

Topical Message
Wisdom: A Jewel of Life
Pastor Mac

DAVID: Heavenly Father, we come before You, to exalt You, Lord, in our lives. Thank You for always being in our lives, Lord. May You bless this time, Lord, and bless the Word and bless Pastor Mac. Thank You. We love You. In Jesus' name.

PASTOR Mac: Amen. Praise the Lord. How's everybody doing? Please be seated. Well, good evening amazing, wonderful church. And on behalf of Pastor JD Farag, we welcome you here to Calvary Kaneohe and our Thursday night, mid-week Bible study. And we're so looking forward to what the Lord has for us this evening.

We just had our prayer meeting, but I want to remind you of the next one, so you have plenty of time to plan accordingly to come out and join us in some corporate prayer. So our next prayer meeting will be held on the 3rd of February here in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

I would invite all of you to come out and pray as a corporate body, church body. We need as much prayer as we possibly can pray up. And we're never prayed up, so we need to keep praying up and looking up. Oh, man, I can't wait, right? So if you're able to come out, please do so. We'd love to have you join with us in prayer.

All right. So before we begin, let's jump right to it. Let's ask for the Lord's blessing on our time together tonight.

Father in heaven, oh, we do exalt You. And we thank You so much for who You are. We thank You for this time that You've given to us that we can come together and be able to hear Your word of truth. We're looking forward to what You have for us this evening. So would You quiet our hearts? Help us to only focus on what You are going to say. And Lord, may it penetrate our hearts and minds and souls that we would be of better use for the furtherance of Your kingdom to come.

So Lord, meet us here by the power and strength of Your might. We're looking forward to everything that You will speak in and through our lives. In the mighty name of Yeshua, Jesus, the Christ, we do pray. Amen. Praise God. All right, so let's get to it.

Tonight, we're going to be conducting a teaching in the *Book of Proverbs, Chapter 8*, by the way. Huh? Do you see that? And it's titled, 'Wisdom: A Jewel of Life.' And that's exactly

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what wisdom is. Don't you agree? The Bible tells us that **“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore, get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.”**

Now, just to hear those words, **“wisdom is the principal thing,”** that should grab our attention and keep our attention. And this kind of wisdom is not produced by the world. Let's just get that out there. This is godly wisdom. And it's from godly wisdom that each of us are able to make decisions regarding an ungodly world, and that enables us to please and glorify God.

And like all things, godly wisdom is not obtained overnight. It's a process. And even the greatest thinkers in the world, the greatest philosophers, after they come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, they all have to still obtain the wisdom of God. Being an intellectual apart from God is still foolish in the eyes of God. For it is written, **“He will bring the wisdom of the world to nothing.”** Think about that statement.

Now, we talk about the *Book of Proverbs* often and for good reason, because there's so many valuable lessons as it pertains to godly wisdom within the *Book of Proverbs*, Ecclesiastes, as well, and of course, the Book of Job. But this is why we challenge ourselves to read a chapter of Proverbs each and every day because of its wisdom. Because, again, it's the principal thing. So how do we explain the wisdom of God? In one word: Jesus.

And we can see this captured in the *Book of 1 Corinthians*, in Chapter 1, verses 30 and 31. The word of God reads, **“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God — and righteousness and sanctification and redemption — that, as it is written, ‘He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.’”**

Do we see this? He is our wisdom, our righteousness, our sanctification, and our redemption. In other words, Christ is everything to us. But if we were to put wisdom in practical terms, we could perhaps speak on it to this degree. I put together a long definition, so bear with me. Wisdom encompasses both intellectual capacity and moral understanding, rooted in its divine nature, because true wisdom is acknowledging that all wisdom originates from God who created all things.

Now, human wisdom alone is capable of skill and cunning acts, but it finds its true beginning in the reverence of God. That distinguishes it from purely humanistic philosophical

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approaches. This wisdom is not merely intellectual but deeply moral, *[And we know that]* often characterized by many virtues: diligence, trustworthiness, self-control, and a few others.

Ultimately, though, true wisdom transcends intellectual knowledge, culminating in an encounter with the Divine, and that is made complete in the understanding of Christ's life, death, and resurrection that represents the ultimate wisdom of God. So this is what these verses speak to, as well as everything that was said as a whole. Together we have a good baseline for a major concept regarding divine wisdom.

Now, it's also been noted that in the *Book of Proverbs*, wisdom cries out on three occasions. That's very notable. And when she does, she is proclaiming three principles for all mankind. First, we have wisdom calling out for the salvation of man, specifically in *Chapter 1*, in verse 33. The word of God says, **“But whoever listens to me [Speaking of wisdom] will dwell safely and will be secure, without fear of evil.”** This is a promise that divine wisdom provides.

Then here in *Chapter 8*, as we will see, wisdom is calling out for a man to live a prosperous life. And this is not only in the here and now, but also by storing up divine treasures that would be on full display in eternity.

Now, those who understand this concept know that this is not some plea to become rich. This is not what it is. This is a pledge for those who utilize the wisdom of God according to the will of God.

Now, if His will is for substance on your part to be increased, guess how you will know that's a fact? Because He will add no sorrow with it. But substance increase does not have to happen in order for us to be prosperous living under God. And then in *Chapter 9*, wisdom calls out in order for mankind to have a protected life.

Now, who does not want a life that's divinely protected? Think about that. And in each case, as we will see, wisdom is crying out. And we need to take a note of this. God does not leave us stranded trying to find out things about Him. No. Again, wisdom is crying out. The question is: Do we have our receptors open to hear her cry?

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Now, we do have 36 verses to get through. (Chuckling) And Lord willing, we are going to do it. We are going to just get through it. You follow me? This is a mid-week Bible study. You know how we get down.

Now, many of these verses are going to be taken altogether collectively. And some of them are poetic, so we won't have to do such a deep dive in them. But the goal is to pull all the nuggets that we can in our time together. All right? And since this is the proverb of today, it should be simple because all of you read it, right? Huh? There will be a quiz coming up soon.

[Laughter]

All right. We're going to take some of these in clusters, like I said, and expound on them. And with that, *verses 1 through 3 of Proverbs, Chapter 8*. The word of God reads, "**Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice? She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, beside the way, where the paths meet. She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors.**"

So all together, six different locations. The number six represents man. And one of the questions that often gets asked is why does the word of God proclaim wisdom as a she? We see that, right? Now, the simple answer is because God said so. Right? We can leave it like that. But there's a slight technical answer if you will.

And that's because wisdom, the word "wisdom" in the Hebrew is a feminine noun, and that's why it's utilized or referred to as a "she." And also note this: that captured within the Proverbs, Solomon is discussing these words to a young man, his son. So it fits and marries well within the context.

In other words, it makes it so relatable, no matter who is reading this, because of this integral relationship that's being demonstrated. Its familiar: male and female. Right? Now, I know today there's other groups. Yeah, you know? But that's not how the Bible gets down.

Now, like we alluded to earlier, wisdom is crying out from every area to ensure that all of mankind has the opportunity to hear about wisdom, divine wisdom. And that's made clearly

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known once we get to *verse 4*. But even here, just listen to how the word of God speaks about this cry out. First, from the high hills. We know that this, from a military standpoint, is strategic. It's the places where the lookouts were. Those on watch. And this spot would have been one of the most fortified places in the city. And in this case, we have wisdom who is watching. Are we tracking? Wisdom.

This is the best place to see and also sound the alarm. And this is exactly what wisdom is doing. And then we have the phrase "**beside the way.**" And this phrase is used throughout the Old Testament, especially in regards to choosing the right path, either the road of righteousness or the road of unrighteousness. And then we see that the road comes in contact where the paths meet. This is the crossroad where that final decision is made. And we see wisdom is there.

We can even consider this on a social scale. The high places: those who are high up on the social scale, and then the paths, those who are lower on the social scale. But not only that, but at the gates where the courts were. This is where the wise men were at. Then we also have the entry to the city. That's where the majority of the commerce took place. And then the entrance of the doors. This is where more personal business would take place there. The point is, all of this is where everyone passes through from all social classes at some point. Wisdom's cry is out there, and wisdom's cry out is a fact.

Do you hear me? And because it's a fact, guess what? We all hear wisdom. The cry is there. Also notice this. The cry is continuous. It's an active cry. She has hasn't cried out. No. "**Does not wisdom cry out...**"

Do we see that? Again, so because it's continuous, we all have to deal with it. In other words, it's happening right now. And what this shows is when it comes to wisdom, it's not some constant toil or quest that mankind must do in order to obtain it. No. It's actually a response to what God, in His grace, has and continues to provide. Do we see this? She is still crying.

But in order to begin to attain His wisdom, that comes with a requirement that we must be submissive to it. That's the positive response in order for the positive outcomes that divine

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wisdom offers. We have to respond to it. And that's typically where the breakdown happens. Oh, we just don't want to be submissive to His wisdom.

So what do we expect the results to be? And we should also be reminded that wisdom is not the only one who cries out. Foolishness cries out as well. Do you hear me? And when we choose not to listen to the cry of wisdom, it's an automatic default that we listen to the cry of folly. Are we tracking, church?

Now let's see how *verses 4 through 7* adds to this picture. As the word of God reads, "**To you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men. O you simple ones, understand prudence, and you fools, be of an understanding heart. Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, and from the opening of my lips will come right things; for my mouth will speak truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips.**"

Okay. First, we can see how in *verse 4*, the cry of wisdom opens up to the sons of men. Do we see that? Then in *verse 5*, it goes to the simple ones and continues on to the fools. And we have some specific guidance toward the simple ones and the fools. You see that? And there's one thing we need to remember before we move on. It's that all of us — okay?

We are not going to get away with this. All of us are somewhere on that spectrum between simple ones and fools, at least from time to time. And it's safe to say that absent divine wisdom, at best, we're all simple ones. At best.

And the word "simple" in the Hebrew means "naive." Simple-mindedness speaks to someone who's unlearned. And again, this is where we are absent divine understanding, in most cases, naive. But the fool, on the other hand, is one who has had the opportunity to evaluate the wisdom that has been presented and rejects it.

But even there, look at what wisdom continues to do. Wisdom calls for the fool to change his mind and have an understanding heart. Do we see that? Now, that's how amazing our God is. You know why He does that? Because He knows that we are fools. That's why. But the good news is that for everyone who's listening, you are not simple ones or fools because you are listening to the excellent things that God has to offer. This is the difference.

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Now, again, we can all be naive and fools from time to time, but because we are seeking God, we are not in that category as simple ones or all-out fools. But the way we can easily become all-out fools while even listening to the excellent things of God is by not applying those excellent lessons by the word of God. And we often need to be reminded of that, so we don't become all-out fools. But again, even in our foolishness, the Lord is so faithful and continues to call us to His wisdom.

Now, also notice there is one group of people that the Lord does not reach out to, and that's the scorner or scoffer or the mocker. Do we see that? And there's a reason for that. Because we are told, "He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, and he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself." Do we hear that? So here is wisdom. Just spoke it for each and every one of us to take heed to and make it a reality in our lives.

Now, if we're spiritually discerned, we can indeed talk to those and teach those who are naive and/or who may be considered foolish. But we are not to rebuke or try to correct those who are mockers. Do we see this? If the living God has left them off the list, we would do well to do so ourselves when it comes to this. And this is often a tough one because we want to play hero Christian, don't we? Because we have someone in our family that fits this category. "I can save them. I went to church all month. My spiritual aura is up."

Bad idea. Sometimes we feel wronged by people who mock, and we want to claim that we're defending the faith. So we want to try to correct them when the word of God says leave the mocker and scoffer off that list. The word of God is clear. In following His divine wisdom is divine protection.

Veres 8 to 11, the word of God reads, "All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; nothing crooked or perverse is in them. They are all plain to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge. Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her."

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That's just a mic drop as it comes to wisdom. And before we dive into this, we can obviously see how wisdom is viewed by the living God. And let's start off by asking ourselves a few questions. First, do we believe that every word of God is righteous? All right. Great job.

Now, if we do, which we do, are we willing to follow it? I don't hear no yeses. What's the matter with you people? (Chuckling) Willing, right? All right. And if we are willing, then what's the biggest obstacle that prevents us from doing it? Right? I mean, this should cause all of us to think.

We should think about this answer that we would give to these questions. Because sometimes it's pride. Sometimes it's a lack of faith. Sometimes it's a fear of loss, even though the wisdom of God is better than rubies and all things one may desire cannot be compared to her. Even though, we still have a fear of loss because too often we are more concerned about the temporal losses that may occur by following what the word of God says.

This happens a lot in courtship, especially here in Hawaii. Right? People are afraid to get married; lose a couple of bucks here and there. Right? It's a reality. But the word of God says, do this. He will bless you. But people are afraid. Fear of loss. Maybe pride in there. We can do it better our way, God. We've got it all figured out. But that's a huge one, and it needs to be worked out. Trust in the Lord. He will do what He says.

And I don't believe that there's any other set of expressions that could be captured here that would show the overall importance of wisdom. And the verses that we just read are not the most poetic verses.

So you know what that means? What's being said right now from verses 8 to 11 are pointed verses, not poetic. That's for us to consider the reality within them. In other words, this is real talk, and we need to take this real talk to heart. And isn't it true on how plain the wisdom of God is at face value?

Think about it. There's nearly no way that we can say, honestly, that we don't understand what God is communicating in this arena. But like the word of God says, it's only right to those who find knowledge. I mean, we all love to be knowledgeable, but finding knowledge is different because that kind of knowledge was already there. Are you following me? It's

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not something that was invented. We didn't invent it. No. And we're talking about the knowledge associated with God.

And in *verse 10*, we are given this charge, "**Receive my instruction.**" Do we see that? That's a choice. One has to be willing to receive. And that reception is to receive instruction over material wealth. Do we see that? Like we just mentioned. And King Solomon, as we know, was the wealthiest king of Israel. But in his prayer to the Lord, what did he ask for? Wisdom over wealth. Wisdom. That wealth was included afterwards.

And what about what's captured in the *Book of Matthew, Chapter 12*, and *verse 42*. Listen to how one would leave an entire kingdom in pursuit of wisdom. And this is Jesus speaking, by the way.

As the word of God reads, "**The queen of the South [Speaking of Queen Sheba] will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed, a greater than Solomon is here.**"

Now, think about this account. When she came to see Solomon, she would travel over 1500 miles, one-way, across desert, and all kinds of dangers in order to hear the wisdom of Solomon, by the Spirit of God. And again, she left behind an entire kingdom in order to obtain wisdom for herself, putting many of us to shame because we're not willing to travel ten miles to obtain the wisdom of God.

Now, we're all thankful for technology. We all use it. But in some cases, it becomes a crutch as well as an excuse. And it prevents us from obtaining the deeper wisdom based on how God intended it for us to assemble together. There is something to be said about being in the presence of God's people.

And think about it. She could have sent her scribes to King Solomon to write everything down, but she went herself, leaving everything behind. Wisdom is the true jewel of life, and she knew it. And of course, the preacher tells us the same thing because the preacher is King Solomon, and he's wise.

Captured in the *Book of Ecclesiastes, in Chapter 5, verses 10 and 11*, the word of God reads, "**He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance, with**

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increase. This also is vanity. When goods increase, they increase who eat them; so what profit have the owners except to see them with their eyes?"

This is why we must obtain wisdom, that wisdom of God to prevent each and every one of us from desiring things that we do not need. And we all can fall victim to this, no matter where we are on the social ladder.

We are told, "**Godliness with contentment is great gain.**" And if we understand that, that is indeed wisdom. And now we get into some of the more poetic verses. But still, even though they're poetic, these verses are the mind of God. So let's not forget this.

As the word of God reads in *verses 12 to 16*, "**I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge and discretion. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate. Council is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding, I have strength. By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice. By me princes' rule, and nobles, all the judges of the earth.**"

Now, notice in *verse 12*, we have "**knowledge and discretion.**" Do you see that? And what this speaks to is that this kind of knowledge is discretionary that comes by prudent wisdom. Are we tracking? It's also a wisdom that intertwines with intelligence. This is what the wisdom of God offers and produces. This also expresses that the wisdom of God is just not one-dimensional. Do we see this? His wisdom covers every aspect of wise thinking.

Now, in the beginning of *verse 13*, we get to this phrase, and we see this often used in the Scriptures: "**The fear of the Lord.**" Do we see that? Now one of the things about this phrase is that it has a broad range of meanings. It really does, based on how it's used within the Scriptures.

And like we just mentioned, we're in a more poetic section of the Proverbs. And because of that, this phrase is going to have a different meaning other than those that are not used in such a section. So capture the fear of the Lord in its totality here. The fear of the Lord is about authority towards the Lord, reverence towards the Lord, having awe towards the Lord, combined with a healthy submissive fear towards the Lord, without being afraid of the Lord because of having knowledge of the Lord. Are we good?

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And that knowledge of the Lord comes by His word. This is the fear that drives one to the Lord, because we desire to obtain godly wisdom. This is why the Proverbs would also say, **“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”** Godly wisdom can only come from God, and it's a requirement for life. Do you hear me?

Now, I believe it's because of this fear of the Lord, that I pray we all have, is how knowledge and understanding is executed that demonstrates the wisdom of God in order to conduct everything else that follows from *verse 13 down to verse 16*.

Think about that. Think about that. Because if we don't have this fear of the Lord, we will not hate what the Lord hates. If we don't have this fear of the Lord, we will not desire what the Lord desires. In addition to that, there is no counsel, long-lasting, absent the fear of the Lord. There is no sound or long-lasting wisdom, absent the fear of the Lord. There's no lasting understanding. There's no lasting strength. There's no lasting justice. And there is no lasting just rule.

And if we look around the world today, we see many so-called leaders of the earth, as well as so many experts in these technical fields, so many so-called learned people of all kinds of worldly enterprises. But absent the wisdom of God, their rulership and expertise are all in vain. And this is hard for people to understand. But nothing means anything in the end, absent the God of beginnings. It won't add up. His wisdom allows for true, just rulership. And the thing is those who are in power know it, and they have known it.

Listen to this example captured in the *Book of Deuteronomy, in Chapter 4, verses 5 and 6*. This is Moses speaking to the children of Israel. The word of God reads, **“Surely, I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. Therefore, be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’”**

Wait a minute. So you recognize that? How do you know that this nation is a wise and understanding people? Because the words of God's righteousness are plain. That's how

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they know. Are we tracking, church? No one can deny them. As soon as you acknowledge somebody as righteous, you've already said you know what righteous is. And that goes for any and everything else.

Verse 17 through 21, the word of God reads, “I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me. Riches and honor are with me, enduring riches, and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, and my revenue than choice silver. I traverse the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of justice, that I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, that I may fill their treasuries.”

Some more poetic language that even makes wisdom more personable. And what it does is put the onus on the reader to have an emotional attachment to wisdom. Do we see this? In other words, seeking wisdom diligently, that's a heartfelt act for us to do so. It's a genuine love, a desire, and it's unmistakable.

And when the word of God speaks, in *verse 18*, about riches, notice it's attached to honor and righteousness. Do we see that? This is the unique separation between those who possess earthly riches versus those who or will possess godly riches. Because the byproduct of godly wisdom will be seen in a person's godly character. Those are some of the most honorable riches.

And this is why in *verse 19* we see the fruit — see that? of that wisdom is better than fine gold and choice silver. And when talking about fine gold and choice silver, both of these are speaking about when the precious metals are flamed on, refined, and all of the dross is removed. Pure, no defects, no impurities.

And in *verse 20*, we can see that wisdom walks or travels. Wisdom does not just sit still. Wisdom is not idle. Wisdom is active. And with its pure walk it leads everyone who follows it in the way of righteousness and justice. Not only that, those who follow her will have an inheritance.

And this is how we know that inherited wealth, captured in *verse 21*, is related to storing up treasures in heaven by what we do with the time we have on this earth. Do we see this, church?

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Now, again, this is not to say that people of God cannot have wealth. This is not the case at all. But what the word of God is talking about here is not directly linked to monetary gains. We are talking about heavenly rewards.

Now, these next two clusters of verses begin to show the eternal important aspects of God's wisdom, as well as the creation and the sustaining impacts of God's wisdom. And once again, as we get into this, let's not allow the poetic nature of it to remove the implications of what's being discussed. A lot of times that can happen. That's why I repeat it.

This is actually kind of the crescendo, in fact, when it comes to what we've been reading tonight in this chapter, because it encompasses everything. And what we're going to see is that wisdom, of course, is an infused nature of God himself. Infused nature of God. And it's used within all of His creative works. All of them.

And what this does for us is provide us an example on how we are to utilize the wisdom of God as well through all of our works. Everything that we do should utilize wisdom. Wisdom was not and is not created.

Wisdom has always been, and we see this in *verses 22 to 26*. The word of God reads, **“The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth; while as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, or the primal dust of the world.”**

Again, we can see that wisdom is eternal. **“The Lord possessed me,”** meaning that wisdom is a part of who God is. Wisdom: already there because wisdom is God. God is the source of all wisdom. He is the path to wisdom. And then we see that each verse speaks about an ancient past in some way, before. And we should really be settled in *verse 23* when we read, **“I have been established from everlasting.”**

And the word in the Hebrew means exactly what it says: Eternity past. Everlasting. So this is the main theme of this cluster of verses. Eternal wisdom is indeed a characteristic of the eternal God. And because of that, it's also a characteristic of the eternal Son of God, as well as the Holy Spirit of God.

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Now, in the next group of verses, we begin to see the creation and sustaining power of the wisdom of God as *verses 27 through 31* shows. The word of God reads, **“When He prepared the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above, when He strengthened the fountains of the deep, when He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in His inhabited world, and my delight was with the sons of men.”**

So like we already mentioned, God's wisdom is infused in the creation and the sustaining of His creation. And by His example, we see that He delights in the use of that wisdom — do we see that? Which is another marker of why we should be applying His wisdom in everything that we do for His glory based on His righteousness, His righteous works. We are to imitate that.

And now I'm not talking about playing God. We're talking about living by His wisdom in whatever we do, which is exactly what the word of God speaks to throughout the New Testament. Regardless of what that is, it's all to be done in the name of the Lord. And in order for that to be honored, it needs to be done with the wisdom of the Lord. Do we see this? And now we come to the beginning of the end, so to speak.

And we'll see in this final plea captured in *verses 32 to 34* before we get to the final word. And the word of God reads, **“Now therefore, listen to Me, My children, for blessed are those who keep My ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not disdain it. Blessed is the man who listens to Me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of My doors.”**

Lots of poetry here as well. But notice within this poetic plea, we can also see two reminders as well as two blessings. Both of the reminders have to do with the ears. In *verse 32*, we're told to **“listen to Me, My children.”** Then in *verse 33*, we are told to **“Hear instruction and be wise.”**

So when it comes to hearing and listening, both are spoken of within these two verses. And don't we often hear people say that “You hear, but you just don't listen.” Right? People say

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that, right? What they're saying is that we can physically hear the tone, but we're not paying attention to receive what is being communicated. A lot of wives do that.

[Laughter]

I'm just saying it's true. And in these verses, King Solomon; notice, he solves that issue. He reminds us, by the Spirit of God, to listen and hear. Do we see that? But that's not the end of it because the blessings associated with them are in connection with an action that must be taken on our part.

And being blessed by the Lord, especially within the wisdom department, it takes care of so many problems that could come up in our lives. Right? Because divine wisdom will ensure that we always view our circumstances as well as this dying world from a biblical perspective in the light of eternity. And that alone changes everything. And one blessing is associated with keeping the ways of wisdom. Do you see that?

Keeping the ways of wisdom, meaning we cannot afford to have wisdom part-time or only wise on certain issues. We are charged with keeping wisdom. And one of the primary ways to keep wisdom is by never letting it go in the first place, right? as well as constantly pursuing wisdom. And this ties into the second blessing, and that's listening and watching daily. Do we see this?

So if true wisdom comes by God alone, and we're told here that the blessing comes by listening and watching daily, then what does that mean as it pertains to the word of God? Hmm? Oh, silence on the line? In other words, what does that say about how often we should be in the word of God?

[Congregation says, "All of the time."]

Bingo. All of the time. Daily. The word of God is the gate to wisdom, and on His post is His written word. Wherever we are in the word of God there's wisdom. And now Solomon ends with this amazing, pointed statement of truth captured in *verses 35 and 36*. The word of God reads, **"For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord; but he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; all those who hate me love death."**

Topical Message
Wisdom: A Jewel of Life
Pastor Mac

Simply put, obtaining wisdom is the difference between life and death. And while this speaks on a practical sense, this also has eternal implications. But from a practical standpoint, obtaining favor from the Lord, that's an amazing promise associated with godly wisdom. Don't you agree?

And we should all take this promise as well as all of the promises of God to heart. He will see to it that our lives have purpose, no matter the external situations. Our lives are found in His purpose for each of us. And His favor comes in many different ways. But whatever way it comes, it's always blessed. Always. This alone should motivate each of us to seek the wisdom of God.

Now, we should also have that conversation as it pertains to the eternal aspect. And the reason why we should include that is because there are so many people who live their lives as wise. At least they think they are. And they seem to have no problems at all. It's only when the backdrop of eternity is in place does it change and make the whole thing different.

Worldly wisdom will not save you in the end. Worldly possessions will not save you in the end. It's only the righteous wisdom of the true and living God that saves. And that righteous wisdom is manifested in the person of Jesus Christ. That wisdom is the jewel of life. And take note. If He is not the love of your life, then death is. Why don't we stand?

Father in heaven, thank You once again, for Your word of truth. It is amazing, and we cannot get enough of Your word. Would You even give us a deeper desire to be in Your word daily at Your gates, seeking Your wisdom, becoming wise for You, Your use for Your purpose, Your will. And may Your perfect will be done in and through our lives no matter what. So Lord, teach us continually, train us. And we love You. In the mighty name of Jesus, the Christ, we do pray. Amen.