

Setting Sail “Listening to Instruction”

- Intro:
1. Solomon gave his purpose for writing in Proverbs 1:2-6
 2. Solomon’s purpose seems to help the reader listen to instruction and gain wisdom.

I. The Voice of Instruction

A. Speaks as to a son

1. **Pro 1:8, 10; 2:1-2; 3:1**
2. With this in mind the instructions given are to be understood as counsel to a son from a loving father.

B. Do you take directions well?

1. Many people are not good at taking directions and are worse at receiving instructions. There aren’t many people who enjoy being told what to do. What is your attitude toward instructions that are given to you?
2. Unless we follow the directions we are given we cannot benefit from the wisdom found within them. Much like medicine, no one benefits from it unless they take it.

II. Attitudes toward Instruction

A. 1st- Receive the words

1. To receive means to have the desire to learn. We must remember what Solomon was teaching was godly wisdom.
2. **Pro 2:2-3** tells us of three things that must be involved in receiving knowledge: the ear, the heart and the voice. It seems the writer is telling us that we need to be fully involved if we are to learn and grow.

B. 2nd - Store up the Word of God in our hearts

1. There must be a true desire and effort on the part of the person receiving the Lord’s instructions.
2. We must put forth the effort. We only get out what we put in.

C. 3rd Incline your ear to Wisdom (**Pro 2:2**)

1. We must not just hear but learn (**2 Tim 3:7**).
2. There is a lot of “hearing” today but not much learning. This can happen because we are present physically but absent mentally.
3. Unless we are ready to receive the word that can save our souls (James 1:21b) we will not enjoy any lasting benefit of studying the Bible.

D. 4th Cry out for discernment (**Pro 2:3**)

1. Discernment carries with it the ability to understand and to decipher between good and evil, right and wrong.
2. Discernment means we analyze a matter in consideration with the facts available. In the search for wisdom, the facts are furnished by God’s Word. So, whatever information we need to make a good sound decision, God has provided it for us.

- E. 5th Seek & Search for the treasures of wisdom only found deep in God's Word (**Pro 2:4**)
1. In proverbs wealth often doesn't refer to money and possessions but to spiritual wisdom.
 2. If we are to gain wisdom, true godly wisdom, we have to be willing to dig deep and find the true wisdom God has revealed for his servants.

III. Accepting God's Discipline

- A. Being Disciplined is not enjoyable (Heb 12:11).
1. Being disciplined often comes in the form of correction. No one enjoys being corrected. We are encouraged to not despise the chastening of the Lord (Pro 3:11-12).
 2. To despise means to "abhor, loathe or to feel disgust over." These are common feelings when we are corrected.
- B. We should not despise God's correction and we should realize why He corrects us – He loves us (Heb 12:5-11).
1. If we are not corrected by God then we are not His children.
 2. God receives those who accept His correction.
 3. He corrects us for our profit-that we might continually partake of His holiness.
 4. Our acceptance of God's discipline brings the peaceable fruit of righteousness.
- God's correction is to our advantage in every way.

- Conc: 1. God's wisdom allows Him to know what is best for us, not just for the moment, but in the picture of eternity.
2. We ought to receive God's instruction out a sincere desire to please Him.

Questions

1. What can be helpful in getting more out of sermons and Bible classes?
2. How can we store up God's Word in our hearts?
3. How do we know what God wants us to do in any given situation in life?
4. What is the main purpose of God's discipline?