

# PROVERBS: Wisdom for Living

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## Study 4: Effort that's rewarded

**READ** Proverbs 2:1-22 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig Baxter's [sermon](#).

How can we grow in godliness? How do we best be salt and light in this world while not being adversely affected by this world? In other words, how do you grow in sanctification; that progressive disconnect from sin toward righteousness? These are the questions this passage answers. In this study we will discover that sanctification is not something that is handed to us, but something that is attained through spirit dependent effort to seek wisdom and understanding through the Word of God.

**Main lesson:** The Lord gives wisdom to those who earnestly seek Him, which leads to a changed life today, protection tomorrow, and security for eternity

### Questions:

1. What is the difference between justification and sanctification? Use a Bible dictionary to help define each meaning. See Eph 2:8-10; Phil 2:12; 3:12-15.
  
2. A. From vv. 1-4, whose responsibility is it to seek wisdom? How does this relate to our sanctification?  
  
B. How should the son seek wisdom? What might be the motivation or attitude the son should have? Rule keeping or desire? Explain. See 1 John 4:19.  
  
C. What is your attitude in seeking Christ through His Word? What might be the reason for this?

3. What does God promise those who diligently pursue the attainment of Godly wisdom (vv. 5-8)? See also Jeremiah 10:6-7a; John 14:23.
  
4. V. 9 promises that if we diligently pursue godly wisdom (meaning, devotion to Christ our Saviour), we will understand righteousness and justice and every good path. Why is this the case? See v. 10.
  
5. How does this inner transformation guard you and watch over you (v. 11), as you are being driven by desire and not rule keeping? See Jeremiah 15:16.
  
6. There is a vast difference between following Christ out of obligation and following Christ out of a love for Him. Why do you follow Christ?
  
7. Practically speaking, how does this inner transformation "deliver" (vv. 12 and 16, meaning "to liberate out of being held fast") you from "men of perverted speech" and "women with smooth words"?
  
8. Can you summarize the main argument of the chapter in one sentence and what will you do as a result of this study?

### STOP AND PRAY:

**Praise:** the Lord for His righteousness, justice and storehouse of wisdom

**Thank:** God for giving you His Word and Spirit to guide you into all wisdom and truth

**Pray:** that God would give you an insatiable hunger to know Christ and grow in Him