

IS OUR CHURCH ON THE RIGHT PATH?  
A DETERMINATION BY YOUR TESTIMONY

PROVERBS 2

- Intro: 1. "So, is what I see here intentional, or is it just happening in spite of everything?" This was asked of David Horner, pastor of Providence Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC.
2. What would you say if someone asked you this question?
  3. In Proverbs 2, God gives His people two promises and two directives for staying in the RIGHT PATHS in His service.

Prop: **You must Accentuate God's Word!**

**I. By Receiving and Treasuring It –Two Directives (2:1-6).**

1. v.1, "receive"=to accept, carry away, take for oneself  
v.1, "word"=something said (Exo.20:1;24:4;Isa.55:10-11; Ps.119:105; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim.3:15,16; Heb.1:1; 2<sup>nd</sup> Pet.1:21)  
v.1, "hide" = by covering over, esteem, protect  
v.2, "wisdom" = skillful use of knowledge  
v.2, "understanding"=discretion/reason  
v.3, "knowledge" = meaning  
v.5, "understand" = to separate mentally; distinguish  
\*v.5, "fear" = moral reverence  
v.5, "God" [Heb., plural, Elohim] = the triune, supreme  
v.5, "LORD" [Heb. Jehovah] = the self-existent/eternal one  
v.6, "sound wisdom" = substantiated
2. All aspects of intelligence are God's to give and ours to seek.
3. Notice the source of all intelligence→GOD'S: HIS WORD  
Notice the path for human acquisition→SEEK: Pray & Hear  
A shallow perception of God's Word leads to legalism, guilt, and judgmental fear of the Lord;  
While, in-depth study and knowledge leads one to properly understand a reverential fear of God that demonstrates love.
4. A football player who positioned perfectly downfield, sees the pass coming, receives the ball, holds it for life, and RUNS.
5. Friend, part of receiving God's word is putting it into action by faith—obedience is the true test of treasure

**II. Because It Preserves and Protects – Two Promises (2:7-22).**

1. v.7, "buckler" = a small shield, in an individual sense  
v.7, "uprightly" = completeness (2<sup>nd</sup> Tim.2:15, mature/active)  
v.8/11, "keepeth" = guards  
v.8, "judgment" = formal decree/law (we don't make our own)  
\*v.9, "righteousness" = natural, moral (c.f. Rom.1&2)  
v.11, "discretion" = a plan  
v.12, "deliver" = to snatch away  
v.22, "transgressors" = to cover; act covertly
2. Preservation is from within our hearts; Protection is from the outward forces working to destroy our effectiveness.
3. Romans 12:1-2 contrast inner force and outside pressure  
The "evil man" is the ungodly, worldly and wicked unbeliever; yet the "strange woman" is the familiar, yet worldly, Christian saying that which contradicts God's Word with appeal.  
The "strange woman" indicates the one to whom we are not married. The church is the bride of Christ. Jesus, the word made flesh, is our only mate—not human devices.  
V.17 indicates one who has strayed from foundations.  
V.18, cross ref. with (1<sup>st</sup> John 2:19)
4. When you can food in jars, you make sure the preservatives (salt, sugar, vinegar) are present and sealed within the glass in a vacuum, then you keep it on a safe shelf to protect the jar from being broken.
5. Dear one, God's Holy Spirit can do the sealing and preserving from within, as long as you flee from letting the world's spoiled wisdom break in and ruin the ministry you have.

Conc: ACCENTUATE GOD'S WORD:

- By Receiving It in Reading and Prayer.
- By Treasuring It in Obedience.
- Because IT Preserves Your Soul with Purity.
- Because IT Protects Your Ministry with Integrity.

Invit. Hymn: "His Way With Thee" ('56BH #239)