

## An Easter Proverb

**Proverbs 2:1-12a** – O how I long for such wisdom, insight, & understanding!

If we want to walk the path of God's intended design for us, as His people, then we should read this book - *"receive these words from God", "treasure up His commandments", "let our ears be attentive to wisdom", "incline our hearts to understanding", "call out for insight", "search for such things like hidden treasures"*

My parents understood the importance of this book, and they ingrained such wisdom into me as their son. They believed the words of **Proverbs 22:6**

I was taught that this was the way to bring honor & glory to God with our lives – to seek out & apply Godly wisdom! **Proverbs 4:5-9!** **This is the way!**

That statement reminds me of one of the redeeming parts of the pandemic – The release of "The Mandalorian" TV series on Disney +.

There was a code of conduct by which the Mandalorian lived his life, and when asked about it his reply was always, *"This is the way!"* **As the people of God, Proverbs teaches us "the way" that God intended for us to live!**

Examples: A quick survey of various Proverbs

Why am I sharing all this today? **What does this have to do with Easter?**

I don't know about you, but the more proverbs I read, the more I realize how far I fall short of the way of life that God has called me to live!

Can anyone else relate? **God has placed this book of wisdom before us, but too often we stumble and fall with every command!** I'm glad I'm not alone!

Even King Solomon, who had unparalleled wisdom & who wrote these very proverbs, did not abide by them. He wrote **Proverbs 5:18-23**... yet he walked the undisciplined path & was led astray in his folly (700 wives, 300 concubines)!

This is why Larry Crabb, in the 66 Love Letters, asks this inquisitive question: *"Why am I supposed to listen to Solomon tell me to go on a diet, that he himself followed, & got fat?"* This formula doesn't seem to be very effective!

We can try to live a certain way, & apply every effort we have towards it, & yet we still fall short! **The wisdom, knowledge & ways of God are simply beyond our ability to attain as fallen sinners in this world!** But there's hope!

In the wisdom of God, He has provided for us another way! Maybe what we need to hear most from this book this morning is **Proverbs 3:5-6**

***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart & lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths!"***

Maybe the wisdom of God goes beyond a "to do" list that we could never live up to! Maybe the wisdom of God also points us to a way that leads to a righteousness that is beyond our own understanding!

The Apostle Paul in **1 Corinthians 1:18-31** writes these words, under the subtitle - *"Christ the wisdom and power of God"...* It is Christ Jesus, *"who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, sanctification & redemption"*

God, in His wisdom, had a better way in mind! That we, His people, might obtain a wisdom, righteousness, sanctification & redemption apart from our own works, but in total dependence upon a Savior of His own liking!

If in our own wisdom we conclude that we must live a life pleasing to God for God to accept us, then we must stop leaning on that understanding and instead ***"trust in the Lord with all our heart"*** & in His provisionary Savior!

For some, the wisdom of God in Jesus Christ sounds like foolishness! **They won't accept a substitutionary atonement, b/c they don't think they need it!** The Apostle Paul says that they think this way b/c they are perishing!

For others, the wisdom of God in Jesus Christ is a stumbling block b/c in their own wisdom they think they can either earn their way or find another one!

**The resurrection of Jesus is the exclamation point on the wisdom of God!** God's power over sin, and sin's consequences, is put on full display in Christ!

Apart from the wisdom of God we would all fall into either of these 2 categories

- 1) The Gentile – who thinks Jesus, & the need for salvation, is nonsense!
- 2) The Jew – who thinks Jesus is offensive because He sacrificed Himself!

**But to those who are followers of "The Way",** who choose a greater wisdom than their own, they will put on the helmet (just like the Mandalorian) & will never take it off again! Our helmet is salvation in Christ (Ephesians 6:17)!

We all seek wisdom! The question is what wisdom are we seeking?

**1 Corinthians 1:21-24** – Christ is the very wisdom of God - **our Easter proverb!**

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