

Prov 7:4 **Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your kinsman;** (NIV)

WE NOW LEAVE THE SECTION OF PROVERBS THAT DEAL WITH OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST AND HIS WISDOM AND GO INTO THE PRACTICAL MATTERS OF OUR CHRISTIAN WALK. THE EVERYDAY MATTERS OF LIFE HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR LORD AND THOSE AROUND US.

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE DIVISION BETWEEN THE TWO SECTIONS IN THIS WAY; SECTION ONE DEALT WITH OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH LADY WISDOM (THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND HIS WISDOM). **THE NEXT SECTION WILL DEAL UNDERSTANDING OUR KINSMAN, OUR BROTHER (OR SISTER IF-YOU-WILL).**

I BELIEVE THIS VERSE IS PIVOTAL - FOR THIS REASON. THIS VERSE IS ONE OF DECISION, A VERY IMPORTANT DECISION. FIRST, WE HAVE ALREADY SPENT THE FIRST TEN CHAPTERS ON THE SUBJECT OF LADY WISDOM. WE KNOW THAT OUR VERY LIVES DEPEND ON OUR RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH WISDOM AND A SEPARATED LIFE FROM THE PROMISCUITY OF FOLLOWING OUR OWN LUSTS.

THE NEXT DECISION WE MUST MAKE IN OUR LIVES IS TO HAVE A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR KINSMAN, UNDERSTANDING. UNDERSTANDING IS THE OUTWARD APPLICATION OF WHAT WE HAVE IN THE HEART. UNDERSTANDING IS A WELLSPRING OF LIFE THAT FLOWS OUT FROM THE HEART TOWARD OTHERS AROUND US¹. IT INVOLVES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NEW MAN THAT HAS BEEN CREATED WITHIN US AT OUR NEW BIRTH. IT IS THE AREA OF THE PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIFE.

THE PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A SUPERNATURAL LIFE

OUR TEXT HAS PERSONALIZED UNDERSTANDING. I WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP THIS PERSONALIZATION IN THE NEXT SEVERAL LESSONS AND APPLY THEM TO OUR PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIVING AND OUR LIFE IN CHRIST.

Eph 4:23 **And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.**

Col 3:3 **For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.** Col 3:10 **And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:**

ONE BIBLE STUDENT HAS COMPARED THE CHRISTIAN WALK WITH THE KIND OF FOOD WE EAT² - EITHER WE FEED THE OLD MAN OR WE FEED THE NEW. OUR KINSMAN UNDERSTANDING IS LIKE THAT. IF WE PURSUE LADY WISDOM AND THEN DECIDE TO APPLY WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED AT HER FEET. THEN OUR NEW MAN WILL GROW AND PROSPER. JESUS SET THE EXAMPLE FOR US; Luke 2:52 "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." WITH THESE CONDITIONS OUR KINSMAN UNDERSTANDING WILL GROW AND PROSPER.

DIFFERENT FACETS OF UNDERSTANDING

THE WORD "UNDERSTANDING" IS TRANSLATED FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT WORDS IN THE HEBREW;

Prov 16:22 **Understanding** is a fountain of life to those who have it, but folly brings punishment to fools.

CHRIST'S PRIORITIES

THERE ARE SEVERAL SHADINGS TO THIS HEBREW WORD *sekel*. IT BASICALLY MEANS TO HAVE A CORRECT *POLICY* OR SET OF PRIORITIES. THIS IS SO BASIC TO THE BELIEVER TO HAVE POLICY THAT IS FOUNDED ON LADY WISDOM. EXAMPLES OF USAGE ARE

¹ Prov 16:22 **"Understanding is a fountain of life to those who have it,..."**

² DO WE EAT JUNK FOOD OR DO WE EAT NUTRITIOUS FOOD THAT BUILDS AND MAINTAINS OUR BODIES?

AS FOLLOWS; ABIGALE, DAVID'S FUTURE WIFE, WAS AN *INTELLIGENT* (NIV) AND BEAUTIFUL WOMAN (1 SAM 25:3). SHE DEMONSTRATED THAT INTELLIGENCE (THE CORRECT POLICY OF SUPPORTING HER HUSBAND, NABAL, EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T DESERVE IT). ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THIS WORD IS FOUND IN **DAN 8:25** WHERE BY THE *POLICY* (SAME HEBREW WORD, KJV) THE ANTICHRIST DECEIT WILL PROSPER.

SO, BY HAVING CHRIST-CENTERED PRIORITIES OUR NEW MAN THRIVES AND OUT FROM OUR INNER BEING COMES LIFE - HIS LIFE, IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. THE IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER IS THAT WE MUST HAVE THIS UNDERSTANDING, THIS CHRIST-CENTERED *INTELLIGENCE* THAT COMES ONLY WHEN WE MAKE UNDERSTANDING OUR KINSMAN.

Prov 3:3 **Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: 4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.**

IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS "GOOD UNDERSTANDING" COMES FROM THE NEW NATURE NOT OUR OWN CLEVERNESS.

Prov 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own **understanding**.

CHRIST'S VIEWPOINT

THE NEXT HEBREW WORD FREQUENTLY TRANSLATED "UNDERSTANDING" IS *baynah*. IN THIS TEXT WE ARE TOLD NOT TO LEAN ON OUR OWN INTERPRETATION OF LIFE. **PROVERBS 4:5-7** PUTS AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING (*OUR WORD baynah*). THE ONLY SOURCE OF A CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF LIFE IS FROM JESUS CHRIST;

Prov 8:14 **Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.**

REMEMBER THIS SECTION? THIS IS JESUS CHRIST IN HIS PRE-INCARNATION SPEAKING. OUR PROBLEM IS THAT WE FREQUENTLY LOOK AT THINGS FROM *OUR* POINT OF VIEW. IF WE ARE TO "PUT ON THE NEW MAN" - IF WE ARE TO GROW AND HAVE THE CORRECT VIEWPOINT WE MUST GET IT FROM THE LORD - NOT OUR OWN CLEVER VIEWPOINT.

Isaiah 11:2 **And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;**

HERE'S ANOTHER REFERENCE TO OUR LORD. HE ALONE HAS THE PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF LIFE

LIVING THE CHRIST-LIKE LIFE

Prov 2:11 **Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:**

Prov 3:13 **Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.**

THE HEBREW FOR "UNDERSTANDING" HERE IS *tawbuwm*. IT MEANS THE CORRECT PRACTICE. THIS IS AN ACTION WORD. ALL OUR CHOICES UP TO NOW HAS BEEN IN THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER. THESE VERSES REFERS TO HIS ACTION. WE ARE TAUGHT THAT THE CORRECT "PRACTICE" - LIVING THE CHRIST-LIKE LIFE PRESERVES THE BELIEVER AND GIVES HIM HAPPINESS.

Eph 5:17 **Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.**

PAUL GIVES US THE COMMAND THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE UNWISE (ACTING ON OUR OWN WISDOM BUT UNDERSTAND - KNOW THE RIGHT THING TO DO - GOD'S WILL.