

# The Book of Proverbs

## Chapter 2: The Path of Wisdom

We Can Grow 2:1-22

... wisdom will come into your heart.

When you walk on the path of Wisdom, you enjoy three wonderful assurances:

**Chapter 2:** Wisdom *protects* our paths (**Prov 2:8**).

**Chapter 3:** Wisdom *directs* our paths (**Prov 3:5-6**).

**Chapter 4:** Wisdom *perfects* our paths (**Prov 4:18**).

## The Path of Wisdom and Life Proverbs 2- 4

The metaphor of life as a journey is a familiar one; it is found in the Bible as well as in classical literature.

Jesus made it clear that in this life we can take only one of two ways, and each of them leads to a different destination.

Everybody has to choose either the crowded road that leads to destruction or the narrow road that leads to life (**Matt. 7:13-14**).

There's no middle way.

In Proverbs, the words path and way (and their plurals) are found nearly 100 times (KJV).

Wisdom is not only a person to love, but Wisdom is also a path to walk.

## PROVERBS 2

**Pro 2:10** For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

In Proverbs 2 God is telling us how we can move forward and to take our next steps into newness of life.

There is only one deal-breaker:

**“The complacency of fools destroys them”**  
(**Proverbs 1:32**).

You do not need to hate Jesus to waste your life.

You only need to be okay with how you are.

Proverbs 2 is one of the most helpful passages in the Bible, It explains what growth and sanctification and renewal feels like.

This new mentality is the opposite of complacency.

You do not need to run from life.

You only need to run toward God, and he will prepare you for real life.

## PROVERBS 2

1. You can be renewed in God (**vv. 1-11**)
  - A. Get real with God (**vv. 1—4**)
  - B. And God will get real with you (**vv. 5—8**)
  - C. And you will change (**vv. 9—11**)
2. You can be protected in this world (**vv. 12—22**)
  - A. Safe from devious perverse ‘men’ (**vv. 12—15**)
  - B. Safe from deadly flattering ‘women’ (**vv. 16—19**)
  - C. Safe forever in God’s place of blessing (**vv. 20—22**)

## ***The Benefits of Embracing Wisdom*** **PROVERBS 2:1-5**

How do we get real with God.

- 1] My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;***
- 2] So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;***
- 3] Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;***
- 4] If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;***
- 5] Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.***

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## ***The Benefits of Embracing Wisdom*** **PROVERBS 2:1-5**

### **You Can Be Renewed in God**

No matter who you are or what you have done, here is the non-complacency that the grace of God stirs up within us:

We see the word “if” in verse 1,  
again in verse 3, and  
again in verse 4.

We see the word “then” in verse 5 and  
again in verse 9.

Those are the markers of verses 1—11 that map out the process of change:

“If. . . then. . . “

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## ***The Benefits of Embracing Wisdom*** **PROVERBS 2:1-5**

Remember, the grace of God is not conditional.

We do not deserve his grace nor can we earn it.

We must, however, reach for it decisively, allowing nothing to stand in our way.

Legalism is meritorious thinking.

Verse 1 begins, “***My son...*** “

We don’t earn that place in God’s heart.

It is his fatherly love that speaks to us here, calling us to take new steps of growth toward him.

This passage is simply asking every one of us,

“Are you paying attention?”

**How does God want us to pay attention to him?**

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## ***The Benefits of Embracing Wisdom*** **PROVERBS 2:1-5**

The new steps of stretching and seeking are in the verbs.

Look at how the verbs escalate in intensity: “in verses 1-4.

If:           you receive ...  
                  treasure up ...  
                  making your ear attentive ...  
                  inclining your heart...  
                  call out ...raise your voice ...  
                  seek search... “

Wisdom is not automatic. It is not our default setting. We will never get there by coasting along on cruise control. You cannot become a significant person by being neutral and safely unchanged.

That is complacency.

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## ***The Benefits of Embracing Wisdom*** **PROVERBS 2:1-5**

God is offering you a treasure infinitely worth seeking  
— more of himself entering into your life, renewing you,  
safeguarding you.

God is saying to you,  
“I am available—if you want me more than you want your  
own status quo.”

We must want to change  
more than we want to stay the way we are.

- **Why is the status quo we are afraid to let go of so great?**
- **Who is telling you that God is a bad risk?**
- **Who is telling you that you are okay the way you are?**
- **What is the difference between “wanting to be changed”  
and “wanting to change”?**

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## ***The Benefits of Embracing Wisdom*** **PROVERBS 2:1-5**

God our Father loved us enough for his only Son to get  
dragged down at the cross for us.

We need to respond to his love by turning from our  
mindless, complacent, comfort zone and  
Turning back to God through the urgency of prayer,  
confession, repentance, and seeking Him.

### ***Matt 5:6***

It's all about having a 'first place' desire for God.  
There is no set of rules to tell us what to do.

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## **Wisdom PROVERBS 2:1-5**

There are a great many brilliant people who have  
knowledge; yet they lack wisdom:

- Wisdom In the Scriptures means:
  - “the ability to use knowledge properly.”  
Occurs in this book alone 37 times.
  - living in an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ  
today.

***But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made  
unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification,  
and redemption? 1 Corinthians 1:30***

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## **Wisdom Protects Your Path (Prov. 2)**

The key verse **2:8** : ***“He guards the paths of justice, and  
preserves the way of His saints” (NKJV).***

The repetition of the phrase “my son” (**2:1; 31, 11, 21; 4:10,  
20; and see 4:1**, “my children”) reminds us that the book of  
Proverbs records a loving father’s wise counsel to his family.

Jewish fathers were commanded to teach their children  
wisdom (**Deut. 6:1—9**); if the children were smart, they  
paid attention and obeyed.

Life is dangerous. It is wise to listen to the counsel of godly  
people who have walked the path before us.

Three different “walks” are described in this chapter.

- (1) Walking with God (**vv. 1—9**).
- (2) Walking with the wicked (**vv. 12—19**).
- (3) Walking with the righteous (**vv. 20—22**).

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## (1) Walking with God (vv. 1—9).

Obtaining spiritual wisdom is not a once-a-week hobby; it is the daily discipline of a lifetime.

8 imperatives in this paragraph reveal our responsibilities toward God's truth:

- receive (accept) God's words and hide them (store them up) in our minds and hearts;
- incline the ear and apply the heart;
- cry after knowledge; lift up the voice for understanding;
- seek for wisdom and search after it.

If you want wisdom, you must

- listen to God attentively (**Matt. 13:9**),
- obey Him humbly (**John 14:15**),
- ask Him sincerely (**James 1:5**), and
- seek Him diligently (**Isa. 55:6—7**).

## (1) Walking with God (vv. 1—9).

If we do our part, God will keep His promise

**(vv. 7—8): “He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones” (NIV).**

**“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You” (Ps. 119:11 NKJV).**

**[Matt 12:34 ; Luk 6:45]**

People are willing to work diligently because they know they'll earn a paycheck.

What about applying themselves diligently to God's Word in order to gain spiritual riches that are more valuable than gold and silver and jewels, riches that will last forever? (**Matt 6:33; >>> 3:13—15; 8:10—21; 16:16**.)

There's a price to pay if we would gain spiritual wisdom, but there's an even greater cost to pay if we don't gain it.

## PROVERBS 2:1

**PRO 2:1 My son, if you accept my words, and treasure my instructions [Lit. instructions within you] — [ISV]**

**PRO 2:1 My son,<sup>H1121</sup> if<sup>H518</sup> thou wilt receive<sup>H3947</sup> my words,<sup>H561</sup> and hide<sup>H6845</sup> my commandments<sup>H4687</sup> with<sup>H854</sup> thee; [KJV]**

**PRO 2:1 My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you, [NASB]**

**PRO 2:1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, [NIV]**

### **Eight If's of Blessing (Prov 2:1)**

1. If you receive My words (**Prov 2:1**)
2. If you hold (as a treasure) My commandments
3. If you incline your ear to wisdom (**Prov 2:2**)
4. If you apply your heart to understanding
5. If you cry after knowledge (**Prov 2:3**)
6. If you lift your voice for understanding
7. If you seek for knowledge as for silver (**Prov 2:4**)
8. If you search for knowledge as for hidden treasure

## PROVERBS 2:2-4

**PRO 2:2 making your ear attentive to wisdom, and turning your heart to understanding — 3 if, indeed, you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, 4 if you seek it like silver and search for it like hidden treasure, [ISV]**

**PRO 2:2 So that thou incline<sup>H7181</sup> thine ear<sup>H241</sup> unto wisdom,<sup>H2451</sup> and apply<sup>H5186</sup> thine heart<sup>H3820</sup> to understanding;<sup>H8394</sup> 3 Yea,<sup>H3588</sup> if<sup>H518</sup> thou criest<sup>H7121</sup> after knowledge,<sup>H998</sup> and liftest up<sup>H5414</sup> thy voice<sup>H6963</sup> for understanding,<sup>H8394</sup> 4 If<sup>H518</sup> thou seekest<sup>H1245</sup> her as silver,<sup>H3701</sup> and searchest<sup>H2664</sup> for her as for hid treasures,<sup>H4301</sup> [KJV]**

**PRO 2:2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding; 3 For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding; 4 If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures; [NASB]**

**PRO 2:2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, 3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, [NIV]**

## PROVERBS 2:5-8

What does God promise to those who seek him with an openness to change?

*then you will understand the fear of the LORD  
and find the knowledge of God.  
For the LORD gives wisdom;  
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;  
he stores up sound 'wisdom for the upright;  
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,  
guarding the paths of justice  
and watching over the way of his saints.*

God is not saying, "If you seek me, I will love you more."

God is saying, "If you seek me, you will find me, for all that I am worth." *Matt 7:7 Luk 11:9*

You can know God, personally,  
in ways that will help you and guard you.

## PROVERBS 2:6

*PRO 2:6 ¶ For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. [ISV]*

*PRO 2:6 For<sup>H3588</sup> the LORD<sup>H3068</sup> giveth<sup>H5414</sup> wisdom:<sup>H2451</sup> out of his mouth<sup>H4480 H6310</sup> cometh knowledge<sup>H1847</sup> and understanding.<sup>H8394</sup> [KJV]*

*PRO 2:6 For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. [NASB]*

*PRO 2:6 For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. [NIV]*

## PROVERBS 2:5

*PRO 2:5 ¶ then you will understand the fear of the LORD and learn to know God. [ISV]*

*PRO 2:5 Then<sup>H227</sup> shalt thou understand<sup>H995</sup> the fear<sup>H3374</sup> of the LORD,<sup>H3068</sup> and find<sup>H4672</sup> the knowledge<sup>H1847</sup> of God.<sup>H430</sup> [KJV]*

*PRO 2:5 Then you will discern the fear of the LORD And discover the knowledge of God. [NASB]*

*PRO 2:5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. [NIV]*

"Then" indicates a first conclusion (second begins in *Prov 2:9*).

### Eight Blessings of Obedience — First Conclusion:

1. Then you will understand the fear of the Lord (*Prov 2:5*).
2. Then you will find the knowledge of God.
3. Then you will receive wisdom from God (*Prov 2:6*).
4. Then you will receive knowledge from God.
5. Then you will receive understanding from God.
6. Then you will receive protection from God (*Prov 2:7*).
7. Then you will have security in God (*Prov 2:8*).
8. Then you will have preservation in life.

## PROVERBS 2:6

The Bible is the mouth of God today — not a voice speaking within our minds but the Bible lying open before our eyes.

*2 Ti 2:15 / Ps 119:11*

*Verse 6: ' . . from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.'*

Five examples of getting wisdom:

1. Joseph (*Gen 41:38-39*)
2. Moses (*Ex 4:12*)
3. Solomon (*1 Kings 3:12; 4:29*)
4. Daniel (*Dan 1:17; 2:23*)
5. Stephen (*Acts 6:5,10*)

## PROVERBS 2:7

**PRO 2:7 ¶ He stores up sound wisdom for the upright and is a shield to those who walk in integrity— [ISV]**

**PRO 2:7 He layeth up<sup>H6845</sup> sound wisdom<sup>H8454</sup> for the righteous:<sup>H3477</sup> he is a buckler<sup>H4043</sup> to them that walk<sup>H1980</sup> uprightly.<sup>H8537</sup> [KJV]**

**PRO 2:7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, [NASB]**

**PRO 2:7 He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, [NIV]**

We do not have to be geniuses.

We only have to be straight with him:

**“He stores up sound wisdom for the upright” (v. 7).**

If we will seek God honestly, he will deal with us directly.

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## PROVERBS 2:8

**PRO 2:8 ¶ guarding the paths of the just and protecting the way of his faithful ones. [ISV]**

**PRO 2:8 He keepeth<sup>H5341</sup> the paths<sup>H734</sup> of judgment,<sup>H4941</sup> and preserveth<sup>H8104</sup> the way<sup>H1870</sup> of his saints.<sup>H2623</sup> [KJV]**

**PRO 2:8 Guarding the paths of justice, And He preserves the way of His godly ones. [NASB]**

**PRO 2:8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. [NIV]**

### Five examples of preserving saints:

1. Noah (**Gen 6-8**)
2. Lot (**Gen 19**)
3. Joseph (**Gen 37-41**)
4. David (**1 Sam 18:8-26:25**)
5. Peter (**Acts 12**)

## PROVERBS 2:9-11

Another “**Then**” at the beginning of verse 9 is followed by more assurances:

**Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path: for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you.**

God is able to give your heart a new instinct for wisdom.

You do not need five easy steps to this or seven sure-fire principles for that.

You need a new heart, new character, an awakening deep within; a hunger and thirst for righteousness...

**Matt 6:33**

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## PROVERBS 2:9-11

**“If you will seek me, wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.”**

Wise people do not pout and whine, “Do I have to?”

Wise hearts are set free: “You mean I get to?”

They love the things of God as satisfying to the appetites of their renewed souls.

**“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied” (Mat 5:6)**

Our Father is saying in **Proverbs 2:**

“If you will seek newness of life in Christ (**vv. 1—4**), Then you will go deep with him (**vv. 5—8**), and Thus you will change within yourself (**vv. 9—11**). And you’ll be prepared for life in the real world (**vv. 12-22**)

That is how grace works – God provides us with the opportunity but we must choose to take advantage of it.

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## PROVERBS 2:9

**PRO 2:9 ¶ Then you will understand what is right, just, and upright—every good path. [ISV]**

**PRO 2:9 Then<sup>H227</sup> shalt thou understand<sup>H995</sup> righteousness,<sup>H6664</sup> and judgment,<sup>H4941</sup> and equity;<sup>H4339</sup> yea, every<sup>H3605</sup> good<sup>H2896</sup> path.<sup>H4570</sup> [KJV]**

**PRO 2:9 Then you will discern righteousness and justice And equity and every good course. [NASB]**

**PRO 2:9 Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path. [NIV]**

"Then" indicates a second conclusion (first in **Prov 2:5**).

[righteousness] Hebrew: **tsedeq** (OT:6664) (**Prov 1:3**).

[judgment] Hebrew: **mishpat** (OT:4941) (**Prov 1:3**).

[equity] Hebrew: **meysar** (OT:4339) (**Prov 1:3**).

Upright; correct; what is right...

**John 16:7-15**

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## PROVERBS 2:9

**PRO 2:9 Then you will discern righteousness and justice And equity and every good course. [NASB]**

### Eight Blessings of Obedience — Second Conclusion:

1. Then you will understand righteousness (**Prov 2:9**).
2. Then you will understand judgment.
3. Then you will understand equity.
4. Then you will understand every good path.
5. Then wisdom will enter your heart (**Prov 2:10**).
6. Then knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.
7. Then discretion will preserve you (**Prov 2:11**).
8. Then understanding will keep you.

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## PROVERBS 2:10

**PRO 2:10 ¶ For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. [ISV]**

**PRO 2:10 When<sup>H3588</sup> wisdom<sup>H2451</sup> entereth<sup>H935</sup> into thine heart,<sup>H3820</sup> and knowledge<sup>H1847</sup> is pleasant<sup>H5276</sup> unto thy soul;<sup>H5315</sup> [KJV]**

**PRO 2:10 For wisdom will enter your heart And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; [NASB]**

**PRO 2:10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. [NIV]**

These verses contain the secret for deliverance from:

1. The way of the evil man (**Prov 2:12-15**) perverseness
2. The strange woman (**Prov 2:16-19**) vanity/selfishness/pride
3. Every evil way (**Prov 2:20-22**)

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## PROVERBS 2:11

**PRO 2:11 ¶ Discretion [Or Wise planning] will protect you; understanding will watch over you, [ISV]**

**PRO 2:11 Discretion<sup>H4209</sup> shall preserve<sup>H8104 H5921</sup> thee, understanding<sup>H8394</sup> shall keep<sup>H5341</sup> thee: [KJV]**

**PRO 2:11 Discretion will guard you, Understanding will watch over you, [NASB]**

**PRO 2:11 Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you. [NIV]**

**H4209 m<sup>e</sup>zimmāh:** A noun meaning a thought out plan.

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## You Can Be Protected in This World PROVERBS 2:12-15

With God's wisdom soaking down into our hearts, we are fortified against two temptations that we inevitably face in this world.

The first temptation is described in verses 12—15:

*... delivering you from the way of evil,  
from men of perverted speech,  
who forsake the paths of uprightness  
to walk in the ways of darkness,  
who rejoice in doing evil  
and delight in the perverseness of evil,  
men whose paths are crooked,  
and who are devious in their ways.*

The key is in verse 12: "men of perverted speech."

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## "Perverted speech" PROVERBS 2:12-15

"Perverted speech" is not limited to bad words and dirty jokes.

It includes good words being used to upset things.

Upheaval, turning things upside down and inside out  
— that is what is behind the Hebrew word "perverted."

Words should represent reality, they should be true to what is:

but words can be used to twist reality,

words can be used to flip meanings into their opposite.

Bad men use good words to smuggle in bad realities.

Some people are fooled but if wisdom has entered your heart, tricky words just won't pass the whiff test.

You might not be able to explain what bothers you, but you will be protected by the wisdom God has put inside you.

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## (2) Walking with the wicked (vv. 12—15).

Here we meet "the evil man" (v12-15) and "the strange woman" (v16-19) two people who are dangerous because they want to lead God's children away from the path of life.

The evil man is known for his perverse ("froward," KJV; crooked) words (see **vv. 12, 14; 6:14; 8:13; 10:31—32; 16:28, 30**).

He walks on the dark path of disobedience and enjoys doing that which is evil.

He belongs to the crowd Solomon warns us about in **1:10—19**.

The person who walks in the way of wisdom would immediately detect his deceit and avoid him.

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## PROVERBS 2:12

**PRO 2:12** ¶ *delivering you from the way of evil, from men who speak perverse things, [ISV]*

**PRO 2:12** *To deliver*<sup>H5337</sup> *thee from the way*<sup>H4480 H1870</sup> *of the evil*<sup>H7451</sup> *man, from the man*<sup>H4480 H376</sup> *that speaketh*<sup>H1696</sup> *froward things;*<sup>H8419</sup> [KJV]

**PRO 2:12** *To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things; [NASB]*

**PRO 2:12** *Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse, [NIV]*

[**deliver thee from the way of the evil man**] To pluck or rescue from the evil man.

[**froward**] Hebrew: **tahpukah** (OT:8419), perverse.

Translated "froward" (**Prov 2:12; 8:13; 10:31; 16:28,30; Deut 32:20**); "frowardness" (**Prov 2:14; 6:14; 10:32**); and "perverse" (**Prov 23:33**).

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## PROVERBS 2:13-15

**PRO 2:13** ¶ *and from those who abandon the right* [Lit. straight or upright] *path to travel along the ways of darkness; 14 ¶ who delight in doing evil, and rejoice in the perverseness of evil; 15 ¶ whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways, [ISV]*

**PRO 2:13** *Who leave*<sup>H5800</sup> *the paths*<sup>H734</sup> *of uprightness,*<sup>H3476</sup> *to walk*<sup>H1980</sup> *in the ways*<sup>H1870</sup> *of darkness;*<sup>H2822</sup> **14** *Who rejoice*<sup>H8056</sup> *to do*<sup>H6213</sup> *evil,*<sup>H7451</sup> *and delight in*<sup>H1523</sup> *the frowardness*<sup>H8419</sup> *of the wicked;*<sup>H7451</sup> **15** *Whose*<sup>H834</sup> *ways*<sup>H734</sup> *are crooked,*<sup>H6141</sup> *and they froward*<sup>H3868</sup> *in their paths.*<sup>H4570</sup> [KJV]

**PRO 2:13** *From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; 14 Who delight in doing evil And rejoice in the perversity of evil; 15 Whose paths are crooked, And who are devious in their ways; [NASB]*

**PRO 2:13** *who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways, 14 who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil, 15 whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways. [NIV]*

John 1 ; 3:19

## PROVERBS 2:13-15

Seven sins of the evil man:

1. He speaks perverse things, civil or religious (**Prov 2:12**).
2. He leaves path of righteousness (**Prov 2:13**).
3. He walks in ways of darkness.
4. He rejoices to do evil (**Prov 2:14**).
5. He delights in sins of others.
6. He walks in crooked ways (**Prov 2:15**).
7. He walks in perverse paths.

## (2) Walking with the wicked (vv. 16—19).

The “strange woman” is the adulteress, the wayward wife described so vividly in **7:1—27**.

If the evil man uses perverse words to snare the unwary, the adulteress uses flattering words.

Flattery isn't communication, it is manipulation;

it's people telling us things about ourselves that we enjoy hearing and wish were true.

The strange woman knows how to use flattery successfully.

She has no respect for God because she breaks His law (**Ex 20:14**)

She has no respect for her husband because she violates the promises she made to him when she married him.

She no longer has a guide or a friend in the Lord or in her husband because she has taken the path of sin.

Anyone who listens to her words and follows her path is heading for the cemetery.

## PROVERBS 2:16-19

Throughout Scripture God uses the marriage relationship as an example of our relationship with Him.

Faithfulness and personal intimacy are pictured as a husband and wife relationship.

Adultery and fornication are pictured as unfaithfulness and idolatry – placing someone or something in the place only God deserves to be.

See **Hosea** and **Ephesians** as examples...

## PROVERBS 2:16-19

The God-given wisdom deep in your heart will also protect you from a second temptation, described in verses 16—19:

***So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman,  
from the adulteress with her smooth words,  
who forsakes the companion of her youth  
and forgets the covenant of her God;  
for her house sinks down to death.  
and her paths to the departed;  
none who go to her come back  
nor do they regain the paths of life.***

The key here is in verse 16: "***her smooth words.***"

Again, words are what we must watch for.

## PROVERBS 2:16

***PRO 2:16 ¶ delivering you from the adulteress, from the immoral***  
*[Lit. foreign; i.e. one whose values are foreign to God's Law] woman with her  
seductive words, [ISV]*

***PRO 2:16 To deliver<sup>H5337</sup> thee from the strange woman,<sup>H4480 H802</sup>***  
*<sup>H2114</sup> even from the stranger<sup>H4480 H5237</sup> which flattereth<sup>H2505</sup> with  
her words;<sup>H561</sup> [KJV]*

***PRO 2:16 To deliver you from the strange woman, From the  
adulteress who flatters with her words; [NASB]***

***PRO 2:16 It will save you also from the adulteress, from the  
wayward wife with her seductive words, [NIV]***

[deliver] Hebrew: **natsal** (OT:5337), to snatch or rescue.

[strange] Hebrew: **zuwr** (OT:2114), apostate to a foreign  
religion of which prostitution was a part to make converts.  
Such religions were always a snare to Israel (**Num 25**).

[stranger] Hebrew: **nokriy** (OT:5237), foreign woman;  
not of Abraham's line (**Gen 17:12**).

## PROVERBS 2:16

***PRO 2:16 To deliver you from the strange woman,  
From the adulteress who flatters with her words;  
[NASB]***

### **Seven sins of the prostitute:**

1. She flatters with her lips (**Prov 2:16**).
2. She forsakes parental guidance (**Prov 2:17**).
3. She forgets God's covenant  
— renounces true religion or marriage vows.
4. She shortens her life (**Prov 2:18**).
5. She leads others to hell.
6. She destroys men utterly (**Prov 2:19**).
7. She leads to permanent ruin.

## PROVERBS 2:17

***PRO 2:17 ¶ someone who abandoned the companion of her  
youth and forgot the covenant of her God. [ISV]***

***PRO 2:17 Which forsaketh<sup>H5800</sup> the guide<sup>H441</sup> of her youth,<sup>H5271</sup>***  
*and forgetteth<sup>H7911</sup> the covenant<sup>H1285</sup> of her God.<sup>H430</sup> [KJV]*

***PRO 2:17 That leaves the companion of her youth And forgets  
the covenant of her God; [NASB]***

***PRO 2:17 who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the  
covenant she made before God. [NIV]***

When a married woman says to another man, "I want you, you're handsome, you make me feel alive again" — that woman has forsaken the man she fell in love with and has forgotten her covenant with Christ (**v. 17**).

This is a churchgoing woman in view here.

And she is offering you her love?

Her husband means nothing to her, and she wants you involved?

## PROVERBS 2:18-19

**While what is being said here is certainly true of a physical illicit sexual relationship with a woman who is not a man's wife, keep in mind that a relationship with a 'strange woman' is being used here as a simile representing one who is enticed by a 'strange' idea and who abandons a right covenant relationship with God for the lies of another.**

**Verses 18, 19** are warning us that there is no such thing as a one-night stand. It gets complicated fast.

We need nothing less than an almighty Savior to extricate us from the bondage of sexual sin.

If wisdom has entered your heart, you will know what to do, right then and there, at the moment of temptation.

**Run!**

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## PROVERBS 2:18-19

Wisdom is more than avoiding sin.

That would be merely negative.

Wisdom also escorts us into the path of everything desirable.

When tempted or enticed,

- go home to your spouse,
- look deeply into their eyes,
- tell them you love them, and
- give your heart to them completely,  
for the sheer joy of it, all over again.

**This is true whether it concerns your relationship with your spouse or your relationship with God.**

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## PROVERBS 2:18

**PRO 2:18 ¶ For her house leads down to death, and her paths down to the realm of the dead. [ISV]**

**PRO 2:18 For<sup>H3588</sup> her house<sup>H1004</sup> inclineth<sup>H7743</sup> unto<sup>H413</sup> death,<sup>H4194</sup> and her paths<sup>H4570</sup> unto<sup>H413</sup> the dead.<sup>H7496</sup> [KJV]**

**PRO 2:18 For her house sinks down to death And her tracks lead to the dead; [NASB]**

**PRO 2:18 For her house leads down to death and her paths to the spirits of the dead. [NIV]**

[dead] Hebrew: **rapha°** (OT:7496) Rephaim.

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## PROVERBS 2:19

**PRO 2:19 ¶ None who go to her return, nor do they reach the paths of life. [ISV]**

**PRO 2:19 None<sup>H3808</sup> H3605 that go unto<sup>H935</sup> her return again,<sup>H7725</sup> neither<sup>H3808</sup> take they hold<sup>H5381</sup> of the paths<sup>H734</sup> of life.<sup>H2416</sup> [KJV]**

**PRO 2:19 None who go to her return again, Nor do they reach the paths of life. [NASB]**

**PRO 2:19 None who go to her return or attain the paths of life. [NIV]**

In spite of how strong this verse is, anyone who will follow the gospel program which gives hope for all can easily be saved by God (**Matt 12:31-32; Heb 7:25; 1 John 1:9**).

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### (3) Walking with the righteous (vv. 20—22).

The argument that Solomon gives in this chapter begins with:

- **If** in **verse 1**: if we receive God's words and obey them,
- **Then** in **verse 9**: then we will have wisdom to make wise decisions, and
- **Thus** in **verse 20**: thus God will keep His promise and protect us from the evil man and the strange woman.

When you obey God, you have the privilege to “**walk in the ways of good men**” (v. 20 NIV).

If you follow the Word of God, you will never lack for the right kind of friends.

The wicked may appear to be succeeding, but their end is destruction (**Ps. 37**).

The godly will be rooted in the place of God's blessing (**Ps. 1:1-3**), but the ungodly will be uprooted from the land.

The safest most satisfying path is the path of wisdom, the path of life.

## PROVERBS 2:20-22

***So you will walk in the way of the good  
and keep to the paths of the righteous.  
For the upright will inhabit the land,  
and those with integrity will remain in it,  
but the wicked will be cut off from the land,  
and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.***

The conclusion to **Proverbs 2** points to the resource we all need for constant new beginnings in our lives.

The clue is “**the land**,” the place of God's blessing, in v**21-22**.

## Eight If's of Blessing (**Prov 2:1**)

The blessings are for heeding the Eight If's of Blessing.

### Eight If's of Blessing (**Prov 2:1**)

1. If you receive My words (**Prov 2:1**)
2. If you hide (as a treasure) My commandments
3. If you incline your ear to wisdom (**Prov 2:2**)
4. If you apply your heart to understanding
5. If you cry after knowledge (**Prov 2:3**)
6. If you lift your voice for understanding
7. If you seek for knowledge as for silver (**Prov 2:4**)
8. If you search for knowledge as for hidden treasure

## PROVERBS 2:20-22

If you want a new heart of wisdom, you've got company — “the good,” “the righteous,” “the upright,” and “those with integrity.”

We are all together in “the land” — that is, in New Testament terms, in Christ.

“Inhabiting the land” is Old Testament language for “abiding in Christ.”

***“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you” (John 15:7)***

Your most meaningful prayer is to “**Call out for insight**” and “**raise your voice for understanding**” (v. 3).

The whole passage is meant to position us in that place of blessing and protection.

## PROVERBS 2:20-22

A tsunami of sin is slamming us in our world today, and all of us are suffering under it.

Sometimes that suffering is our own fault, because we have been complacent and unguarded or rebellious.

Other times that suffering is precisely because we have stayed true to the Lord.

However and whenever we are suffering, our real business is with Christ.

He is saying to us:

“Come to me. Deal with me. I am able to restore you out of your past failings and defend you for the future. Hurl yourself at me in all your need. I will give myself to you in all my grace. My wisdom will enter your heart in ways you’ve never known before.”

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## PROVERBS 2:20

**PRO 2:20 ¶ This is how you will walk in the way of good men and will keep to the paths of the righteous. [ISV]**

**PRO 2:20 That<sup>H4616</sup> thou mayest walk<sup>H1980</sup> in the way<sup>H1870</sup> of good<sup>H2896</sup> men, and keep<sup>H8104</sup> the paths<sup>H734</sup> of the righteous.<sup>H6662</sup> [KJV]**

**PRO 2:20 So you will walk in the way of good men And keep to the paths of the righteous. [NASB]**

**PRO 2:20 Thus you will walk in the ways of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous. [NIV]**

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## PROVERBS 2:21

**PRO 2:21 ¶ For the upright will live in the land, and people of integrity will remain in it. [ISV]**

**PRO 2:21 For<sup>H3588</sup> the upright<sup>H3477</sup> shall dwell in<sup>H7931</sup> the land,<sup>H776</sup> and the perfect<sup>H8549</sup> shall remain<sup>H3498</sup> in it. [KJV]**

**PRO 2:21 For the upright will live in the land And the blameless will remain in it; [NASB]**

**PRO 2:21 For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; [NIV]**

The 2nd prophecy in Proverbs (**Prov 2:21-22**, unfulfilled).  
Next, **Prov 3:35**.

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## PROVERBS 2:22

**PRO 2:22 ¶ But the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be uprooted from it. [ISV]**

**PRO 2:22 But the wicked<sup>H7563</sup> shall be cut off<sup>H3772</sup> from the earth,<sup>H4480 H776</sup> and the transgressors<sup>H898</sup> shall be rooted<sup>H5255</sup> out of<sup>H4480</sup> it. [KJV]**

**PRO 2:22 But the wicked will be cut off from the land And the treacherous will be uprooted from it. [NASB]**

**PRO 2:22 but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the unfaithful will be torn from it. [NIV]**

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