

Session 105

Proverbs 1:5 **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.

We now know that when the table of contents says that a wise man will hear, that it is referring to a son now hearing from his father about how to teach the curriculum from the standpoint of a father.

We also know that when that son begins to operate as a father to his own son, that he has produced an “increase learning.” While the son will learn something in order to teach the curriculum, but the emphasis of increase learning is on the next generation getting the education.

And finally, we know that this is what comprises the son’s Level 3 education. Level 3, in a way, stands apart from the first two levels in that at the end of Level 2, a son is fully capable of functioning in his Father’s business.

Now, that moves us to the next part in verse 5.

Proverbs 1:5 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.

What we just read in bold letters is the main goal of what this education is after. This is the mountain top. The whole curriculum has been pointing toward the son becoming a “man of understanding.”

The first thing we need to do is talk about that word “understanding.” We have encountered this word before in the table of contents, but this time, we need to see it in the context of the advanced Level 3 education. The way the word “understanding” is being used here is more than just comprehension of information.

In this case (in this context) “understanding” involves what happens between two parties (you and your heavenly Father). Think of the word “understanding” this way, when you can say about yourself and someone else, that “we came to an understanding.” In the context of what is happening in Level 3 education, “understanding” means that both parties see the same thing the exact same way.

To put it back into the Level 3 context, you and your Father see this education the exact same way. By using this meaning of understanding, I do not mean to say that you don’t comprehend the information you are given, of course you do. What I am driving at is that you not only comprehend the information you were taught, but you think about this education the same way your heavenly Father thinks about it.

It isn't that you both thinking about the same thing, but that you are thinking in the same way. Let me give you an example. In Acts 2, Peter preaches the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Acts 13 Paul preaches the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In fact, both men cite the identical psalm in their preaching.

Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:²³ Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:²⁴ Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. ²⁵ For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:²⁷ Because **thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.** ²⁹ Men *and* brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.³⁰ Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that **God had sworn with an oath** to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, **he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;**³¹ He seeing this before spake of **the resurrection of Christ**, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

When Peter preaches the resurrection of Christ, he cites Psalm 16:10. But Peter preaches the resurrection from the standpoint of the Davidic Covenant where Christ would sit on the throne of David in a kingdom on this earth. Look at vs. 30 where Peter says that God swore an oath to David that He would raise up Christ for the purpose of occupying the throne. That was part of the Davidic covenant.

In Acts 13 Paul also will preach the resurrection of Christ and he also will cite Psalm 16:10.

Acts 13:16 Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.²⁸ And though they found no cause of death *in him*, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain. ²⁹ And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took *him* down from the tree, and laid *him* in a sepulchre. ³⁰ But **God raised him from the dead:** ³⁵ Wherefore he saith also **in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.** ³⁶ For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: ³⁷ But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption. ³⁸ **Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:** ³⁹ **And by him all that believe are justified from all things,** from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

But notice that Paul does not preach the resurrection as the fulfillment of the Davidic covenant; he preaches the resurrection as the means for forgiveness of sins and justification. Paul reinforces this in Romans 4.

Romans 4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Peter says that Christ was raised to fulfill the Davidic Covenant where Israel's Messiah would sit on the throne of David and rule an everlasting kingdom. Paul says Christ was raised from the dead to give us justification unto eternal life.

Even though they are talking about the same thing (the resurrection of Christ), and they even cite the same OT verse (Psalm 16:10), the conclusions they come to are different. By the way, which one is correct? Both! Peter is right to preach the resurrection as the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant because he is preaching to Israel in Acts 2, in the extension of mercy, when their program was in force. Paul is right to preach the resurrection as the way men are justified unto eternal life because he is preaching in the dispensation of Gentile grace, when Israel's program has been interrupted. So, both of them are right.

But here is my point. The "understanding" that you will have with your heavenly Father about the education and the curriculum will not lead you off in different directions. The kind of "understanding" in view is not just that you both see a curriculum or that you both are talking about sonship. It goes further than that. It means that you both see it in its details, in its purpose, in its presentation, in its order, in its goals, in its importance, in its outworking, in its design and in its result in the exact same way.

Once a son has learned the education as a son, and then learned it as a father (both sides of the coin, so to speak), he truly becomes a "man of understanding." That is, he sees the entire curriculum the same way his Father sees it. This is why this is the main objective of the curriculum, to get the son to see the whole thing the same way the Father sees it.

Webster's 1928 dictionary puts it this way: "Intelligence between two or more persons; agreement of minds; union of sentiments."

If I were to put another word to this, maybe it would be the word "harmony." You harmoniously concur with your Father on every point. Well, I think by now you should have a good understanding of what the word "understanding" is about in Proverbs 1:5.

But let me add one more point to this. Look at that last phrase in Webster's definition; "union of sentiments." That means you don't just think about it the same way, but you "feel" (sentiment) about it the same way. As a man of understanding you see the curriculum the same way your heavenly Father does and you feel it about it the same way. That is, it means the same thing to you that it does to Him.

It doesn't do any good if a son is instructed in something and he walks away saying, "yeah, I understand it, but so what." If all he does is comprehend the material, that is not what a "man of understanding" is about. When the son can walk away and say, "yeah, I understand the material and I feel about it, think about it and value it just like my Father does. What it means to Him is what it means to me." That is what constitutes a "man of understanding."

I want you to get an understanding of this by seeing it in the Scripture. So, turn with me to Psalm 139. You are going to become very familiar with some things in Psalm 139 when we get back over to Romans 8 and specifically in vv. 26-28. In those verses you find out about an infirmity you have with regard to your prayer life and in answer to that Paul is going to reference the Spirit's "searching of the heart." That issue of the searching of the heart is something you were already supposed to know something about and one of the places you were to know about it was in Psalm 139. So when we get to Romans 8:26, we will have to come back over here and make sure this gets filled in so that what Paul tells you, you can actually put into practice.

In Psalm 139, David is speaking to his heavenly Father. He starts out the psalm by going over his day with his heavenly Father, just as any son would with his earthly father at the end of his day. But what I want you to see is further down in the psalm, in vs. 17.

Psalms 139:17 How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! ¹⁸ *If* I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee. ¹⁹ Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men.

Before we look at this, look back up in vs. 1 and tell me the 4th word in the verse (and I'm counting "O" as a word). The word is "hast." What tense is that in? It is in "past tense."

But now look at verse 19 and tell me what the 3rd word is. It is "wilt." What tense is that? It is future tense, is it not? David is not longer going over his day with his Father, but now he is talking about something that has yet to be done. Now, David is talking about things that are coming up tomorrow that he is going to have to make decisions about.

Now, the context of this is war. But all I'm after for now is to show you that David not only thought the way his Father thought, but he also felt the way his Father felt.

Psalms 139:19 Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. ²⁰ For they speak against thee wickedly, *and* thine enemies take *thy name* in vain. ²¹ Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and **am not I grieved** with those that rise up against thee? ²² **I hate them** with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.

There is certainly a lot more to see in this passage, but all I want to do is use this as an illustration that David didn't just think about things like his Father, but his sentiment (how he felt toward God's enemies) was the same as his Father's.

Now, let's turn our attention to the next part of verse 5, where a man of understanding attains unto wise counsels.

Proverbs 1:5 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.

First, notice that this is counsels with an “e” not councils with an “i.” That means that this has to do with being a counselor, not sitting on some kind of council or board.

I should also say that these “wise counsels” is what your Father has been after from the very beginning. Also, this is the first time this word has been used in the table of contents.

So what does it mean to “attain” unto something?

“Attain” = to reach, to acquire, to arrive.

Attain carries the idea that there is some end in view or some goal in view that is to be reached or arrived at. But the shade of meaning that makes attain the most excellent expression of what is going on here at the very end of the sonship education is that when you attain something and especially when it's used with that accompanying preposition “unto,” it puts the emphasis upon the issue that what is attained didn't become the possession of the subject by luck, or by chance, or by accident or anything along those lines.

When you “attain unto” something you have followed a prescribed methodology or a step-by-step process to reach a goal. In view of the context and the English grammar, it tells you that this isn't something that has just fallen into your lap, but that there was a goal set out and you've reached it; through effort and work you have accomplished a particular means and now you're at the end of it, or the goal of it all.

George Crabbe, English Synonyms: “attain signifies to rest at a thing (goal); it's a perfect and finished action—we always go on acquiring, but we stop when we have attained.” “We attain to a certain degree of perfection.

See chart – Sonship Curriculum (Godly Edification)

This chart reflects what is outlined in the table of contents. If you look at the chart, you will see that when a man of understanding has attained unto wise counsels, attaining unto wise counsels is the final goal that God your Father has set in the education. That is to say, that's what the Father had in mind all along when adopted him at salvation and when He began the process of educating him. The Father's expectation is that at some time in the future, this day would come.

This is God's desire for each of his sons. It is not that you would just enroll in the education and begin make godly decisions, etc., but all of those issues are the necessary steps to finally attain unto wise counsels.

When you realize that this is the glorious goal the Father wanted to get to from the beginning then also realize that everything that preceded it was necessary to get to this point where you, as His son, arrive at being this man of understanding who has attained unto wise counsels.

And you should get it in your mind that a son who becomes a “man of understanding” has not only gone through all the things concerning the curriculum, but he has also endured whatever the sufferings of this present time brought his way and he has successfully weathered the vicious, constant attacks of the adversary that has thrown everything, including the kitchen sink, at him. The “man of understanding” bears the scars of battle on his body. This why certain verses say what they say, such as:

1 Corinthians 15:30 And why stand we **in jeopardy every hour**? 31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily**.

2 Timothy 2:3 Thou therefore **endure hardness**, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake **we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter**.

The apostle Paul, as a fully educated, man of understanding can show you what it costs to get to this point in the education by taking his shirt off and showing you his back. What do you think you would see there?

2 Corinthians 6:4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, ⁵ **In stripes**, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

2 Corinthians 11:23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, **in stripes above measure**, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. ²⁵ Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ *In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; ²⁷ *In* weariness and painfulness, *in* watchings often, *in* hunger and thirst, *in* fastings often, *in* cold and nakedness. ²⁸ Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

This is not the kind of Christianity that is preached today and those that preach the prosperity gospel are not going to live like this for a moment. They live in a dream world with their “hundred-fold” blessings and a guaranteed return on investment in this life.

Do we know any level 3 sons? You have heard of them but you may not have recognized them for what they were in sonship. Let me give you a few, such as Timothy, Titus, Philemon,

Onesimus, Epaphras, Archippus, Artemas, Tychicus, and some of the women that Paul mentions such as Prisca and Claudia.

We don't have any monuments to these people. We build monuments to sports figures, TV personalities or political figures. We engrave people of power on our coins. And really, that's okay because that is who is important to the world and I don't expect the world to recognize godliness. But saved people aren't any different. Their "heroes" come from the same groups as the lost world's heroes.

Even in our churches, men and women of understanding go unmentioned and unnoticed. These are men and women of whom the world is not worthy. You people in this room mean more to me than anyone who throws a touchdown pass today. You want to talk about real accomplishments? Look to men and women of Sonship. And you may not know it but there are those who have as much a heart for Sonship as we do, they just don't live here for us to know them.

But a Level 3 son has much more than just the sufferings of this present time on them, they have the full blown POE firing at them. And you do understand that the POE uses people, don't you? Yes, some are used "unwittingly" while others have full knowledge of what they are doing. And in the sufferings under the POE, those things will often take place at the hands of people.

To illustrate this, let me take you to the books that have Level 3 of our Sonship Education in view, 1 & 2 Thessalonians. This is the only place we are going to find information that shows us that God will not forget one single slight against His sons.

You need to see the Thessalonian assembly for what it is; this assembly is packed with men and women who are "men of understanding."

Just an aside, let me show you something. There was a fellow named Demas who, at one time, traveled with Paul and worked with him.. Go to 2 Timothy 4 to see this. Demas got victimized by the POE and when he did, he dropped out from traveling with Paul. And guess where he went.

2 Timothy 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and **is departed unto Thessalonica**; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

That shouldn't surprise you, especially when you realize that one of the advanced attacks of the POE against an assembly, is to bring men into that assembly with corrupted doctrine. Can you imagine, here is this guy that used to travel with Paul and now he is going to an assembly that thinks the world of Paul and what do you think he is going to say about Paul? Why he will say the same thing that was said by people who used to go here, only worse; "Yeah, I used to be a part of that but Paul have gone off the deep end. He takes that rightly dividing thing too far, he's just chopping up the Bible. Paul doesn't really believe in prayer. If Paul had enough faith, he

wouldn't have to suffer all the things he suffers. I just don't agree with everything Paul preaches, etc. etc."

But there is another side of the "Demas" coin, if you will, and that is that the Thessalonians were an assembly that would be ready for such things.

Now turn with me to 2 Thessalonians 1 where I want to show that God does count it a light thing for a son to go through what he does in order to be a Level 3 son.

2 Thessalonians 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;⁴ So that **we ourselves glory in you** in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

The fact that Paul calls this assembly "his glory" is an amazing tribute to what this assembly had become. They were doing it right. And notice the last 3 words of the passage: "that ye endure." They did endure persecutions and tribulations and God did not come down and put His hand between them and their circumstances.

They took the curriculum and it was more powerful in them than any persecution or tribulation they encountered. And when angels see that, it impacts them more than the parting of the Red Sea or feeding 5000 with a few loaves, walking on water and fishes or healing a lame man. Angels have seen all this and much more, but what they have not seen is a son, left to endure the persecutions and tribulations by relying solely on the effectual working of the sonship curriculum in a son's inner man.

2 Thessalonians 1:5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:⁶ Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

And you don't know this yet, but this is coming right out of Romans doctrine in Romans 12 where God tells them to "give place unto wrath..."

Romans 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but **rather give place unto wrath**: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

So the son learns early on, that even though he is going to go through some persecutions and sufferings and tribulations – often at the hands of men – but your Father says for you not to worry about all this, because He is going to take care of all it. He is taking note of everything that is done and He is going to settle every account and He won't forget a thing.

Anyone who touches you, or damages you, or any such thing, God has taken note of it and then look at what He says as we take up our reading in 2 Thessalonians 1:7.

2 Thessalonians 1:7 And to you who are troubled **rest with us**, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;¹⁰ When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and **to be admired** in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

There is a lot to see in these verses but I want to point at only 2 things. Firstly, Paul's admonition to those who are troubled is "rest with us." Your Father is going to take care of everything. Secondly, in verse 10 it speaks of a time when the Lord Jesus will come to: 1) be glorified in his saints and 2) to be in admired in all them that believe.

What this second aspect is referring to is an admiration of the Lord Jesus Christ that none of us yet has. In that day, when see God completely balance the books on what was done to us, when God deals with those who adversely affected His sons, (be it people or the POE itself), when we see them all held accountable, there is going to be an admiration for Him that is un-measurable. You will see the Lord Jesus evening the score and settling the account in such a godly, righteous way that a whole new admiration will spring up within you.

What it takes for you to become a "man of understanding" is more than you just sitting in your seat in bible class. It is going to happen by how you spend your moments away from here, in your marriage life, your family life, your personal life, your work life, etc.

And any son that gets there is considered, by your heavenly Father, to have achieved and attained unto the highest and greatest level of human existence that a man or woman could ever attain to.

This is what you were created for. And just so you know, while the world will never recognize it as anything good, let alone anything of any value or worthy of recognition or worthy of reward. But your Heavenly Father recognizes this to be the very thing that qualifies you to be singled out, for recognition, and for eternal reward and an inheritance on par with the Lord Jesus Christ Himself!

That now leads us to the next issue in verse 5, the issue of "wise counsels." These "wise counsels" are the final goal of the sonship education/edification.

Now let's look at that issue of the "wise counsels" that's the goal of sonship education/edification.