant! He does what is best for us. And when we can learn that and trust in what God's Word has to say, we can rest in Him, we can find peace in Him; we can know that all things are working together somehow and somehow for good because we love Him!

2. Now don't think that our behavior saves us. Paul said in Colossians 1:28, "**Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.**" We are perfect in Him and the things we do, how we live out our faith just shows that we are saved. That means we need to be rooted and grounded in the Word of God where we will find wisdom and understanding. If we reject that, if we reject Christ and walk in ungodliness we will be uprooted and destroyed. There is no inheritance for the transgressor! Be wise and walk accordingly because even Christians can be swayed to walk down the crooked path and on that road there is only death and destruction. ***BE WISE!***

3. Proverbs chapter 2 focused on how we are to be delivered from evil, which is important for us to know and understand. You might say that it is our protection plan against evil. As we move into Proverbs chapter 3 it is more of a positive note. It speaks of living well in all areas of life. It shows us how to live well wherever we go. So let's begin reading in Proverbs chapter 3 and see what lessons the Lord has for us because He wants what is best for our lives!

**PROVERBS 3****VERSES 1-2**

1. “Why do we need to obey God’s Word?” First of all we need to understand that God gets no benefit in what we do or don’t do; we are the ones that benefit from obeying God’s Word! Now what are the benefits of obeying God’s Word?

This may seem strange but it is true. We are told that if you obey God’s Word you will live a long and fruitful life that is filled with the peace of God. It is as the Lord told Joshua **“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”** Joshua 1:8.

Now I do realize that people laugh at that idea, they think it is foolish, but it is not. Have you ever seen a person who has lived a life of rebellion and abuse? I have many times and they look older than they really are. Their bodies are a mess. You see, if you refuse to obey God’s Word, sin has a way of cutting your life short and fills it with restlessness. There is no peace for the wicked the Bible tells us and that truly is what we see. The wicked are restless while we are at peace in the Lord or at least we should be!

2. I like the way that Jay Adams put it for us. He wrote,

The Bible teaches that a peace of mind which leads to longer, happier living comes from keeping God's commandments. A guilty conscience is a body-breaking load. A good conscience is one significant factor which leads to longevity and physical health. And so, in a measure, one's somatic (bodily) welfare stems from the welfare of his soul. A close psychosomatic connection between one's behavior before God and his physical condition is an established physical principle.

- Jay Adams, *Competent to Counsel*, p. 125

Does that mean that if you are sick, if you have a short life, you are doing something wrong? Absolutely not! First of all a person can live a very short life and have a greater impact for the Lord than someone who lived until he was 80! I think the idea is that however many days the Lord has appointed for you will be full! Sickness, death is a result of Adam's sin and we will all die, we are all moving towards the grave. That is not the point. What are you doing with your life for the Lord? I think for those that are walking in His ways they will find the peace of God ruling in their hearts and their lives will be fruitful, they will be full!

But don't miss the point. A person who is living in rebellion to the Lord can see his life end sooner due to drugs, alcohol, sexually transmitted diseases, violence and-so-on. That is just the reality. A clean life, a life of obedience does lead to a long, a prosperous, a fulfilled life!

VERSES 3-4

1. Not only should mercy and truth be a reality in our hearts, that is the inner man, but also in our outward actions, binding them around our necks. What God has done on the inside of us should overflow in our actions. In other words, as we relate to God we must do so in truth and as His mercy has been extended to us, we too should extend mercy to others.

2. As people look at our lives they should see something vastly different than what they see in people who don't know the Lord. Think about that for a minute. If your life is filled with loving-kindness or mercy, if your life is filled with faithfulness or truth, what an example of Christ you would be to others. How many people have been let down by Christians, taken advantage by Christians, and that should not be, not if you are walking in the fear of the Lord and seeking His wisdom in situations! May we shine for Jesus because what the Lord has done on the inside of us and continues to do inside of us overflows in what we say and what we do!

VERSES 5-6

1. What do you put your trust in? I am sure we find it very easy to put our trust in all kinds of things and yet, when it comes to God, it is difficult to trust Him. Now we would not say that but our actions speak louder than words. Listen to what A. W. Tozer wrote regarding true faith, trusting in the Lord. And Tozer hits this hard, he gives us something to think about as we live out our faith. He tells us,

Pseudo-faith always arranges a way out to serve in case God fails. Real faith knows only one way and gladly allows itself to be stripped of any second way or makeshift substitutes. For true faith, it is either God or total collapse. And not since Adam stood up on the earth has God failed a single man or woman who trusted him.

- A. W. Tozer, *The Root of the Righteous*, p. 50

You see, if you are saying that you are trusting God and yet, you have a plan just in case, a way of escape you might say, are you really trusting Him? No you are not and we have all been there. And here's the thing. Are we willing to lay our lives out, place our lives into His hands, rest our whole weight upon Him even when we can't figure it out, even when we don't understand what God is going to do, how He will bring salvation to this situation? He wants us to because He wants to direct us on the path we are to take but we need to trust in Him! Jon Courson tells this story that drives home this point. He wrote,

When I went skydiving, a man on the ground held a big arrow that he turned to show which way the wind was blowing and which way we were to go to catch it. I remember that when I regained consciousness after jumping out of the plane, I saw the guy turning the arrow. But I thought his direction was wrong, that he was leading me into a power line. His direction didn't make sense to me. Do I follow the arrow? I wondered. Or do I follow my own judgment? For a moment, I ignored the arrow. And then I thought I'd better follow it. So follow it I did - flying right over the power lines and landing in the right spot.

It's tempting to think we know more than the arrow. It's tempting to think, "Well, Lord, I know I'm not to lean on my own understanding. I know I'm to trust You. But what You're doing doesn't seem to make sense." At that point, we have a decision to make - whether to follow the arrow or to do our own thing.

How I encourage you to follow the arrow, gang. Even if you can't figure it out, follow the leading of the Lord according to His Word. You'll dodge the deadly power lines of the wicked and land right in the center of the field every time.

- Jon Courson, Application Commentary Old Testament, Volume 2, p. 185

Once you understand and believe that God is in control and He has what is best for your life, you can rest in Him knowing the path He has you on is the best one, it is the right one, even though it might not be the easiest one. Trust in Him and don't trust in your understanding of things, our all-knowing God is at the controls!

#### VERSES 7-8

1. If it wasn't for this problem, trusting in the Lord would be easy. What is the problem? It is ourselves, that we become wise in our own eyes, we think we know better and in the end, we may have done it our way, but we find out that it was a mistake. I am feeling a song coming on, you know, my old pisano or friend, Frank Sinatra who did it his way or as the song goes, "I Did It My Way!" You remember,

And now, the end is near; And so I face the final curtain.  
My friend, I'll say it clear, I'll state my case, of which I'm certain.  
I've lived a life that's full. I've traveled each and ev'ry highway;  
But more, much more than this, I did it my way.

Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew  
 When I bit off more than I could chew.  
 But through it all, when there was doubt, I ate it up and spit it out.  
 I faced it all and I stood tall; And did it my way.

For what is a man, what has he got?  
 If not himself, then he has naught.  
 To say the things he truly feels; And not the words of one who kneels.  
 The record shows I took the blows - And did it my way!

- Frank Sinatra, My Way

Frank Sinatra as well as many others did it their way and in the end, it leads to death, eternal separation from God. It is not my way, it is not your way, it is YAHWEH! Now we can try it our way but in the end it will be a mess. Or, we can trust in the Lord, we can forget about being wise in our own eyes, and if we do it will be health to our flesh, it will be strength to our bones. In other words, the result of trusting in the Lord is that we may be physically and emotionally healthy. It tends to keep us strong.

#### VERSES 9-10

1. Now I don't like to deal with this area of money but when we come to it in the Scriptures I have no choice and that is when you will hear me teach on this subject. It does make me uncomfortable.

Let me also say this because some have a warped concept about giving to God. They think that giving to the Lord is like investing in the stock market. No it is not, and if that is the reason you give, to get back, then you are missing the point. On the other end of the spectrum are those that don't give to the Lord and this number amazed me. They have estimated that over 70% of people going to church do not tithe or give to the Lord. I don't know what that number is here because I don't do the books and I don't want to know, that is between you and the Lord. But if you are not giving to the Lord the question is, "Why not?"

In Haggai chapter 1 the Lord rebuked the children of Israel for not giving to the Lord but instead fixed up their homes and because they neglected the Lord God was going to judge them. Now please don't think I am telling you that to scare you or to make you give, not at all. But read that chapter on your own and see what the Lord is showing you.

And here is the main thing. When we give to the Lord we need to do so with a cheerful heart! We don't give out of the Law, we don't give because we have to give, we give because we want to give. It is a joy to give back to the Lord that which He has given to us in the first place. And if you are giving and you are complaining, murmuring, giving grudgingly or feeling you are pressured to give, don't give. God does not need your money. I am sure you don't hear that very often but it is the truth. If you can't give out of a cheerful heart to the Lord, don't give!

That is Paul's point in II Corinthians 9:6-7 as he said, **"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."** The blessing of giving back to the Lord is that He does give back to us. Not always in monetary gain, but just in seeing the work of the Lord done through it.

And this is interesting to me. The only time we are told to test God is in Malachi 3:10 which says, “**Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,’ Says the LORD of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.**” You can’t out give God; He is a debtor to no man.

I like what the old Puritan Scholar, Matthew Henry wrote, “God will bless you with an increase of that which is for use, not for show, for giving away, not for hoarding. Those who do good with what they have shall have more to do more good with.” I agree.

#### VERSES 11-12

1. What, no “Praise the Lord” on those verses? Let’s face it, none of us like chastening, none of us like discipline, but it just shows us that the Lord cares for us and wants to get us back on track. If He did not love us He would do nothing! We do see this stated again in the book of Hebrews, and the point is this. If you can do things and you are not chastened by God, be concerned. He chastens those that are His children, not in a punitive way, but in a corrective way, because He loves us. It is as Job 5:17-18 says, “**Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty. For He bruises, but He binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole.**” All that God is doing in our lives is to make us whole and to make us into holy people! Don’t lose sight of that!

VERSES 13-18

1. Solomon, the wealthiest man in the world, he had everything and he saw it as nothing. What truly matters in life is a relationship with God. That is more precious than anything in the world! I realize that people today want money, they want riches, they think these possessions are valuable, but they are not.

Let me explain it like this. Several weeks back there was a man from Illinois who became a millionaire playing the Lotto. He had just received his winnings and then, the next day he was found dead. Did he die of natural causes? Well, if you consider cyanide a natural substance, then I guess he did. He was poisoned by a family member, he died of cyanide poisoning!

Now I don't believe this man knew the Lord and yet he died as a millionaire. Do you think that really matters at this point? Absolutely not, the man who has nothing in this life and yet knows the Lord is wiser than any man with riches and he is wealthier! True wisdom is coming to Jesus and He will lead you into everlasting life!

You see, Jesus gives to us what money can never buy, as this poem tells us.

Thou treasure inexhaustible,  
 Thou source of true delight.  
 What care I for the World's applause  
 Or for its diamonds bright?  
 More prized by far one smile from Thee  
 Than all earth hold more dear  
 I want for nothing man can give,  
 For I have Jesus here.  
 Yes, yes, the Loved One is my own;  
 Can any richer be?  
 For all He is, and all He has  
 All, all belongs to me.

- Author Unknown

2. Solomon portrays wisdom as a woman and the blessings there are as you follow after the wisdom of God, as you walk down the path He has set before you! Happiness, wealth, length of days, honor, pleasantness, peace! Not bad, may we seek after the wisdom of God; mine out the treasures of God found in the Word of God!

### VERSES 19-26

1. Look at the foolish things that we have been told. Like the universe and all life just happened! Life emerged from some primordial goo and by sheer luck, here we are today! Life is so complex, even what we call simple life forms, and to have them come together with all the right parts in all the right places, that is a fairy tale and not science. Look at the human body, what evolved first, lungs, blood, blood vessels, the heart, the brain, white blood cells, clotting factors, bone and I can go on but the point is simple. If they were not all formed at the same time then none of them could function, there would be no point in them functioning. Let me share this with you. We are told,

“Without a doubt, the most complex information-processing system in existence is the human body. If we take all human information processes together, i.e. conscious ones (language, information-controlled, deliberate voluntary movements) and unconscious ones (information-controlled functions of the organs, hormone system), this involves the processing of  $10^{24}$  bits daily. This astronomically high figure is higher by a factor of 1,000,000 [i.e., is a million times greater] than the total human knowledge of  $10^{18}$  bits stored in all the world’s libraries.”

- Dr. Werner Gitt, in *Information: The Third Fundamental Quantity*, (reprint from) *Siemens Review*, **56(6)**, November/December 1989

Let me share this article with you by Gary Hill. He wrote,

What is irreducible complexity and what does it prove? It makes sense to me that there are systems that are so complex that they either have the parts to form the complex systems from the start or they do not exist at all. Take for example a hummingbird. So, with this in mind, let us take a look at this interesting subject.

Professor Michael Behe of Lehigh University coined the term in his seminal work *Darwin's Black Box*, 1996. He popularized the concept by presenting the common mousetrap as an example of irreducible complexity. A typical mousetrap is made up of five integral parts: a catch, a spring, a hammer, a holding bar and a foundation. According to Behe, if any of these parts are removed without a comparable replacement (or at least a significant restructuring of the remaining parts), the entire system will fail to function.

Irreducible complexity is a term used to describe a characteristic of certain complex systems whereby they need all of their individual component parts in place in order to function. In other words, it is impossible to reduce the complexity of (or to simplify) an irreducibly complex system by removing any of its component parts and still maintain its functionality. . . .

If one wants to see irreducible complexity at work simply look in the mirror. Complex organs down to the cellular level could not have been formed by numerous, successive, and slight modifications called randomness. Just as the Anthropic Principle, irreducible complexity shows clear signs of intentional design. And no "publish or perish" academic can conclusively argue his way around this.

Let us take a closer look at protons. Protons are the positively charged subatomic particles which (along with neutrons) form the nucleus of an atom (around which negatively charged electrons orbit). Whether by providence or fortuitous luck (depending on your perspective), protons just happen to be 1,836 times larger than electrons.

If they were a little bigger or a little smaller, we would not exist (because atoms could not form the molecules we require). So how did protons end up being 1,836 times larger than electrons? Why not 100 times larger or 100,000 times? Why not smaller? Of all the possible variables, how did protons end up being just the right size? Was it luck or contrivance?

Or how is it that protons carry a positive electrical charge equal to that of the negatively charged electrons? If protons did not balance electrons and vice versa, we would not exist. They are not comparable in size, yet they are perfectly balanced. Did nature just stumble upon such a propitious relationship, or did God ordain it for our sakes?

The evidence demands a verdict. And that verdict to my mind is “the LORD God of the Heavenly Armies - the LORD is his name” (Hosea 12:5). I’ve only cited a few examples for your review, but rest assured there over a thousand factors which must be just right in order for life to exist on Earth.

- Irreducible Complexity, Northern Main Christianity,  
January 31, 2013, By: Gary Hill

We are fearfully and wonderfully made by God; make no mistake about that and to deny it just shows you are a fool. Sorry, but you have to ignore the facts to take God out of the picture! But throughout the Bible we see God speak of what He did in creation. David cited creation as evidence of God’s majesty (Psalm 19). Paul called upon creation as witness of God’s power (Romans 1:20). God Himself referred to His creation as proof of His wisdom (Job 38–40). And that is exactly what we see Solomon do here.

And let me also say this. Once you move away from God creating the heavens and the earth, you then have to develop a humanistic view of life and how you live out your life will be based on what you feel and not what God has said. Now some may disagree, but if you can't believe Genesis 1:1 then why do you believe anything else in the Bible? And if you don't believe that God created the heavens and the earth in six days then you are not wise, you are leaning upon your own understanding! You want to experience life, then look to our Creator who has given to us life!

2. And Solomon is telling us that if we are resting in our Creator God then we will get rest, we will sleep with ease, we will not be anxious because the One who created the heavens and the earth can take care of us!

On the other end of the spectrum is the person that is involved with evil and they cannot rest but they are always looking over their shoulder to see if the law is catching up with them or the person they ripped off is after them. They are sleeping with one eye open to see if another evil person wants to make them sleep with the fishes! But there truly is rest in the Lord.

In America today we see a problem with sleeping. In fact, we have seen prescriptions for sleeping medications top 56 million in 2008 - a record; according to the research firm IMS, up 54% from 2004. That is an incredible number and there are many reasons people can't sleep, one of the big ones is financial issues, money. But I have a better way to rest, and that is in Jesus, you can rest in Him and get a good night's sleep because you are trusting in Him!

VERSES 27-28

1. Now I do understand that we can't help everyone but we can help some and that is the idea here. If you have the ability to help people out, do so. Don't hold back or make them beg. James tells us this very thing as he wrote, **“If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”** James 2:15-18. Let your faith be active and not silent.

James is saying to us that if our faith is living, if it is real, then it will have life to it, it will be seen in the things we do for people. And there is truly a balance, yes we need to share the Gospel message with people but if they are hungry, cold it is hard for them to even think in that direction. So as we meet their physical needs, as they see we love them unconditionally, then a door is open to share Jesus with them. Now, dead faith is just that, it does nothing. James says that this person may use some spiritual jargon to make themselves look good, but it is a dead faith, there is no life to it, just words!

John MacArthur put it like this as he wrote,

This is a well-chosen analogy, because compassion is one of the evidences of true regeneration. The story is told of a European queen several centuries ago who left her coachman sitting outside during the winter while she attended the theater. The drama was so heart wrenching that the queen sobbed throughout the entire performance. But when she returned to the carriage and discovered the coachman had frozen to death, she did not shed a tear! She was deeply moved by a fictional tragedy but completely untouched by a real one with which she was directly involved and for which she was even directly responsible. It is amazing that so many people can become emotionally involved in a movie, play, popular song, or TV program, weeping over tragedies and becoming incensed at wrongs and injustices, and yet show no concern or compassion for the plight of a neighbor or acquaintance who is in real need. In our artificial, self-centered world, fantasy often becomes more meaningful than reality.

- John MacArthur

May we reach out to people with the love of Jesus and not only minister to them with spiritual things, but take care of them physically also.

#### VERSES 29-30

1. Relationships would be easy if people were not involved. I know, brilliant but true! But Solomon is saying to us that we should not go out looking for a fight. We should live at peace with others. Now I realize that this is hard because the flesh gets in the way so often. When your friends, when your parents, when your children, when your co-workers, when your neighbors strike out at you, you have a choice to make. You can strike back or turn the other cheek.

Now don't get mad at me regarding this. Paul put it like this in Romans 12:9-21 as he wrote, **“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay’, says the Lord. Therefore ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”**

That will only happen as we walk in the fear of the Lord, surrender our lives to His Spirit instead of walking in the flesh and striking out! God will take care of things, trust in the Creator God!

VERSES 31-32

1. We tend to look up and elevate people that have gained through evil practices. We are not to envy their gain but we should pity their end. And it is not just what we might think of as the **“oppressor.”** Look at the hero’s people have today. They tend to be movie stars or television stars or musicians that are not very moral people. We should not look up to them but feel sorry for them because apart from Christ they are going to Hell.

VERSES 33-35

1. Wisdom leads to glory for it is based in the truths of God. Folly leads to death for it is based in the wisdom of man. You see, God will honor those who show their wisdom by trusting and obeying Him. On the other hand, fools will inherit nothing better than shame and disgrace. The principle is simple, what you sow is what you will reap!