THE WAY OF WISDOM

Proverbs 9:1-12

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Do you consider yourself a teachable person? How do you typically react when someone gives you feedback or criticism?
- What do you think it means to “fear the Lord”? Do you think “fearing the Lord” is healthy or unhealthy for a person’s faith?

People deemed “wise” by worldly standards are not always wise by biblical standards. Discover the characteristics of godly wisdom found in Proverbs; learn how to cultivate wisdom, explore what it means to live wisely by God’s standards, and remember that we find our ultimate source of God’s wisdom in Jesus Christ.

Listen:*The Way of Wisdom*

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Proverbs 9:10a says “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,” In Segment 2, hosts Scott Hoezee and Dave Bast discuss what it means to have a healthy reverence for God. They note that some believers tend to be overly terrified of God and others overly nonchalant about God’s power and love. Which extreme do you tend to lean toward? How do you think that tendency impacts your faith?
- In volume 23 of *The Works of Cardinal John Henry Newman*, Cardinal Newman wrote, "Though He is our Saviour, and has removed all slavish fear of death and judgment...we are still to "serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with reverence,"...*fear and love must go together*…. In heaven, love will absorb fear; but in this world, *fear and love must go together*. No one can love God aright without fearing Him; though many fear Him, and yet do not love Him" (Google Books, p. 303). Do you agree that the fear of God and the love of God must go together? Why or why not? Can you think of an example of love and fear working together in your faith or in the faith of another?
- In segment 3, Dave says, “Jesus is our wisdom—he is wisdom from God; and in him we find our righteousness, our holiness, and our redemption—everything—all the treasures of God are found in Jesus Christ. So really, the ultimate in wisdom is to come to know Jesus.” Have you ever thought of wisdom in such relational terms? If ultimate wisdom comes through knowing Jesus, what does it look like to pursue wisdom, or how do you identify a wise person?
- Scott and Dave discussed how the people of Corinth associated wisdom with knowledge, strength, and courage. How does our modern culture define wisdom and where do people tend to seek wisdom? How can you find ways to share godly wisdom with those around you?

Related Passages

- **Psalm 111:10**
- **Psalm 14:1**
- **Proverbs 8:13**
- **Proverbs 16:6**
- **Deuteronomy 10:12-13**
- **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

Conclusion

Reflect on Dave's words from segment 1:

> "It doesn't hurt God if you are fool, but it will hurt you; whereas, wisdom will lead to life; and the reason Proverbs is so passionate about this is because it wants us to live; God wants us to live."

Spend some time in prayer giving thanks to God for his wisdom and for his love for us. Ask God to show you areas in your life where you are not truly living according to his wisdom. Then, pray that the Holy Spirit would help you grow in these areas by strengthening your knowledge of and your relationship with Jesus Christ.

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