

PROVERBS: ALIGNING TO GOD'S FIXED MORAL ORDER FOR BLESSING

Part II: Sparking The Reader's Motivation To Heed God's Fixed Moral Order

C. Explaining To YOUNG MEN The VALUE Of WORKING To LEARN God's Fixed Moral Order (Proverbs 2:1-22)

I. Introduction

- A. Being young has its innate blessing as one's vigor provides an optimism for his whole life's outlook.
- B. However, such an optimism can lull a youth into being naive about the *pitfalls* to his *future* happiness.
- C. Knowing this, Solomon gave instruction to **motivate** his *young prince* to **WORK** at **learning** God's fixed moral order even though he may **not yet appreciate** the **value** of doing so (as follows):

II. Explaining To YOUNG MEN The VALUE Of WORKING To LEARN God's Fixed Moral Order.

- A. Proverbs 2 is a conditional construction as Pr. 2:1-4 comprise the "if-clause" and 2:5-22 the "then-clause".
- B. Accordingly, all the blessings one obtains or the tragedies he avoids as listed in Prov. 2:5-22 are **dependent upon** whether he does what is listed in Proverbs 2:1-4.
- C. Well, verses 1-4 address a young prince on his potentially **working hard** to learn God's fixed moral order:
 1. **PROVIDING** a young prince *accepted* Solomon's words, *treasuring* them up within him, *turning* his ear to God's fixed moral order ("wisdom"), *inclining* his heart to understanding, *calling out* for its insight and *crying aloud* for understanding, *looking* for it as silver and *searching* for it as hidden treasure, the blessings mentioned in verses 5-22 would be his.
 2. Accordingly, since the efforts of accepting, treasuring, turning the ear, inclining the heart, calling out and crying aloud for insight and understanding while seeking and searching for it as valuable, hidden treasure take **work**, Solomon urged the prince to **WORK HARD** to **learn** God's fixed moral order!
- D. The **blessings** of what tragedies one would thus avoid and what blessings he would thereby enjoy as a **RESULT** of investing **WORK** to obtain God's fixed moral order are provided in Proverbs 2:5-22:
 1. First, pursuing the fixed moral order of God will lead one to understand a healthy respect for Jahweh and find the knowledge of God, producing thereby God's **blessing** of His personal **help** in life, 2:5-8.
 - a. Solomon noted that a pursuit of God's fixed moral order would lead one to respect and know God, 5
 - b. One reason for this understanding is that **Jahweh versus** any **other Source** (Jahweh is in the emphatic position, cf. Biblia Hebraica, p. 1156) is the **Fount** of wisdom by way of His mouth (i.e., His Word), and He **treasures up** "wisdom that leads to practical success" (*tushiyah*, cf. Theological Wordbook of the O.T., v. I, p. 413) in that Word!
 - c. He **also** takes a personal, protective interest in one who applies His Word, acting as a personal hand-held shield (*magan*, cf. Biblia Hebraica, Ibid.; De Vaux, Ancient Israel: Social Institutions, v. 1, p. 244-245) to those whose walk is blameless for adjusting their thinking to God's Word, 2:6-8.
 2. Second, pursuing God's order equips its learner **automatically** to know **every wholesome** track in **life** to **snowball** his life's route, Prov. 2:9. After stating this fact in 2:9, Solomon itemized it in Pr. 2:10-22:
 - a. When one learns this order, the order will **automatically** enter his heart due to its good content, 10a.
 - b. When *that* happens, one will find its content **also inherently enjoyable** in **experience** as he **applies** it, motivating him to pay even **closer** attention to that order in a **snowballing** effect of blessing, 10b.
 - c. Also, discretion learned in that order will also **preserve & guard** one with **escalating** tragedies, 11: (a) namely, it will snatch a young man away from a nobleman of evil who plots to take naive men and twist them to his advantage and the young man's harm, Proverbs 2:12-15; (b) namely, it will snatch a young man away from an immoral woman's wiles of seduction, a route one must avoid if he wants to live a long, happy life, Proverbs 2:16-19; (c) namely, it will keep the young man in a lifestyle that equips him to enjoy company with wholesome men whose influence rubs off on him to equip him to dwell securely in the land, Proverbs 2:20-22.

Lesson: When trying to get a YOUNG MAN to learn God's truths when he may not yet APPRECIATE the VALUE of doing so, we should (1) inform him that GOD helps those who HEED His Word where He lets those who deny it miss out on His help, and (2) God's ways have a snowballing effect toward blessing where those who don't God tend to experience a downward spiral into disaster! Thus, tell him the stakes involved on choosing to heed God are MUCH HIGHER than what may at first APPEAR!