

Session 107 (Actual)

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.

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.

Even though we have been talking about a “man of understanding,” I don’t think I have adequately explained it so that you fully appreciate what God can do with a man of understanding. In our lives, we certainly haven’t seen many of them. But to get back to the point, there is something that God wants to do with a “man of understanding.” You could say that God has been waiting for sons to reach this level for a particular reason.

That reason is not about things such as the wise use of decision-making skills; it have something else in mind. What God does have in mind and what He wants to do has been reserved only for those reach the final appellation; “a man of understanding.” And by now, you should know exactly what that appellation is describing.

Now, there are a couple of things that I need to say to set this up:

- Keep in mind that this is the final thing in the curriculum
- The things of vs. 6, following the colon, are a list describing this
- As you come to the end, things don’t slow down to a stop, but this thing ends with a bang – a big bang

It should strike you, as you look at the table of contents in Proverbs that once the son becomes a “man of understanding,” it isn’t followed with a period.

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.

In other words, it doesn't go like this:

Proverbs 1:5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and will become a man of understanding.

The point being that just becoming a man of understanding is not the mountain top. That man of understanding needs to "attain" unto something. And a man of understanding is the only one that can attain unto these "wise counsels." So, when I say that your Father has been waiting for a son to become a man of understanding, it is because He has had this (wise counsels) in mind all along.

And since we have already talked about the difference between "councils" and "counsel," you may be shrugging your shoulders and thinking "So what's the big deal? This whole sonship curriculum has been so that I can become a counselor?" Well, yes, that's part of it.

But there is more to it than that. There is something else that is included in this that you probably are not thinking about and that is the part that is dynamite. In fact, this is so "explosive" that the first time you hear me say what this is, you are going to think that it can't be true. It's that incredible.

If I'm right when I say that this is what this whole education has been driving at from the beginning, then it would follow that this issue we are about to find out about is the biggest, most important issue of them all to your heavenly Father. Just to make sure you are seeing this properly, let me say it this way. This final issue is bigger than the wisdom, the justice, the judgment, the equity, the subtilty, the knowledge, and the discretion. It's bigger than all of them. In fact, all of those were for the purpose of bringing you to this final place of attainment.

It is as though your Father is saying, "My son is finally a man of understanding, and now that he is, I can finally do something with this son that I have never been able to do before. I can finally do with him something that I created him for in the first place."

That statement is true no matter what dispensation you are in. From Adam to Israel to the body of Christ to the believing remnant in the day of wrath, this final issue of adoption and education as a son has been driving straight for this one single event.

I realize that the two words are both very simple words; "wise" and "counsels." But, as I have also told you, the things of Level 3 go beyond the simple verbiage that God uses to describe things. You really have to see all that has gone before and the context in which you find yourself in Level 3 to be able to appreciate what is being said.

In Job 38, Job was facing an issue that was counter to this very thing. This would probably be a good place to tell you that the counterfeit for this is out there in a "big time" way. Job was looking at such a counterfeit.

I should also say that the book of Job was not written to the members of the church, the body of Christ to learn how to handle life's problems. If you try to do that, you will create even more problems for yourself.

The book of Job is for the remnant of Israel out in the day of wrath. In fact, the 42 chapters of Job can almost be marked off in the last 42 months of Daniel's 70th Week as things will be taking place in an almost chapter by chapter, month by month way.

For example, when the temple is rebuilt in the first half of the "Week" and the sacrifices are going, what is going to happen in "the midst of the Week?" Daniel says that the Antichrist will stop the temple sacrifices and set up the abomination of desolation that would later refer to in His earthly ministry, as a warning to the remnant.

Daniel 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Matthew 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) ¹⁶ Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: ¹⁷ Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: ¹⁸ Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. ¹⁹ And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! ²⁰ But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: ²¹ For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

And what else is going to happen in conjunction with the abomination of desolation being set up? Revelation tells you.

Revelation 13:15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. ¹⁶ And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: ¹⁷ And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Will the remnant take the mark? No, they won't. What will happen to a man's possessions if he fails to take the mark? He will lose them all. Can a man buy or sell without the mark? No, he can't. So what will happen to even a rich man, if he is part of the remnant and he refuses to take the mark? He will become poor, without houses or lands or servants or any other markers of wealth.

Now, take this back to Job. In chapter 1 of Job, which would dovetail with the first month of the “great tribulation,” what happens to Job?

In Job 1:13 – 19, Job learns that he lost his plow oxen, he lost his sheep, he lost his herds of camels, and he lost his children. And in all of those, he lost his servants as well. In short, Job lost everything.

Just as Job came out the other side with more than he had before, so the remnant will end up with more than before the day of wrath started. And one of the issues the remnant will face is false counsel from what seem to be friends and allies. Which is exactly why information is sitting in the gospels for when Jesus taught the remnant to be able to discern who is a sheep and who is a wolf in sheep’s clothing.

But as for Job, he has 3 religious friends who are trying to counsel him when none of them are qualified to do so. It isn’t that everything they say is a lie, because much of what they say is factually true. The problem is in the misapplication of what they say. What Job has is 3 friends trying to give him counsel and none of them know enough to be able to properly do so.

You can see that they are getting Job to thinking about things in a way God does not want Job thinking about. They are telling Job that some sin is the reason these things are happening to him. They are telling Job it is his fault that he has lost his possessions and children; that God is punishing Job for some wickedness. What I want you to see in this is that these men, regardless of their intentions, are improperly using God’s words to counsel Job and are masquerading as “men of understanding.” They think they are qualified to give wise counsel.

I want to take you over to Job 38 where you will see something about true, authentic, wise counsel; that it is one of the easiest things to counterfeit in the world. It is very easy for anyone to fake being “a man of understanding who has attained unto wise counsels.” In fact, it happens every day.

Examples:

- Hurricane Katrina was God’s punishment for America not standing by Israel
- You are sick because you have sin in your life
- If God didn’t want you to do this, He would not have “opened the door”
- God will do whatever you ask as long as you have faith

Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, 2 **Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?** 3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

God calls their counsel, as well intentioned as it may have been, “words without knowledge.” Those “words without knowledge” are going on today when any preacher puts forth that godly

edifying can be produced in any other way than through the sonship curriculum. Those are indeed “words without knowledge.”

When you think about it, that is what most church services consist of, some kind of biblical advice and counseling. It is usually accompanied by instructions to think positively and not to allow any negative thoughts. Bible verses, such as Romans 8:28, are quoted completely out of their context and apart from their intended design. Especially verses out of Israel’s program are put forth as doctrine for the body of Christ in this dispensation of grace.

People read Psalm 34 and decide that if they “trust in the LORD,” then nothing bad will happen to them.

Psalms 34:22 The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

I’m not sure if they understand what it means to “trust in the LORD” in the context of Psalm 34, but I would say Job trusted in the Lord. Was he ever “desolate?”

Then there is Psalm 37 which is used as a guarantee for getting whatever you ask for.

Psalms 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

And also in Psalm 37, how about that divine protection?

Psalms 37:40 And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

I wonder how many that died in the coliseum were clinging on to this verse? And lastly, let’s not forget about the “divine guidance” that is supposedly promised in Proverbs 3.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

God says that Job’s friends “darkeneth counsel.” This is a good example of the counterfeit of “wise counsels.”

Verse 3 has God telling Job that He is going to ask Job a series of questions that will direct Job’s thinking in a particular way. This is not without application to us for as we get back to Romans 8, we are going to encounter some thought provoking questions from Paul. Those questions are meant to provoke a certain thinking in us just as these questions in Job 38 are meant to do for Job. By the way, I’m not saying that Romans 8 concerns itself with Level 3 sonship, I’m just pointing out the use of questions throughout the curriculum to get the son thinking properly about things.

To get back to the issue of “wise counsels,” I want to bring a couple of things to your attention. Firstly, notice that these “counsels” are called wise. The issue of wisdom, as it is referred to here, is within the context of a Phase 2/Level 3 son. This is the wisdom of a son who has the entire education under his belt, plus the methodology of the Father in how to teach it.

Now, there is one other element that is going to be added. Once a person has gone through any education, there is something else that they need before they are truly able to counsel – and what is that?

The answer is experience. When you go to someone else for counsel, it is usually because they have experience in the area you are interested in.

Now, let’s couple the word “wise” with the word “counsels,” which is a word that we haven’t seen show up in the table of contents before. Also, I want you to notice that these are “counsels” plural, with an “s” on the end of the word.

To get a definition, we will take the word in its singular form, but there is a reason this is given to you in the plural, which we will look at shortly. So, what does “counsel” mean?

Counsel = from the Latin consilium, meaning “a plan decided on as the result of consultation or advice.”

But be careful, it doesn’t say a man of understanding shall attain unto “wise advice.” While “advice” is a synonym of counsel, there are very important differences in the shades of meaning between them.

Counsel = (Webster) Advice; opinion, or instruction, given upon request or otherwise, for directing the judgment or conduct of another; (Which is exactly what a man of understanding is going to be able to do.) opinion given upon deliberation or consultation.

Counsel = (OED) Interchange of opinions on a matter of procedure; consultation, deliberation.

(Smith’s) = Counsel is given by those who are of superior wisdom and experience in the general affairs of life. The trained man is qualified to give advice, the wise man to give counsel. (This points to the fact that as a son goes through the curriculum, he can give advice, but he cannot give “counsel” in the way this being talked about in Level 3 sonship, until he becomes a man of understanding.) Counsel enters into the reason of things and the grounds of preference for one course of conduct rather than another. Advice is given sometimes without being welcome. Counsel is asked for as being felt to be needed.

It’s interesting that both Charles Smith and George Crabb recognize that one very particular, distinguishing, discriminating difference between advice and counsel is that advice is most often

professional in nature (such as a doctor giving a patient medical advice), but counsel is FATHERLY! (As a Father to a son).

To put it simply, the overriding issue in the word counsel is the issue of the giving of information to another from one who has superior wisdom and experience!

To apply this to the Thessalonian epistles (as well as the pastoral epistles) the majority of the counsel that is given concerns the opposition the son will face in the POE. The man of understanding has superior wisdom and experience that allows him to give wise counsels.

“Counsel” is a word that focuses upon the real skillfulness that a man has that is based upon years of wisdom, acquired knowledge, and experience; to be able to give counsel that only comes from actually having ‘been in the trenches’ and faced the battles. The man of understanding has learned by experience what it takes to succeed in accomplishing some objective or what it takes to succeed in grappling with some difficulty or whatever the situation is.

In a nutshell: Counsels is the fruit of manifold wisdom that has been acquired through manifold experience.

The “wise counsels” that a man of understanding attains unto can only being attained by a son who has gone through the entire curriculum, and who has had to deal with all the various situations of the details of his life, along with having faced and conquered all the various oppositions and resistance and done it all by means of the effectual working of God’s word in his inner man. (The very methodology of the Father)

There is no way to shortcut this because it takes the USE of:

- the words/methodology of the Father
- the various situations circumstances that life brings
- the sufferings of this present time
- the sufferings of Christ
- the battles with the opposing, satanic POE,

that provide for the son’s ‘proving ground’ (so to speak) whereby he gains the experience that, combined with his wisdom, results in keen skillfulness for him to be a wise and godly counselor to his son.

Now that His son knows the methodology of learning; (and he can apply it to the written curriculum, and he can convey it to his son, and can successfully be a father to his son), the last thing the Father is going to do, is to give him the benefits of some knowledge and some wisdom that He has attained to Himself, that He has acquired Himself, solely through the personal experience that He Himself has gone through.

As I am thinking back through this, it occurs to me that there is an important aspect of becoming a man of understanding that I have not brought out to you yet. So, if just for a moment, we can back up, let me fill in this gap. When the son enters Level 3 education, he is a wise man.

We know that in Level 3, the son will “hear” something from his Father and we now know what that is that he will hear. Included in that information, which will take the son from being a “wise man” to being a “man of understanding,” is the Father Himself giving the son “wise counsels.” Those wise counsels not only show the son the Father’s methodology for teaching the curriculum as a Father, but they also include something else.

I don’t want you to think about this as just some kind of random advice or counsel about a whole bunch of stuff. There are specific things the Father has in mind when He gives the son the benefit of His “wise counsels.”

One aspect of Level Three’s sonship edification has to do with equipping the son with the ability to and wisely and prudently use the forms of doctrine (which he learned in the curriculum) in many areas of his life which were not specifically covered in the curriculum. In order to do that, the son will need a couple of things. You know that he will need experience. But, he also needs his Father to give him the benefit of his experience by giving the son “wise counsels” as to how the Father Himself did the same thing. In other words, the Father is going to show the son how He, Himself took the doctrines in the sonship curriculum and utilized them in areas that the curriculum did not specifically point out. The Father is functioning as a “man of understanding” to his son which is a “wise man.”

This “wise counsel” the Father gives the son will benefit the son both now and in eternity. With this final skill, the son does not need to be given every single scenario he might encounter in the heavenly places. He only needs the ability to take the forms of doctrine which he learned in the sonship curriculum and apply them to other areas in which he has not been instructed. And he will be able to do so with confidence that he is doing the right thing.

Once the son gets all that, he, in turn, becomes a man of understanding who will “attain unto wise counsels.” As a man of understanding, the son will turn around, and functioning as a father himself, give his own son his own “wise counsel” which comes from experience. Or, we could say it this way, that the goal of Phase 2 of Level 3 is for the son to be a “wise counselor.” But really, there is more to it than that. There is another aspect to this that is really exciting. This is where the “plural” aspect of “counsels” comes into play.

But first, let’s be clear on the 1st aspect to the working definition of what it means for a son in Phase 2 of Level III sonship edification to attain unto wise counsels. I’m saying the 1st aspect because my understanding is that there are 2 aspects to the wise counsels.

As we have already covered, the 1st aspect of what it means for the son to “attain unto wise counsels” is that the son will attain the experience of working with the curriculum in various

areas of operations that will enable him (and authorize/qualify him) to give wise advice and counsel to others who are less advanced, who do not have the experience in either the effectual working of God's word (dealing with the curriculum itself), or in not having faced the opposition he's now having to face, with a view to that son's future conduct and behavior as well as matters of judgment and procedure. You, as a Level III son, are authorized to provide counsel; you're a counselor to them.

I have included this aspect of "authorize" or we could say "qualify" the son to give counsel because that is always a concern where counsel is involved. Is the one giving the counsel "qualified" to do so? For a son, the authority is earned by graduating through the curriculum and by the experience and skillfulness gained throughout Levels 1-3. Once that is produced in you, you are a man of understanding. You now have the authority to give counsel to others. And, as we said before, most of that counsel will be in the areas dealing with the POE, but includes other areas as well.

When a man of understanding gives wise counsel to a saint (adopted, simple, etc) and help him to realize, for example, that what he's facing is an attack of the policy of evil (that strange woman), that counsel can be of great benefit. Even if it is a son he has never met before, the man of understanding can say, "I know exactly what you're experiencing. This is the goal of that part of the policy of evil and here is what you should do to avoid being victimized by itetc., etc."

This is all contained in the 1st aspect of what it means to "attain unto wise counsels." Not only that, but the man of understanding also knows how to counsel without becoming a "tutor or governor" in the process. And whether you know it or not, it takes skill to do that.

But, as we said before, there is more to this attaining unto wise counsels than just this. The final goal of all this is not just so your Father could make you a wise counselor. Not that being a wise counselor is not important, but that is only the first aspect of what it means to attain unto wise counsels.

It is important, for this is exactly what Paul is doing with Timothy, Titus and Philemon in his pastoral epistles. Paul is speaking to them out of his own personal experience. What I want to show you, as an example of what we are talking about, is Paul is going to give his counsel and then he is going to bring himself into the issue at hand to show them how he, himself, did the very thing he is counseling them to do.

2 Timothy 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.³ Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

And now, coming up in vs. 4, is some great counsel for a pastor.

2 Timothy 2:4 **No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life;**
that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

The last thing a pastor needs to do is get involved in the “affairs of this life.” An example of this would be becoming a political figure of some kind; running for office, sitting on the school board, being mayor, being a county commissioner, etc. As a pastor, if you are doing what you supposed to be doing, you don’t have time for such things. It isn’t that they aren’t necessary or important, it’s just that what you, as a pastor, are doing is going to be impacted in a negative way by being involved in these types of things.

2 Timothy 2:5 And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. 6 The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.
7 Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

Notice how Paul is not jamming this down Timothy’s throat, but he asks him to “consider” what he says and then Paul leaves it for Timothy to take before His heavenly Father and confirm what is being said through his own sonship prayer.

Now, look at how Paul injects himself into the counsel he is giving Timothy.

2 Timothy 2:8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: 9 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. 10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Paul has brought his own experience into this issue. And this is a finely tuned skill that Paul is putting on display here. Now, I don’t want to get too far into this example, as I think you get the idea. But I wanted you to see an example of Paul utilizing “wise counsels” to Timothy based on his own experience.

To make an application to us, just imagine the benefit of having a man of understanding in your assembly or as one of your friends who could come along and give you some great counsel about some things that are happening in your life, without becoming your tutor or governor. But as good as that sounds, that is not all that is being referred to when Proverbs 1:5-6 says that a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.

To see this second aspect of what it means to “attain unto wise counsels” we have to go back to the text in Proverbs.

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.

To get the impact of this second aspect, we have to see something brought out in vs. 5 and how it connects up with vs. 6, as well as something brought up in our dictionary-type definition.

Look once again at the text: it says, “and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.” It does not say, “a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsel (sing), but counsels (plural).” This is an important distinction, as you will see.

Next, notice how vs. 5 ends; it ends with a colon. That tells us that vs. 6 is supposed to be connected to it. That colon also tells us that vs. 6 contains an enumeration of the things pertaining to “wise counsels.”

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

When you think about it, and you carefully read (:5 & 6), it should strike you that we’re not just talking about being a good, godly counselor to others. It is that, but there’s more to it than that. If that was all there was to it, then vs. 5 would have ended in a period and vs. 6 wouldn’t even be in the text.

But when you read vs. 6, you get the idea that the son is going to be made privy to some very dark information. And by “dark,” I don’t mean “evil.” In our military, we use the term “dark ops” or “black ops,” which has to do with operations that are not known about by those outside of the participants in the operation and the operation itself is highly clandestine.

We use this term in other ways, such as in the FBI, they use the term “dark information.” Dark information is information that never gets outside of the tiny circle it was intended for. It is information that is so secret, that even the name of it is top secret. And that is close to what is being referred to in Proverbs 1:6.

Proverbs 1:6 does not say a man of understanding shall attain unto being a godly counselor. It says “he shall attain unto wise counsels.” Part of what that keen skillful ability will enable the man of understanding to do is “to understand a proverb, the interpretation of it, the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.”

In other words, there is an issue involved in attaining unto wise counsels (pl) that has to do with the son being ‘let in on’ (so to speak) some very ‘dark’ information. Now, combine that with something brought out in the (OED) dictionary definition: Counsel is the interchange of opinions on a matter of procedure; consultation, deliberation. (an interchange of ideas and deliberation)

I want you to bear in mind that this “attain unto wise counsels” has been the ultimate goal of this whole endeavor by your heavenly Father from the beginning. With that in your mind, turn with me over to Psalm 55.

This is not in a context of a father to a son. But what I'm after by showing you this is to show you how counsel is used by David. It is not about him and his heavenly Father, but this is about something that will prophetically be between the Lord Jesus Christ and Judas Iscariot. This is, for David's part, a friend, who later betrays David and later becomes David's enemy.

Psalms 55:12 For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: ¹³ But *it was* thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. ¹⁴ We took sweet counsel together, *and* walked unto the house of God in company.

This is a treacherous friend that ultimately betrays David, but what I'm after in all this is how David uses the word "counsel." David says in vs. 14 that "we took sweet counsel," let me ask you something – according to the verse, how did they take that "sweet counsel?"

The answer is: they took sweet counsel "together." That's the part I want you to notice. Yes, part of what you, as a man of understanding, will be able to do once you "attain unto wise counsels" is give wise counsel to others, but the bigger part of what your Father was after, as the ultimate goal of this who education, concerns not what you will do with others, but rather, what you will do with Him; something you will do "together."

In other words, what your Father has been after all along is for you to get to the place where you can sit down with Him, and you can take "sweet counsel together," and you can have an intelligent interchange of ideas about His business. And this is where that aspect of taking the forms of doctrine and applying them to situations you did not encounter in the curriculum comes into play in eternity, as you get to think about, determine, decide and think up new ways for the Father's business to put into use. He has reserved areas of His business for you to determine how it is going to work. That is realm of the man of understanding.

The 2nd aspect or component of application for attaining unto wise counsels isn't merely the idea of being able to give advice to other sons who aren't as far along in the edification process as you (grand though that is), but the big issue in attaining unto wise counsels (and why it's the pinnacle of it all) in God the Father's mind is far greater than that. This second aspect is strictly a sonship issue and, in fact, as we will see for us in this dispensation of grace in which we live, it's even an aspect that takes into account the 'mystery' itself!