

Understanding What God Has Given Us

Text: Proverbs 4

Introduction:

1. God has always given us an understanding of what He wants from each and every one of us.
2. It is up to each and every one of us to understand what God wants in our lives.
3. We cannot blame anyone except ourselves for our misdeeds or for us not to understand what God has given us.
4. Because God has given His word that we **MAY KNOW** what He wants from us and what we are to do about it.
5. The Apostle John gives some insight to the understanding that we have from God by penning, *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."* – **1 John 5:13** – God's word is meant to be understood and the Apostle John has just told us that **WE MAY KNOW** that we have eternal life (*used in the context of the statement that John penned, we find that obedience to God's commands are a prerequisite to eternal life.*)
6. Tonight we are going to look at some of Solomon's writings in Proverbs 4 to help us understand that concept because; (1) God gives us sound teaching, (2) God gives us direction and (3) God gives us life.

I. God Gives Us Sound Teaching (v2)

A. Teachings can be understood

1. The teachings can be comprehended

- a. It is our attitude in which we receive this teaching
- b. Is our attitude an 'Oh Hum' attitude or who cares (*not listening or paying attention*)
- c. Or, is our attitude as one as a young child who wants to know more and more.
- d. What part of *"Repent or Perish"* do we not understand – **Luke 13:3, 5**
- e. What part of *"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved"* do we not understand – **Mark 16:16**
- f. What part of *"And having been made perfect, He (Jesus Christ) became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation"* do we not understand – **Hebrews 5:9**
- g. What part of *"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."* Do we not understand – **John 8:24**
- h. The Scriptures are full of statements by God that can be understood – so the question is why do you not understand?

2. What we need to know about our Great God and our very salvation has been revealed to us in His word.

- a. This means there is no more revelation from God to be revealed.
- b. We have all that we need – Jesus has told us, *"Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."* – **John 20:30-31**
- c. We need to have a strong conviction that this is so.

B. Teachings that our heart can grasp onto and remain with us

1. Applied to our very heart – our very means of grasping something.
2. Teachings from God that are put on the *'front burner'* so to speak and not put into the back of your mind to be ever lost in **forgetfulness**.

C. Teachings that we must not forsake

1. For they are the words of life – Peter told Jesus *"You have words of eternal life"*

John 6:68

2. For they are the words to guide us through the miry pits and stumbling blocks that Satan puts before us.

II. God Gives Us Direction (v11)

A. On a path that is not covered with stumbling blocks (**v11-12**)

1. A clear path established by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, when He died for you and me, in order that we may come back to God.
2. To the world, the word of God is a stumbling block, but to the Christian the word of God should NEVER be a stumbling block.

B. On a path that leads us away from the wicked (**v14-15**)

1. With the sign of **'DO NOT ENTER'** posted (**v14**) – a sign that in the world we live in may be a warning to our very physical being – we may come to some great harm or even death (*as entering a radioactive area – as entering a bombing range for the military – or entering a one-way street facing oncoming traffic, etc.*)
 - a. The sign is for us today to not walk in the way of the wicked
 - b. The sign is for us today to **WARN** us impending danger (*the very loss of one's soul*)
2. We are to avoid at all costs – turn from it and pass on (**v15**)

C. On a path that has understanding and is well lighted.

1. By our Great God Himself that has given us His Son Jesus Christ as our guide.
 - a. Likened as a guide in a dark cave deep underground with the guide with the only lamp to light the way – we would put our full trust upon this guide to guide us through the darkness.
 - b. The same is with Jesus Christ, we must look upon Him as the light that leads us through this darkened world of sin, keeping us on the path to righteousness, because of His righteousness and with our **FULL TRUST** in keeping us from the harm of the cruel dark world. Providing light on the sin of the world that does not like to be exposed – this is accomplished through His word.
2. Understanding with the proper instructions on **WHAT MUST I DO?**

III. God Gives Us Life (v22)

A. From the heart springs life

1. We are to watch our heart.
 - a. *"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."* - **Mark 7:21-23**
 - b. We are to *"be wise, and direct your heart in the way."* **Proverbs 23:19**
2. We are what our heart desires

3. Does it desire worldly pleasures and gains or does it desire spiritual blessings.
- B. From the heart brings an eternal hope
1. From knowing that we are right with God and doing what He asks of us.
 2. From knowing that we have peace with our God in our submission to Him.
 3. From knowing that He and He alone provides **TRUE LIFE** after the grave.
 4. From knowing that He and His **SON** Jesus Christ has given us a hope that cannot be duplicated nor diminished as long as we stay faithful to Him.
- C. From the heart brings an eternal belief.
1. Something that is within each and every one of us, for Solomon has stated, *“He has made everything appropriate in its time. **He has also set eternity in their heart**, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.” – Ecclesiastes 3:11*
 2. From the heart brings a **YEARNING** to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
 3. God has instilled within us all, that yearning that yes, there is something out there that we are to achieve, to grasp on to, to latch on to, to hang on to and relish the day that is coming that we will all realize, and that is eternal life.

Conclusion:

1. From our understanding what God has given us, we know that:
 - a. God has given us sound teachings in His word
 - b. God has given us direction to achieve what He wants each and every one of us to do (*that is eternal life*)
 - c. God has given us life through His Glorious Son who died on the cross for our sins.
2. Knowing that we have an understanding in what God wants of us, it is up to us to *‘produce the fruits from our understanding*, because God has given us something that can be understood by all – it is up to **us** – that means **YOU** and **I**.
3. So the question is: **What are you going to do about it?**