

Session 103 – Level 3 Orientation

Proverbs 1:2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; 4 To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. **5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: 6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.**

As you look over Proverbs 1:2-6, which we have come to call the table of contents for the sonship curriculum, you notice that the terminology used in these verses appears to be very general.

For example: “to know wisdom,” “words of understanding,” knowledge and discretion,” and now in Level 3 we come to terminology such as “a wise man will hear,” “increase learning,” and “attain unto wise counsels.”

The use of broad general terms in a table of contents is not that unusual. It is not meant to give detail. But we have also come to understand that these general terms have some very specific things in mind. So when we read in vs. 5 that the “wise man will hear” and by that hearing, he “will increase learning,” you know that what he will hear is not him hearing just any old thing, but something very specific.

And also, what does it mean when it says “he will increase learning?”

Well, as a homework assignment last time, I asked you to be thinking about what it is that a wise man will hear that will produce increased learning. I asked you to think about what happens in a father/son relationship with any man who gets to about 30 years of age which, I hoped, would give you some insight into what is being referred to in Proverbs 1:5.

Before we get into the meat of what is contained in these last two verses, let me set something up in your thinking. Most of our time is going to be spent in vs. 5. We will have some things to say about vs. 6, but not too much and there is a reason for that. Vs. 6 is very particular to Israel’s program.

For example, vs. 6 starts out with “to understand a proverb, and the interpretation.” This will apply perfectly to the remnant in Israel’s program because they are given doctrine in the proverbial style. So, it makes perfect sense for them to have the ability to “understand a proverb and the interpretation.”

But, the doctrine that is given to us is not given in a proverbial style, it is given to us in an epistolary style. Therefore, we do not need to have the skill in the proverbs that a member of

the remnant will need to have. We are not going to get our doctrine out of the book of Proverbs and our apostle Paul is not going to give us doctrine by use of proverbs.

But don't think that there is nothing for us in Phase 2 of Level 2. There is a parallel issue which we will be taking a look at a bit later. In fact, the parallel is quite fascinating. This parallel issue gives us an explanation of an important aspect of the pastoral epistles which follow the book of Philemon (which ends the curriculum proper).

For now, however, we are going to spend most of our time in vs. 5.

Proverbs 1:5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

Looking at the words in this verse make us realize that we need to be able to do a couple of things. Firstly, we need to be able to define what it is to be a "wise man" who is engaged in his Level 3 education. Secondly, we need to be able to identify what that wise man is going to hear that will produce an increase in learning. Lastly, we need to be able to properly define what it means to "increase learning."

I've already said some things to you about how to view the phrase "increase learning." Don't look at this as though the wise man is going to hear a lot of new information in the curriculum that results in a learning increase in his Father's business. That is not what this is talking about. But, we will get to this issue later on in the session.

As a son comes out of Level 2, if the things of Level 2 are properly in place in his inner man, he will be a "wise man." And even though he has reached that appellation, he also knows that his heavenly Father is not finished with him yet. But what has yet to be done is not quite what you may think.

So far, knowing that there are 3 levels to the sonship education, you probably see Level 3 as a continuation of Levels 1&2. Let me take you back to the table of contents and show you something.

Proverbs 1:2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;  
<sup>3</sup> To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; <sup>4</sup> To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. <sup>5</sup> A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: <sup>6</sup> To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

As you look at the levels of your education, can you see a difference between Levels 1&2 and Level 3? Just look at the terminology and see if you can notice if there is a change in the way things are being said.

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In Level 1, once a son gets oriented and established in the sonship education, he begins the education proper which starts out giving him the decision-making skills of wisdom, justice, judgment and equity. That is part of what you would consider to be an education. That is, the son is learning something.

Then, in Level 2, he gets some things added to what he learned in Level 1; a furtherance of his education. The things in Level 2 are not disconnected from that which he learned in Level 1, but they take those very things to a further degree. To make an analogy, you could say that level one was learning your numbers and letters while level 2 was learning to add and subtract and make words and sentences. That is a poor analogy because Level 1 is actually more advanced than this illustration, but I think you get the idea, that the things of Level 2 are not disconnected from what the son learned in Level 1.

When you come to Level 3, you are probably thinking that this is going to work the same way. That something is going to be added to what you learned in Level 2 that further your education even more. But that is not what is happening in Level 3. When I show it to you, you will see that is not totally disconnected from Levels 1&2, but what Level 3 is doing is something different.

Level 3 is part of your curriculum and it is a necessary part, but it is doing something different than Levels 1 & 2 were doing. I'm going to make a statement that may surprise you but I don't want you to misunderstand what I am saying, so don't be put off by it. Here it is: when you get through Level 2, and you have become a "wise man," as far as being educated in your Father's business, Level 3 is not going to improve upon that at all. Level 2's subtility and knowledge and discretion allow to have everything you need to know about your Father's business, to see beyond what is apparent on the surface, to discern the finer points of it, to see the impact of your decisions both in the present and also down the road into the future. In other words, everything that you are going to need to know about your Father's business is going to be given to you in Level 2. Level 3 is not going to be doing anything for you in that context.

In addition to that, Level 2 also fully equips you to discern the POE and its attacks against you. The things you learn in Level 2 make you a "wise man" concerning not just your Father's business but also about what the adversary is doing. You will not need any further instruction about how to handle those attacks. You will not need any further understanding about how to identify them when they come your way. Level 2 will thoroughly equip you in that area. So, again, Level 3 is not concerned so much with this issue either.

And that makes sense, doesn't it? I mean, if you have all of the decision-making skills in place, and if you have moved from being one-dimensional in the use of them, and you truly have subtility (which allows you to discern the finer points of your Father's business and the POE) and you have the specific knowledge that Phase 2 of Level 2 gives you and you have discretion that

keeps you from losing what you have worked so hard to gain, then you really do have everything you need to do business with your Father.

So I am going to say it to you like this. By the time you get done with Level 2, if those things are in you, if that doctrine has effectually worked to produce subtility, knowledge and discretion, then as far as the education in your Father's business goes, and as far as you being able to successfully deal with what the POE will throw at you goes, you are fully equipped to handle every bit of it. As a Level 2 son, a "wise man," you are fully capable of functioning in your Father's business in the heavenly places. Levels 1&2 of your education have provided for that. All you really need now is what?

Once any person's education for any business endeavor is over, what is the thing they need next? They need experience in putting that education into practice. And you are going to get the chance to put the things you learning in Levels 1&2 into practice in your life on a daily basis. That is why you have those references over in Ephesians about your marriage, and your family and your workplace, etc.

You are going to put those into practice as a citizen, as a member of this assembly and in lots of other ways. When you are taught about the attacks of the POE, you aren't just taught about something you will never encounter, you are going to put that education to use as those attacks actually come your way.

You are going to use every part of this sonship education. But, if you have following what I have been saying to you, then you may have begun to get the idea your education, for all intents and purposes, could be over at the end of Level 2. And if you think that way, you are a little bit right and a little bit wrong.

Now, I need to explain that. As far as you being able to "think like your Father" in areas of His business, both on this earth and in the heavenly places, Levels 1 & 2 will give you everything you need.

As far as you being able to conduct yourself so that both, the business and your Father's reputation, are not harmed in any way, Levels 1&2 will give you everything you need.

As far as you being able to discern the Father's "way" and "path" for His business, Levels 1&2 give you everything you need.

As far as you being able to labor with your Father in His business, Levels 1 & 2 give you everything you need. There isn't anything you will be asked to do in the work of the heavenly places that you won't be able to do with Levels 1&2 of your education.

Let me say it one more way. What you do, or do not do with regard to Level 3, does not hamper you from properly functioning in the heavenly places in your Father's business. And by saying it

that way, I don't mean to imply that what Level 3 does is optional or unimportant or any such thing. Quite the contrary.

But it is still true that if you complete Level 2 and then you die, or the Rapture happens, and you never get into Level 3 at all, you will be perfectly capable of going to work anywhere in your Father's business and doing it successfully. The 3 components of godliness will all be a reality in you.

I hope you getting the picture. If you are, then you may be wondering why we even have a Level 3. As I said earlier in this session, Level 3 is necessary for a son, even though it does not concern itself with any of the things I have just mentioned. This is why I said that, even though there is a connection, for now, I want you to see Level 3 as having the ability to stand alone.

Even though the son, as a wise man, is fully capable of functioning in every part of his Father's business, there is at least one big thing that the son still has to get. There is one more thing that he needs to do, as a son. But until the son hears something from his Father, he will never be capable of doing this "one final thing."

You may be thinking, well, the son needs to hear some kind of information. What the son needs to hear is information, but it is information of a different nature from anything he has heard before.

This is one of the reasons why Level 3 is set apart from the other Levels. Level 3 is designed to accomplish something, in the son, that has not yet been accomplished. In fact, until the son finished his Level 2 education, this could not be accomplished in him.

But once the son hears what he needs to hear, and by that hearing he will "increase learning," then that makes is so that his Father can now look upon him as a "man of understanding." And here is how important this is: being that "man of understanding" is the goal of this entire sonship curriculum!

Once a son achieves that final title, "man of understanding," he has one more thing he can attain unto; "wise counsels." At the end of Level III, you've got attached to the word "wise" that word "counsels" – which is the term that's going to help define the nature of the wisdom we're dealing with here in the very last part of sonship edification. But we will have to wait until next week to discuss this issue of "wise counsels."

For now, let's turn our attention to Phase 1 of Level 3; "a wise man will hear, and will increase learning."

Proverbs 1:5 **A wise man will hear, and will increase learning;** and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

When you look at vs. 5, what do you identify as the overall objective of part 1 of Phase 1?

Answer: to increase learning. Do you see that? The objective is not “hear,” but rather, by hearing the wise man will “increase learning.” That is the objective. But that raises the question of our homework assignment, “what is it that son is going to hear?”

Since the objective is to “increase learning,” if we can identify what “increase learning” is describing, then that may help us determine what the son is going to hear.

I should step aside to say something to you at this point. If all of this isn’t just clicking in your mind, don’t let that bother you. One of the reasons we don’t readily identify all these terms and phrases is because we are not yet Level 3 sons. So, if you are having a difficult time coming to these conclusions on your own, don’t let it bother you; it’s okay, you will get there.

But there is another thing that works to snag our thinking, which is: how we are looking at the terms in the verse. We read the verse, but we let our mind interpret what we read, and that will throw you off if you are not careful.

For example, you read this: “A wise man will hear, and will increase learning;”

But your mind thinks this: “A wise man will hear, and will get more knowledge;”

It is easy for our mind to replace the word “learning” with “knowledge.”

Or, maybe your mind thought this: “A wise man will hear, and will get more wisdom;”

Or maybe this: “A wise man will hear, and will get more understanding”

But God did not choose to use any of those words. Instead, He chose to use a word that has not been used in the table of contents before. This is the first time we have encountered the word “learning.”

Now if God really meant to convey the idea of getting more “knowledge, or wisdom or understanding,” He would have used those words. He has already used them before, several times. But when you get to vs. 5, you encounter a word that has not yet shown up in the table of contents; “learning.”

To most folks, the common way of understanding the word “learning” is “to get more knowledge”, or “more wisdom” or “more understanding.” That is the same way the new bible versions see Proverbs 1:5.

For example, the NIV says, “a wise man will add to their learning.” And while Level 3 will add to what the son knows, that does not capture the full extent of what is going on in Level 3.

As you might have guessed, there is another meaning to the word “learning” that is being brought to bear in Proverbs 1:5. I want to remind you that words are often used in more than one way. We have seen this before, so this should really come as no surprise.

The RSV introduces a word into the text when it reads, “a wise man will increase in learning.” When you think about it, this is what most folks would think this is saying. But limiting the word “learning” to its most common meaning, in this case, would be wrong. That would be wrong. I’m not saying that in Level 3 the son is not going to “increase in learning;” he is, but I am saying that the AV’s use of “increase learning” has more than that in mind. So the RSV is limiting what Level 3 is producing. In fact, it is leaving out the most important feature of Level 3, because the main feature of “increase learning” is not just about the son learning something.

Another version says that a “wise man will gain in learning.” The Living Bible says “a wise man will become even wiser.” In a sense, both of these would be true, but again, they both leave out the main objective of what “increase learning” is about. When the Bible says “increase learning,” that was the most excellent expression to encapsulate all that is meant to happen in Level 3 of the education.

In order to know what is meant by “learning,” we have to answer the question: “does the word “learning” have a different meaning than the one we have been looking at?” Indeed it does.

There is a meaning to the word “learning” that is not the most common or the most obvious. When you couple this other meaning of “learning” with the context of what the education has been leading up to along with what is involved in natural sonship education; these three things are going to allow this meaning to “pop” in your thinking.

The best way to see this is to look at something that takes place in natural sonship. To do this, let’s go over to the book of Luke. We are going to look at the adopted son’s education just as it would be under the Jewish system of education. In Luke’s gospel, there are various events, in the life of Jesus and Luke is going to give us the age of Jesus in connection with some of these events. This is an aspect that is not contained in the other gospels.

And when you think about which of Zechariah’s “beholds” Luke is writing to fulfill, you understand why he is doing this and the other gospel writers do not. For a further explanation of this, I would refer you to the Bare Bones study on “The Infallible Proofs of the Christ.”

Getting back to the gospel of Luke, the first age that is recorded in life of Jesus is just days after His birth.

Luke 2:21 And when **eight days** were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

What is being described here is the legal requirement for circumcising a boy under the law when he is 8 days old. So, Jesus fulfilled the righteousness of the law in this matter.

Even though Jesus was God in the flesh, you also have to see that in His humanity, Jesus had to learn in His earthly life. We have gone over this before. There are those who believe that since Jesus was God in the flesh, He knew everything and He had to learn nothing.

The Bible will not teach such a doctrine. It is true that Jesus was God in the flesh, but it is also true that He laid aside His omniscience and in that condition, He had to be taught. Just as any man, Jesus had to come to an understanding of things. Jesus did not come into the world as a full grown adult, He was not born fluently speaking all the languages of the world, and He did not come into the world with full knowledge of everything there was to know. The Bible teaches us that He had to be taught those things.

When we see the record of what was happening to Jesus at 8 days of age, the Bible does not describe Jesus as “all-wise” or in any way different from any other Jewish baby except in His miraculous birth. The fact that Jesus had no earthly father did make Him different, but that does not speak to whether or not Jesus had full knowledge functioning in Him.

Now, let’s go down further in the book of Luke. What I want you to notice is the description of Jesus.

Luke 2:39 And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. 40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, **filled with wisdom**: and the grace of God was upon him.

As you can see, the child grew, and He was “filled with wisdom.” When you read that expression, you might get the idea that at that time, Jesus possessed all the wisdom there was to have. But that would be wrong and you will see why in just a moment. But before I show you that, I want to deal with another error that is closely associated with this; the idea that if a person is wise, then they have all the wisdom there is to have. That is not true either.

As a child growing up, Jesus was “filled with wisdom,” which is not telling you that He had all the wisdom there was to get, instead, it tells you that, “as he grew up,” he was “filled with wisdom” appropriate to each stage. In other words, a five year old can have wisdom, but it will be the wisdom of a five year old. At eight years old he can have wisdom that an eight year old can have. What you will see from the Bible is that Jesus “grew in wisdom” throughout His life.

We are going to come back to this passage in Luke shortly. For now, just remember the phrase “filled with wisdom” and turn with me to Isaiah 50.

Isaiah 50:4 The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he



wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.<sup>6</sup> I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.<sup>7</sup> For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

We have seen this passage before, but I show it to you only to reaffirm that there was a process of education that Jesus went through with His Father. The Father didn't wake Jesus up on one morning and plant all the wisdom He would ever need in Him. No, the Father wakened Him "morning by morning" to hear as the "learned." Ah, there is that word "learned" which should remind you of what we are looking at in Proverbs 1:5, "increase learning!" More on that later. Now let's come back to the book of Luke and continue to read.

Luke 2:41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.  
<sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

This is the second time Jesus' age is brought up. In the Jewish education model, the age of 12 was about the age in which a father would adopt his son. I have more to say about that, but before I do, let me take you to a verse that supports what I have been telling you about Jesus' wisdom. Come down to vs. 52 and notice what it says.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus **increased in wisdom** and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Jesus increased in wisdom. Well, didn't we read earlier that he was "filled with wisdom?" If you take that to mean that He had it all, then how could He "increase in wisdom?" And I'm sure you know what kind of wisdom we are talking about here, especially since it resulted in an increasing favour with God.

As you can see, Jesus is increasing in godly wisdom, which means that He also was going through the sonship curriculum. The mention of twelve years old is significant because that was the age in which adoption usually took place with a son and his father. I'm talking about natural adoption with an earthly father. This would be the age that Joseph, no doubt, adopted Jesus as his son. But it also happens to be the time in which the heavenly Father let Jesus know that He was adopting Him to work in His business. This would be the reason that Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem when His family had left to go home. This is why you have, in vs. 49, the "Father" is capitalized, so He is talking about His heavenly Father, not Joseph.

Luke 2:46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.<sup>47</sup> And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.<sup>48</sup> And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us?

behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. 49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

No wonder the Scripture says that he was “filled with wisdom;” for even as a 12 year old boy, He was able to astonish to most advanced minds in Israel with His understanding. But Jesus still has more to learn, for at 12 years of age, He is not yet a fully educated Son.

The next time Luke records the age of Jesus is located in Luke 3.

Luke 3:21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, 22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. 23 And Jesus himself began to be **about thirty years of age**, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,

I want you to see how Luke’s genealogy differs from Matthew’s. In the Matthew genealogy, what word does Matthew use over and over again? He uses the word “begat.” But Luke doesn’t do that. As you read through Luke’s genealogy, Luke records them all as “sons.” Even Adam is referred to that way.

Luke 3:38 Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.

Now, this brings us back to where we want to raise the question, what happens in a man’s life when he gets to be about 30 years of age? To set the stage for this, let’s back up and review what happens earlier in life.

Under the Hebrew method of education, when a son had reached the age of 12, he was at the age of adoption and ready to enter into Level I of his sonship education by his father. That would generally last for about 6 years or until he was around the age of 18.

Around the age of 18, the son would enter Level II of his sonship education and begin getting subtility and the knowledge and discretion to become fully capable and fully able to labor with his father. In fact, by the time he finished off his vocational training at the end of Level II, the son (now as a wise man) has the ability to function independently of his father. He can be entrusted with running his father’s business, even to the point where the son can actually go out and start a satellite branch of the father’s business and get it up and running properly.

By the time he reaches the end of Level II, he has the ability to function as an honorable and a faithful son. When you count the apprenticeship work contained in the Jewish education, that brings the man to the age of 30.

Now, let's go at this again. What happens, or rather, what has happened in the life of most every man, by the time he reaches the age of 30? And I mean every man, lost or saved. Don't think about this with regard to Jesus or even with regard to Christianity. Just a regular guy, by the age of 30, what has happened to him? And I realize that there are exceptions to the rule, but I mean generally, in most cases.

By the time the son reaches the age of 30, he's at the point where he has (in most cases) gotten married, has had children of his own and now the son has a son of his own who is at (or close to) the age where he is going to be adopted by his father.

Then, that "wise man" son who has been functioning as a faithful and honorable son of his father for all these years will now become a father himself. And from the time he's 30, for the remainder of his life, he's now going to function as a father educating his own adopted son.

And this father knows that he has to be able to duplicate the sonship education/edification he received from his father, as a father himself, in his own son. And just to "spill the beans" before we get to the verses about it, that is exactly what Level 3 of your sonship education is about.

It is about you, as a son, hearing something that allows you to turn around and function as a father to your own son. That's the danger a "wise man" poses to the adversary and that is something the adversary does not want happening. In fact, he will fight "tooth and nail" to stop it. And for the most part, he has been very successful, for most cases of sonship education, which have gone on in this dispensation of grace, have been a 1-generation proposition.

Someone may get sonship, but the adversary sees to it that Level 3, which is the continuation of the sonship process, does not take place. And when a son, gets that education from a father who was a son himself, that is what is being described as "increase learning." It is not so much the son increasing in learning (although he will) but it really is pointing to the larger issue of that son becoming a father to his own son and taking him through the sonship curriculum. And when an educated son begins to educate his own son, that is the "increase learning" the Bible is really pointing to.

Think about what was one of the first things Jesus did after He was baptized and began His public ministry at age 30; what was it? He called His disciples! What is going to do? He is going to take His sonship life and reproduce it in them. He is doing the work of a Level 3 son.

I realize that Jesus did not get married and have children that He would adopt, but He carried this out through His disciples. That is why I told you not to think of it in light of Jesus. But to Him, they really were His adopted children. Isaiah makes a reference to this.

Isaiah 8:16 Bind up the testimony, seal the law among **my disciples**.<sup>17</sup> And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.

<sup>18</sup> Behold, I and **the children whom the LORD hath given me** *are* for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.

It was the disciples that, along with Jesus, produced those signs and wonders in the final stages of Israel's program, which Isaiah is here referring to.

Looking at this way, you now see the wisdom and the timing behind Jesus calling His disciples. It isn't just a good idea, it is what a Level 3 son does!

A son, who has properly come through the Level 2 education, may know all about the Father's business, but he also realizes there is something that he doesn't know and needs to hear it from his Father. What is it that he doesn't know?

A "wise man" realizes that there are certain aspects and certain skills and certain abilities that are necessary in order to teach the sonship curriculum that he doesn't fully have or fully comprehend yet. Why? Because all he's ever known is how and why the sonship curriculum works to produce a fully educated and fully edified son: **FROM THE SON'S PERSPECTIVE.**

He's never seen (or you could say, "understood") the curriculum from the FATHER's perspective. Therefore, the son (as the wise man) knows (is fully aware and is in desperate need of) that he needs another body of information from his father; a body of information that will provide for him to reproduce his sonship education/edification in his own son who is now ready to be adopted and educated.

In other words, as a father takes his son through the education, there are things he knows to do and when to do them that the son doesn't need to know. That is to say, it is not part of the son's education – yet. We will discuss shortly what some of those things are.

What you should know for now is that being taught the curriculum and teaching the curriculum are two different things. In view of that, what the "wise man" needs to hear is something that he has never heard before. And, in fact, he could not hear before, as it would not have made any sense to him. The Father wisely does not talk to a son about things he is not yet ready for.

But once the son has finished Level 2, He is ready to hear about the education from a father's perspective.

Now, some of you may be saying, well, my children have already grown up and left home, I can't function as a Level 3 son. Or maybe you didn't have any children so you think you can't function in Level 3. But you would be wrong. But just as Jesus didn't have children, you don't have to have children either, in order to function as a Level 3 son.

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Later, we will talk about how you will do that, for now it is not important for you to know that. You aren't ready for it anyway. Some of you are hearing this part and you don't even have a strong desire to do this and that is natural seeing that you will only want this and see the true importance of it as a Level 2 son. Your thinking then will be very different from your thinking now, so don't let all that worry you.

Ideally, being a Level 3 son is exactly what I'm supposed to be as I hold the office of pastor and take this assembly through the education. I am supposed to function as a "father" to this assembly. I'm not saying that I am in any way taking the place of God, I'm not. I couldn't, even if I wanted to. But just as a "father" takes his son through the curriculum, that is what I am doing. By taking you through the curriculum, I do "increase learning" because it is happening in more than just me! When you do it too, that is an increase.

A Level 3 son has to have "both sides of the coin." He has to not only see the curriculum from the standpoint of a son who is being educated, but also from the standpoint of a father who is leading a son through the curriculum. And this is the primary focus of Level 3. And when you are able to do that, your heavenly Father considers you to be "a man of understanding;" which is to say, you now understand it all. You see it from both perspectives.

So what is it you will be hearing as a Level 3 son? You are hearing the curriculum from a different standpoint which allows you to see how this curriculum works. As a son, going through the education, you don't really care how it works, you just care that it works. But as a father, you need to have additional insights into the curriculum, to know where the markers are, when to use them, what they are an indicator of, when is the appropriate time to use an exhortation and why. You need the ability to discern if your son is really on track and what to do about it if he is off-track, etc.

All of these and more are things that you don't learn as a son, but if you are going to properly function as a father, then you have to have them. I think everyone would agree there is a big difference between receiving an education and giving an education; the difference between being a student and being a teacher. But in this case, it is not just being a teacher, it is much more than that; it is about being a "father."

The Corinthians had the problem of thinking about this as just an education, just a bunch of "wisdom" to learn. They were wrong. They missed the part that makes this different from every other education in the world. Therefore, the Table of Contents in Proverbs doesn't say "increasing teaching," it says "increase learning."

There is a difference in merely being able to teach, and being able to (and having the capacity to) increase learning. And that matters because if all we're after is to be taught, to just get knowledge of God, of Christ, of the Bible, etc., then what you've fallen into is just as Paul described to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 4:15 For **though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers:** for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

This isn't just a matter of semantics. Yes, the son, in Level 3, is going to be made able to teach, but that is not how it is described, because the son, as a father to his own son, will "increase learning." We have seen kids that have gone through 12 years of education and they evidently didn't "learn" very much.

To do this, you know you will need another body of information to equip you to teach the curriculum from the Father's perspective and the moment you begin leading your son through the curriculum that is the moment you "increase learning." The idea here is not so much that you are gaining a bunch of new information, but rather that you are now able to reproduce it.

It is this very issue as to why you have Paul's pastoral epistles sitting at the end of his epistles.

Let me call to your memory something that I said to you way back in the beginning of our sonship orientation. Do recall that I pointed out that entire cycle of David and Solomon. It wasn't just David learning the education and that was the end of it. But after he learned it, he then taught it to his son, Solomon. That complete cycle had to be presented because that last step is what constitutes Level 3 of our education.

In other words, it wasn't enough for David to just get the education, but it was necessary for him to learn to educate his son in that same education. This is also why I said when you reach the end of Level 2, the natural thing for you is to expect that your Father now has something else to say to you, now that your education in His business is over. Just as the natural thing for a natural father to do is not just to educate his son in the family business, say as a blacksmith, but after that education is over, to show him how to teach his own son the trade.

So, just to say this in a short form, in Level 3, you are going to understand how to put the doctrines (the bodies of information) together (its sense & sequence), to exhort in preparation for it and how to test your son to know if he's ready to go on, as well as how to identify problems he's having and solve them so that learning takes place in him.

I hoping that you see that what I'm after is this issue of what it means to "increase learning;" that it's not just about increasing knowledge or increasing wisdom, or increasing understanding, but the issue is that the son now realizes that the last instruction and last body of information he needs is going to be how to reproduce this sonship life that he's received from his father in his own son whom he is now ready to adopt.

Now, knowing that, you should be able to realize just what it is that the son (the wise man) will "hear" — so what is it that he will hear?

Proverbs 1:6 tells you what he is going to hear.

Proverbs 1:6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

Now, that is for Israel. To answer the question as it applies to us in this dispensation of grace, my understanding is what the “wise man” will “hear” is the entire curriculum for sonship edification over again. His father will sit down with him and go over the entire thing from beginning to end. However, this time he will do it from the father’s perspective with all the exhortations, the markers and the checkpoints, etc. This is something that the son, as a wise man, needs to know in order to teach it properly to his own son.

Even though I think you should have the “gist” of this, there are a couple of clarifications that I need to make.

The first has to do with the other meaning of learning. The other meaning of “learning” has to do, not with receiving information, but by communicating information, producing learning in others. I would refer you to George Crabbe’s work on synonyms (or Smith’s). If you have a complete OED, you can get it there too.

There is a second issue that needs some additional comment. What verse 5 is talking about is another of those 2-sided coins.

Proverbs 1:5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

The first side of the coin has to do with the son “hearing” something. That does tell us that the son is getting some kind of information; information he does not previously know and until his Father tells him about it, he won’t know it.

The other side of coin concerns that “increase learning” which is not referring to gaining the kind of wisdom you got back in Levels 1 & 2. In other words, this is not about learning more about the curriculum, but it is about learning how to instruct someone else. It is about you being able to properly function as a father.

Put together, it is the issue of both the acquisition of knowledge and the methodology of HOW that curriculum gets taught. This would include things such as:

- Why this kind of an exhortation is appropriate for Phase 1/ Level I;
- Why this kind of warning is needed at the end of Phase 1/ Level I;
- Why I had to use this exhortation when you were beginning the doctrine of your instruction of judgment in Phase 2 of Level I;
- Why you had to be told about that strange woman and her alluring tactics of her beauty and flattering words in Level II.
- (Why I had to check your commitment level!)

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- Here's what I was listening for coming out of your mouth as indicators that you were getting this doctrine;
- This is what I was searching for when I searched your heart and my "reigns rejoiced when your lips spoke right things." (Pr. 23:16)
- I was looking for evidence and proofs that you were actually utilizing the doctrine I taught you, and that you were appropriately utilizing it.
- And when I found the markers I was looking for, then we moved on—and when I didn't find them and when you were struggling with it, then we continued the exhortation—and there were times when I had to be very stern with you and plead with you to not incline your ear to the competing wisdom you were hearing from the strange woman.

As the Father teaches his son these things, the son is now in a position to and possesses the capacity to "increase learning" by passing it on to his son. By the time the Father gets done with him in Phase 1 of Level III, that son will be able to look at the entire sonship curriculum from BOTH sides and that means that he'll be looking at it just exactly as his Father looks at it.

We have more to look at in Proverbs 1:5-6 and we will do so in our next sessions. We need to understand what is meant by "attain unto wise counsels." There is actually a two-fold aspect of this that we need to look at along with why the word "counsels" is plural and not singular and why that makes a difference.

We also need to talk about those "dark sayings" over in vs. 6. While it is true that this verse has particular reference to some things in Israel's program, there are some "dark sayings" type issues for us as well. We will go over these and more in our next sessions which, when we are finished, should come close to bringing us back to Romans 8:14 -15.