

V.O.C. - February 2016

Wisdom, making a straight path for your feet! [1]

Dear Listeners,

What should I do? What will be the best choice? What way should I go? There is not a day that goes by or we ask ourselves these questions. What you need to answer questions like these is *wisdom*! Where do you find this wisdom though? Yes, what kind of wisdom or knowledge are we talking about? Well, we're *not* looking for the knowledge or wisdom that gives us facts, information, and experiences that you can find on the computer for instance. You click with your mouse, and yes there it is! Rather, what we are looking for with a view to the questions and crossroads in life is the *wisdom of life*! It's the wisdom that helps you *how* to live, *what* to do, *where* to go in life. How you should spend your money, how you best raise your children, and how you live and interact with your neighbours, your colleagues. In these and other situations you need the insight and wisdom to know what you should do and how you should choose.

So, *where*, dear listeners, do you find such wisdom? Well, the main source for this wisdom we find in the *Bible*. It's God's handbook for life! It's good for teaching, correcting, and for training in all sorts of good works, the apostle Paul says. Then in the Bible you find the book of *Proverbs*, which serves as a *study book* for teaching us wisdom and training people in the right ways to go. It teaches wisdom, insight, knowledge, and *practical counsel* for life. During this month of February, therefore, I would like to introduce you to this book of Proverbs, and show you what we can learn in the *school of God*. By the way, this book of Proverbs is just one of the books of wisdom, or better one of the books of the Bible, from which we learn to live *a new life*. In the church, from Sunday to Sunday, you can learn this new life by means of the *preaching* of the gospel that's contained in it! I hope that these meditations during the month of February will whet your appetite

for this instruction and that it will move you, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to seek this new life in the *church of Christ!*

One of the *first* things the book of Proverbs instills in its readers is the *fear of God*; it is the *beginning* of wisdom, it says. Now what does that mean: the *fear* of the LORD? Does that mean that you should be afraid of God? Not at all, but rather that you learn to have a *deep respect* for God! The book of Proverbs leads you in directing your attention to the God who created this world, who made man in His image, and who has come to mankind to show it the way of life again! If you don't have a deep respect for God, however, and you think you can look after yourself alright, you won't find wisdom; you'll be a *fool*, really. You will end up with confusion, lack of understanding, and a mixed-up lifestyle! If you *listen* to God, however, and learn to follow His wisdom for life, and join His people in *church* to be instructed in the ways of new life, you will obtain wisdom! You will come to see its blessings, its merits, and its benefits for a life in the midst of this world that is based on God's wisdom!

The book of Proverbs, dear listeners, was initially written by *King Solomon*, the son of David. It was *his* heart's desire to know wisdom too! That's what God gave him in rich measure, to help him in his government, in his building plans, in his foreign policies, in his strategies for development, economy, finances, etc. Then Solomon expressed this wisdom in this book of *Proverbs*. He organized the education in his country, set up schools, and provided the *textbook* for the spiritual development of his people! In the book you will find much of what *Moses* already taught God's people in his books. Moses, also, *learned* this wisdom, these practical counsels and decrees *from the LORD* as well. It's a wisdom which you find back in the *New Testament* of the Bible too. When you read the 3000 proverbs Solomon wrote, and you study the results of the other teachers in the *school of God*, written in the *Word of God*, you recognize the Spirit of *Christ*. In Matthew 12:42, Jesus Christ has said, "Behold, *more* than Solomon is here!" That's why I said already, when you hear the instruction in the

preaching in the church of Christ you will learn the paths of life, *straight paths* for your feet in a *new* life!

What *special wisdom* it was Solomon's people learned in this school that God had given through the love of Solomon for the wisdom of God! There was no other school in the world in which wisdom was taught of the same calibre. Kings of other nations came to Jerusalem to learn Solomon's wisdom; think of the *Queen of Sheba* for instance. When foreign dignitaries heard of his wisdom, learned about the laws of Moses, and saw the culture in Canaan, they exclaimed: "There is no other nation in the world that has laws so wise and good!" What a *blessing*, they said, for people to have such a king, such schools, and such a book to study! That's what they said about the school of God and about Solomon, the prince of peace!

Then today, dear listeners, we may see behind Solomon *the true Prince of Peace*, Jesus Christ! He came to bring us back to God, free us from slavery, fight our battles even unto death, and to bring us to victory! He called us, "Come to me and learn from me!" He gave us His *Spirit*, the *Spirit of truth*, to teach us wisdom from God, wisdom from the *Word of God*, wisdom also from the book of Proverbs! By His Spirit He places us in the school of God, where we may attend with people from every tribe and nation. He gives us the *church* that is comprised of different people, all eager and willing to learn this wisdom! Then what's so beautiful in this school, in the church of Christ, is the fact that we learn a *wisdom* there that's very *practical*. It's not so that you learn theory at school and that you will find out what value it has in the daily practice of life. No, the instruction in wisdom is *practical wisdom* for life! It gives wisdom that you need to find your way in life! Another specialty in this *school of God*, the *church*, is that you study there with everyone at the same time, students helping each other understand, groups sharing their experiences, gifts employed for the up building of the other students, and everyone pursuing the wisdom that's the same at home, in the church, at work, and in the midst of this world: wisdom for *today*, wisdom for the *future*, and wisdom that helps you make the *right choices*, go the *straight paths* in a new life!

