

Session 29

We left off in our last session looking at Proverbs 1:2. We identified that there are 2 phases to our level 1 education as sons and we were in the book of Proverbs, not to get the doctrine that educates us, but to see the breakdown (the format) of the educational curriculum.

Proverbs 1:2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

We learned that in phase 1 of level 1 (our terminology for describing the breakdown we observed in Proverbs 1:2-6) there are 2 parts:

1. To know wisdom and instruction
2. To perceive the words of understanding

We now turn our attention to the first part; to know wisdom and instruction. At the end of our last session we observed that by this being stated the way it is, we realize that God is not talking about “us learning the things called wisdom” and neither are we being instructed in wisdom at this point. And even if you were tempted to think that is what is being referred to here, when you get to the phrase, “to know... instruction,” that puts a different spin on the word “*know*,” it gives it a different sense or meaning.

If “*To know wisdom*” is the very first thing God is going to produce in our sonship education, the very first thing He wants a son to know is to *know wisdom*, then we’re not talking about knowing wisdom in all its details and becoming wise because of that knowledge. What this verse is talking about is the basic issue of what to “*know*” something is.

The basic issue of “*know*” is that you’ve observed something, or you’ve become aware and cognizant of something. In this case, what you are going to do, and what the Father is going to give you, is *to know wisdom*; that is, you’re going to become **aware** of it, or cognizant of it. You’re apprized of it. By the way, all of these are part of the dictionary definition of wisdom.

So if “*To know wisdom*” is to become cognizant of it (which, by the way, appropriately fits the word “*instruction*” now) maybe it will help if we say that at this initial, basic establishment as a son, you’re not getting wisdom, learning wisdom, gaining wisdom yet, building up wisdom yet, nor are you getting instructed yet or gaining instruction yet or being instructed yet. What you are supposed to do at this point is to “**know**” that this **wisdom** exists and to “**know**” that this **instruction** is out there. So, by knowing that this wisdom and instruction is out there, that it exists, what is it that you are to know about wisdom and instruction? There is something you are supposed to recognize about this wisdom and instruction; what are we supposed to recognize about it?

To answer this, think about what your Father is doing with His adopted sons. In light of our Father initially establishing us as His sons, and beginning the process of setting our attitude to be matching His attitude, that is, to get our attitude (our zeal and our enthusiasm and our desire) to

be taught all this sonship education and curriculum to match up with His attitude to teach us (that is, His zeal and His enthusiasm and His desire to teach us and educate us into this curriculum), in light of that, the very first and most necessary thing for the Father to do (in order to get that done) is to get His son to be cognizant of, or to recognize, or to be aware of, or to find out (or know) the **VALUE** of the *wisdom* and the **VALUE** of the *instruction* he is about to receive from his Father.

So what the son is getting by “to know wisdom and instruction” is not that he is getting taught wisdom or instructed in some kind of wisdom, but all this is about is knowing the value of the wisdom and instruction that is being held out to the son.

The reason the Father wants the son to know the value of the wisdom and instruction that will come from the Father is so that the son will be just as interested, just as excited and just as desirous to be taught as the Father is to give it.

By doing this **FIRST**, the Father is adjusting the son’s attitude to be just as desirous to be educated as the Father is to educate him. Knowing the value and worth of this “wisdom and instruction” sets the son’s desire to the proper level to be educated. And that is the basis for any education to properly take place, especially for adults (which is exactly how the Father is treating you now). In other words, your Father is not just commanding you to sit down and learn some stuff that He calls wisdom, because if that’s what is happening, then this is not going to work. This will only work if the attitude of the son is of such a nature that he cannot wait to be educated by his Father. And the first necessary thing that will produce that attitude in a son (or daughter) is to understand the value of what the Father’s wisdom and instruction holds out to him (or her).

The other thing to know is that I, as a pastor, cannot make this work for you either. No matter how eloquent a sermon I may preach, no matter what words I may use, I cannot talk you into this because this is something that has to happen in your inner man. That is to say, you have to be convinced, by knowing the value of the wisdom and instruction being offered to you, that this is the most important thing you will ever learn in your whole life – it has that kind of value. And when you see it that way, you won’t need a pep-talk to get you excited about it. You won’t need me to talk you into it. You won’t need to know “who else is doing this?” in order to decide if you want to or not.

So it should come as no surprise that when get back over to Romans 8, the first thing your Father wants to do with you is show you the value of His wisdom and instruction to you as an adopted son. He wants you to know, in His own words, just how valuable this wisdom and instruction is. When you are given to know that so that you can truly say that there is nothing this world could ever hold out to you that comes close to comparing with what your heavenly Father is offering you. That is when you know that your desire matches that of your Father.

So, in the issue of the “first things first” of our sonship education, we are supposed to “*know wisdom and instruction*” and then move on to “*perceive the words of understanding*”.

And if we’re to *know wisdom and instruction*, it’s not that we are now supposed to begin acquiring the wisdom, but that we are first of all supposed to realize what this body of information we’re going to be getting (all this *wisdom* of the Father); as well as the entire educational curriculum that it is set in (all the *instruction* of the Father), we’re supposed to realize and recognize **what all that is for—what it’s designed to ultimately produce—and why it’s so important above all else in life.**

And when the Bible says “wisdom” it is referring to what is contained in the curriculum and when it says instruction, it is referring to the curriculum itself. So, in knowing the value and worth in both what is presented to you (instruction) and what you will get out of it (wisdom), you will have set your attitude to be properly educated by your Father. And that needs to be the first thing. And I’ve said before, if you skip this part, you will wind up like Solomon, who traded his sonship in for things offered by his heathen wives. No matter how much he may have understood the words themselves, he was never convinced in his inner man of the value of what was being offered to him. Solomon was presented with this wonderful opportunity which was unmatched by anything this world can offer, but he traded it in for something far less valuable.

Paul had quite a bit of the world’s “cred” but he laid it all aside and counted it but “dung” when compared to this. So this establishment is important because if you fail to know the value of what is being offered to you, then no matter how much you go through the motions, you will wind up being victimized by the policy of evil. Just like Solomon and a thousand others in this dispensation of grace. And that is why I keep saying, I don’t care what excuse you give, if you quit on your sonship education then you have been victimized by the policy of evil.

You might excuse yourself by blaming the curriculum or claiming it doesn’t work, but the truth will be that you tried to shortcut the system in some way. It may have been because you (either intentionally or unintentionally) decided you already had this, or you didn’t need this and you had a better way than God’s way. But I will tell you now, you don’t have a better way than what your Father is offering you. I can recall someone else who thought their way was superior to God’s – and we all know how that’s going to work out.

So, you are, first of all, supposed to realize what this life as God’s son holds out for you. You are to know the value, the importance, the worth, the gravity and weight, and even the grandeur of what we (“my Father and me” or “your Father and you”) are about to embark upon.

Let me step aside here for a moment and say that up to this point, you still haven’t been told about the value of this wisdom and instruction. When that happens, you will be “established” in your sonship or your godly edification as the Bible calls it. But what I am doing now is “orienting” you to the things that are going to be taking place and the order in which they will

happen. That is why at the top of these note pages it says “sonship orientation.” You are only being oriented to what is coming. This is not the instruction that teaches you the value on that the first thing you are going to learn is the value of the wisdom and the instruction. And you might want to balk at referring to this as an education but wisdom and instruction are both educational terms. You can call it whatever you like but at the end of it all, your Father is going to put you in His own classroom and instruct you in His wisdom.

Another benefit the son gains from (first of all) coming to know the value of the information (*wisdom*) and the curriculum (*instruction*) he’s about to receive from his Father is some **assurance** and **confidence** that all this wisdom and this instruction has a specific goal in mind; that it has been so formed by my wise and experienced Father (this isn’t His first rodeo), that it has taken into account all the pitfalls and possibilities and snares and snags and traps that could ever be encountered by the son.

As sons, the very first thing that your Father endeavors to accomplish in your education is producing in you the awareness that He has some important and valuable information for you; it’s worth more than anything else, and it has serious and eternal benefits for you.

He has valuable *wisdom* and valuable *instruction* and you are to see it as such. You need to see *why* that matters. You need to see that the natural thing for a Father to do is for you, before He ever begins instructing you, is make clear the value, benefit and importance of the information He has for you. You need to understand and appreciate why that matters, and why that would be the first thing in your education as God’s son.

I’ve actually alluded to the reason why; because the Father is going to have to deal with the son’s attitude toward learning in the first place. And above all things, HE (the Father) knows just how valuable and just how important this information is. Therefore, the first thing He needs to get done is to get you to view that just like He does.

In fact, before He ever starts giving you the information, before He ever starts providing for you to have the same decision-making skills that He, Himself has, before giving you instruction in how to make decisions that will manifest God-like thinking (as described in vs. 3, where you begin receiving wisdom that you operate upon), well before any of that happens, He wants us to perceive the value of the sonship education (to a great degree) just like He does!

In other words, your valuing of God’s wisdom and God’s instruction is to begin to MATCH God’s own valuing of His wisdom and instruction; or, to say it another way, what is in His heart is now being written on your heart! And that is edification in its simplest form.

And since God has instituted the church and determined that this education is going to be carried out within each local assembly, then all of a sudden “going to church” will take on more meaning and seriousness than it ever did before. The truth is, most Christians do not think that going to church is the most important thing they do all week. The ones who have a heart for God know that it *should* be important so they act like it is, but the real reason it is important is not known by them. Then, going to church becomes just “something we do.” Some may think it is “American” to go to church or that “going to church” shows them to be “Christians.” For many, going to church is a chance to be entertained and, at the same time, salve their conscience that have “done their obligation to God” for the week.

The truth is, when you are part of a local assembly that is doing what it is supposed to be doing, then “going to church” becomes something very different than ever before. We are not just “punching the clock” or “going through the motions,” but we are truly being educated and edified as the adopted sons that we are. And the motive for going is different because now we see that there is a value being offered that exceeds the value of anything this world can offer. No wonder Job said that he valued the words of God “more than [his] necessary food.”

Can you see the difference between those who are reluctantly going to church every week and those who just can’t wait to get there – not because they are going to be entertained or because they are going to be in the spotlight, but because they are receiving something that is as important to them as it is to their heavenly Father.

Now there is one more aspect of this I want to address. There are folks who love going to church, they love the Bible, they listen attentively to the preaching and they enjoy it, truly enjoy it. They go because they want to go; nobody makes them go and they aren’t being “guilted” into it. I’m glad for that but what I need to say is this: none of that means that you have been taught to think like your heavenly Father thinks. I know you may think that you do, but I will tell you now that there is nothing in this world that can educate you to operate upon His wisdom. And you will never come to it naturally, on your own. And if you would like to see an example of just how far off your thinking is from his thinking, just ask yourself if you have ever, on your own, identified an educational curriculum in the Bible that perfectly suited to your education as an adopted son. Could you have written down the order that curriculum would take; which things would come first and what would come next, etc.? Could you have explained why those things are in that order? All of these things are a part of your Father’s wisdom and it all does get explained to you. And this is only “the tip of the iceberg.”

And we aren’t even talking about the things that have been prepared by the adversary to victimize you and get you to abandon your education as a son. Your father not only tells you about those things but he equips you to handle those things when they come up. And only His wisdom can educate you to go through those things properly.

So before you ever get started in the education proper, there is something that your Father knows you have to have. Before He ever starts giving you the information, before He ever starts providing for you to have the same decision-making skills that He, Himself has, before giving you instruction in how to make decisions that will manifest God-like thinking (as described in vs. 3, where you begin receiving wisdom that you operate upon), well before any of that happens, He wants us to perceive the value of the sonship education (to a great degree) just like He does!

That's why you can't just reluctantly comply with it and why you can't just force yourself to come and listen and expect it to work. This has to be taken care of first and we're going to talk about this.

What God is after in Proverbs 1:2 is that your valuing of God's wisdom and God's instruction is to begin to MATCH God's own valuing of His wisdom and instruction; or, to say it another way, what is in His heart (about how important this is, how valuable it is) is now being written on your heart! And that is edification in its simplest form.

And that 2nd part to Phase 1 is fantastic; you advance from just knowing wisdom and instruction to perceiving (not understanding; or not perceiving the doctrines that provide understanding; or anything like that at all), but to perceiving "THE WORDS" of understanding. That's the next step in gaining the proper value and appreciation for the education you're about to get.

So let's recap this:

- First, you are to know wisdom and instruction, which means that you are to know the value and importance of what He's going to give you;
- You are to know why that matters and why this isn't just 'time spent' that you kind of have to serve out just because your Father demands it of you to be properly educated by Him (time served, like some kind of a jail sentence - which is how most education is viewed).

And there's a BIG difference between childhood education and adult, adopted sonship education because here the son is supposed to start out with zeal and enthusiasm to RECEIVE this education and it's supposed to be on level with the zeal and enthusiasm that the Father has to teach it. The thing that starts all that going, and puts all that in motion is: "To know wisdom and instruction;"

And I should say that this introduces one of the aspects of sonship prayer in this dispensation of grace. We often say that we don't know what we should be praying for, well this is one of those things we should be praying for. We should be talking to our Father about the education He desires to give us. Your desire to spend time with your Father over this issue is an indicator of your level of desire for the wisdom and instruction of your Father. If you view this education with reluctant compliance, then this is exactly why this part is included at the very start – to

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adjust your attitude to view the curriculum as your Father views it; to be as enthusiastic about receiving it as He is to give it.

It is because our desire to study often does not match our Father's desire to teach us that this first phase of Level 1 is given. One of the main objectives of the 1st Phase of Level I of your sonship education is for the Father to produce in the son the same attitude toward the information and the education that the Father has.

It's supposed to produce in the son an understanding and appreciation for the wisdom he's about to receive; that there's nothing else that can compare with it, that there's nothing else that's more valuable than it, that there's nothing else that's more impressive or more important than It is and that there's nothing of greater worth than it!

And your Father knows that in order to do that, in order to get that accomplished in this empty but exuberant, newly-adopted adult son, the Father is going to have to set before the son something that is going to deeply impact him a "wow" factor; a jaw-dropping, impact-making issue of what the Father's business is and some inkling of what the son is going to be doing in that business.

Wherefore, you are supposed to begin your education as a son by knowing wisdom and instruction, by seeing that there is nothing in this world that COMPARES to what your Father has for you, that the opportunity to be educated by my Father and receive His wisdom and His instruction is the GREATEST opportunity in the world!

That's what knowing wisdom and instruction is supposed to do for you. To know wisdom and instruction is the establishment of the proper attitude within you of excitement and enthusiasm to begin this education.

As you go down through the section in Proverbs that is designed as the exhortation from the Father to the son: for the son "knowing wisdom and instruction" (Prov. 1:7-19), right off the bat, you are confronted with all these allurements and distractions and attractions and enticements that the son is going to encounter. Let's read through this section to get an idea of what I'm referring to.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. ⁸ My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: ⁹ For they *shall be* an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck. ¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. ¹¹ If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: ¹² Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: ¹³ We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: ¹⁴ Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse: ¹⁵ My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: ¹⁶ For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

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¹⁷ Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. ¹⁸ And they lay wait for their *own* blood; they lurk privily for their *own* lives. ¹⁹ So *are* the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; *which* taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

Vs. 7 – despise means “to look down upon” or “to consider valueless.” It is God Himself who calls the son a “fool” who does not see the value of what is being offered.

Vs. 8 – both the father and the mother are mentioned here because in a family unit they are both involved in the son’s education.

Vs. 9 – the ornament and chains, which we have discussed in an earlier session, are the outward insignias for someone who has been promoted as a ruler. These are directly connected to government.

Beginning in vs. 10, we begin to see the allurements that the son is going to face. And just so you know, if you skip over this establishment phase lightly, there will be a time in which you will fall prey to these allurements and turn away from what your Father is offering you.

Vs. 13 – this competing wisdom holds out some things to allure the son away from his education by his father; riches, substance and spoil. But the exhortation is that these things are not worth trading in your education in your Father’s wisdom.

Vs. 15 – notice that there is a “way” and a “path” that these take. The son is exhorted not to walk in the “way” with them and don’t step foot on their “path.” We are going to see more about this later on, but for now you should know that these words are going to crop up over and over again; pointing the son to recognize something very important.

Vs. 18-19 – this is not going to work out for them the way they thought it would. They thought they were going to come out ahead when in reality, their very lives are going to be wasted (lost) over pursuing this path and way.

Part of the issue of knowing wisdom and instruction is to understand that the Father knows all about these enticements that seek to lure son away from His Father’s wisdom, instruction and knowledge. He’s planned for all of them and He has information designed to work in your inner man that makes it so those things won’t affect your continued sonship education. He has exactly what the son needs to countermand all the allurements and enticements that come down the road that attempt to make it so you ‘decline’ your ear and incline it to the wisdom of this world and attend to this world’s wisdom instead of attending to the wisdom and instruction of your Father (i.e., attending class).

What you are looking at here in Proverbs is the exhortation that is given before the son is given the doctrine, and that is the proper way your Father carries out His education.

The son is to learn, early on, (in just the first 2 chapters of Proverbs

alone), that he must come to understand that there are really only 2 paths of wisdom to follow: and one is valued and esteemed by his Father and the other is disdained by his Father. Actually, when you as a son, “know wisdom and instruction; and perceive the words of understanding” (Phase 1 of Level I), that’s all designed for you to see more attraction, and more “allurements” to what your Father has for you in this educational process than anything this world has to offer you!

How different is that compared to how most folks traditionally think about how they live as Christians? Most who call themselves Christians traditionally view living unto God (more often than not), as some form or fashion of ‘self-denial’! Their thinking is “ok, if Christ redeemed us by dying on the Cross, then the least we can do is deny ourselves the lustful pleasures.” That turns the whole ministry thing around keeping you from sinning.

Now, it’s not that I’m promoting sinning or saying that keeping saints from sinning isn’t right, but the great problem with that is that you still see everything the world has as more attractive than what God has. In fact, most folks don’t see anything attractive about what God has; it’s simply their duty as one who has been redeemed to turn from sin and deny all these selfish lusts.

The idea is to reciprocate Christ’s love for you by turning from everything you actually want and desire and that’s alluring to you, and then determine to do without those things. That’s pretty much how most saved people think. But what Phase 1 of Level I of sonship education is supposed to produce in you is radically different than all that. Coming to “know wisdom and instruction” and “to perceive the words of understanding” are designed to cause you to value and esteem your Father’s words and your Father’s instruction and your Father’s wisdom as having something that is more attractive and more desirable and more valuable than anything this world has to offer (or any other pursuit or endeavor you could put your life and your energy to doing).

I’ll just mention it here, but this should take you back to the way you overcome sin; by reckoning yourself to be dead to sin (it is no longer your master) and you will not participate because you have been made to be someone different in Christ. Your Father is offering you something that is only in accordance with an adopted son, and that something is more valuable than anything the world can hold out to you. The exhortation is meant to make you see that.

One by-products of all this is to create in you a hunger and a desire for God’s words, God’s wisdom and God’s instruction and understanding that just can’t be satisfied by any other thing or in any other way. That’s because we find all that wisdom and instruction attractive; and not just attractive, but we view it with the same desire our Father views it and values it and esteems it, Himself.

You see, it’s not “Well, I really would like to be doing this other thing (fill in the blank) [because you find it more attractive] - but, since Christ died for me, and He’d rather me be here, then I guess I’ll force myself to do this — or I guess I’ll not go there or say that or live that way or whatever....”

But if Phase 1 of Level 1 (Proverbs 1:2) works properly, you'll see this education as far more attractive and valuable and worth more than anything else and then all those other details will begin to just naturally conform to you now making this education the priority of your life. Then, your life will begin to be arranged around this education as its center, instead of something else being the center and this education being just one of many objects that orbit and revolve around your life!

If this is just one of many things that revolve around your life, then you will eventually fall prey to the adversary.

If you really see all that, then you recognize that that's not just a subtle difference; it's a radical difference! One view says, "I know I should attend church more; I know I should pray more; I know I should read and study my Bible more; ...", but the other says, "I can't wait for Bible class; I can't wait to read my Bible; I WANT this education my Father is offering me!"

SUMMARY STATEMENT: (for "To know wisdom and instruction")

- By knowing wisdom and instruction, a son's proper attitude towards his sonship edification is established within him, by the effectual working within him of the exhortations that provide for him to know wisdom and instruction, the desire is established within him not to be a fool. The fool despises wisdom and instruction. But the son's desire gets established within him to emulate God his Father, to learn His knowledge and wisdom, to walk in His paths and His ways and to become skillful and capable to work with Him in the operations of His business.

With that first exhortation in Proverbs 1:7, the son is immediately confronted with a decision. You have a choice as to how you are going to respond to your sonship education. There are only 2 possible choices you can make. Are you going to enthusiastically respond to it and see it as attractive and beneficial; seeing all the allurements that it has and all the value and worth that it has for you? Or, are you going to be a FOOL in your Father's eyes, not seeing the value of it and being duped into despising it?

It's all pretty 'cut-and-dried,' you either know wisdom and instruction (which lays the groundwork for you to ultimately grow into that man of understanding) or you're a fool and you despise wisdom and instruction and you're never going anywhere in this sonship education.

So, the son is hit, right 'off the bat', that there are only 2 courses; only 2 ways; only 2 paths. There's godly wisdom and instruction as a son to my Heavenly Father; and there's everything else. Proverbs uses "path" and "way" over and over and over.

And by the way, when you are wise in your Father's eyes, prepare to be a fool in the world's eyes, because you looked at as worthless in all that they value and esteem! And that will not just be the unbelieving world, for some unbelievers will better understand your commitment to sonship education than fellow believers will. It will largely be other believers that will despise this and will look foolish to them.

You may fool others, but you won't fool the Father. He'll look at you and say, "That boy despises wisdom and instruction! He's a fool!"

So what kind of exhortation will Paul give us, as members of the body of Christ, to convince us that this education offered to us is worth more than anything this world can offer you? I want to show you just a bit of this. When we get back over to Romans, we are going to look at this more fully, but since we have gone to all this trouble in talking about what the exhortation is designed to do, I want to show you some of what is sitting over in the book of Romans, waiting for you.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

In these verses we were confronted with the 3rd component of our sanctification; that we are "sons of God." More than that, it is the Spirit that is going to lead us, as those sons of God. And where is the Spirit leading us? We are being "led by the Spirit" through the education that every son should expect. And how do we know that? Because verse 15 uses a particular descriptive title for the Spirit; the Spirit of adoption.

Anyone who understands what biblical adoption is about knows to expect a series of events to take place once a son has been adopted:

- Tutors and governors are dismissed
- The father undertakes the son's education
- The education specifically pertains to the father's business
- In that education, the father seeks to take the things in his heart and write it upon the heart of his son

Now, there is more to it than that, and you know that. But what I'm after here is that you don't have to be told about an education that you are going to receive as an adopted son; you should be expecting it. And the "leading" that the Spirit is going to do with you, as a "son of God," is in His capacity as the "Spirit of adoption." That tells you that the education(that you should have been expecting the moment you discovered that you were adopted) is going to be facilitated by the Spirit. Yes, your heavenly Father is going to be the one educating you, but it will be by means of a written curriculum and the Spirit functioning in His "adoption" capacity. And as we are "led" by that Spirit of adoption, we truly are being dealt with as "sons of God," not in the

sense of being part of God's family, but in the sense of now being offered a chance to labor with our Father in His business.

Now, let's continue to read in Romans 8.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

I'm going to skip this part for now, although I will say that there is a reason that this is the first thing the son is faced with after he discovers he has been adopted in vv. 14-15. But what I'm after actually comes out of what you are told here in vv. 16-17. By the way, all of what you are reading here falls under the heading of "to know wisdom and instruction." This is the exhortation that is designed for you in particular (in this dispensation of grace) that will set your attitude to see this education as the most desirable, most valuable thing you could ever engage in. Let's pick up our reading in vs. 18. By the way, if you don't recognize this for what it is, it will be a complete mystery as to why Paul launches off into this subject matter. There is a complete section of scripture that runs from verse 18 through verse 25. Again, we are not going to take the time right now to go through all of this, we will when we get back over here, but for now there is something I want you to see.

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Paul begins this by saying that you are going to suffer and he calls it "the sufferings of this present time." We're going to pass over this and take up down in verse 24.

Romans 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Verse 18 and verse 25 are like to bookends to the passage. What God is doing is teaching you that you're going to spend your sonship life experiencing these things called "the sufferings of this present time". But one of the things a son has to get in his thinking to appreciate the wisdom and instruction is going to get, to perceive the words of understanding, is that he has to be patient. God is going to develop in you godly patient contentment in the face of everything that is going to happen to you in life. And that's a byproduct of the main body of this section. But that's something that will talk about in detail later. But this is meant to give you an idea of how your father views the things that you will be going through. Your education is going to get you thinking like your father about those things. This is why we talked about your education getting you to see things from your heavenly father's perspective.

You're going to see that there is a lot of information about these kinds of sufferings. Therefore, you are going to be taught about everything that your body is going to go through from now until the day you die. It prepares you so that no matter what happens, even if I wind up in a nursing home, whatever happens in this life, something is going to override that. This is something that God wants me to appreciate that is more valuable than that. This is the final link in the chain, the view point of what He wants to do with me as a son. And that is what you get in the body of this information.

Romans 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope, ²¹ Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. ²³ And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

Now, does Paul explain anywhere in there what the creature is? Answer: he does not. What does that tell you? It tells you that you should already know what that creature is. And be sure, he is talking about a singular creature; a thing. It is a thing that God created which He calls a creature.

Lots of preachers think this is talking about the earth, under the curse. Others would say this is the whole universe which is under the curse (“made subject to vanity”).

But what I want you to notice is that this creature has a will, just as any living creature would have.

Romans 8:20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, **not willingly**, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

When sin entered the picture, “emptiness” (vanity) entered into that creature. But notice, “not willingly.” This creature has a will! What do have if you have a will? You have the ability to make a decision. And where does decision-making reside in a person? It is in the soul. This creature has a soul; an inner man.

Later on, we are going to come back here and get some details of all this, but for now, let me just get to something specific. I want to give you just enough of this so that it grips you. But you should not just take my word for it. When we come back over here, we are going to have to prove and verify all the things in this passage and I’m not going to take the time to do that now.

When God speaks in Genesis 1:1, what does He say?

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Notice that God says “heaven” singular, not plural. In the other passages throughout your Bible, you see things that lead you to understand that this has attributes of a creature. In the midst of this creature, God creates the earth. And God sees all of that which surrounds the earth as a creature.

When you get back to Romans 8, look at verses 21-22.

Romans 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

Most of the time, preachers reverse the true order of this. They see the “creature” as the earth and the “whole creation” and the earth and the heavens.” But if you were paying attention as you read, you would see that the creature is the part that surrounds the earth (the outer part) and the whole creation is the creature plus the earth. The creature is the heavenly places. And it has a form to it. And the creature was created to be embodiment for the earth.

God views 2 main components to His creation; the heaven and the earth. Why did He do it that way? Well, think about this; if creature is that which surrounds and contains the earth, then what is it? Answer: it is a body. And what are you called in this dispensation of grace?

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, **he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

You are called a “new creature.” That is also why as the “body of Christ” you are going to be put into positions in the heavenly places (in the creature) you will function as the “body” of all of God’s creation. He determined for us to be the ones out there to carry out his instructions.

Look, if you have a creature that has a will, what has it got? A soul, right? God created the earth for Him to have a physical residence on. That earth is going to act as the “soul” and “spirit” sending out the messages that the body is going to respond to.

What you have to understand is that this whole creation has not functioned properly from the beginning. But it will when we get out there. We will function as the intelligence that runs all the systems of the creature. As I write these words, my heart is beating and my lungs are breathing and they do it automatically without any thought or conscious action on my part. I don’t even have to think about it. But there are impulses in my brain that carry that out on a 24/7 basis.

Here’s another thing; it is all done with intelligence. When you move your arm, it with intelligence; coordination. Your leg doesn’t move when you want to raise your hand, it knows how to operate. A body is made to move and have animation to it. This is the very reason the earth and the heavenly places have to be reconciled back to God.

(29-30) Sonship Orientation

Every son, who has been properly educated to respond properly to the inner man of the creature, will be carrying out all the functions of the body of that creature. And what you are going to be looking at both in the heaven and on the earth is Christ; He is going to be **all in all**.

And we are going to be given the grand privilege of knowing what the inner man of this creature wants done and we will recognize it and carry it out. With the angels we will make judgments and decisions and this is going to go beyond anything you could ever imagine. This is where this is all going. This is what these Bible classes are aiming at.

And when you really see this in its fullness, you will know that there is not suffering you could ever endure that will compare with the glory that will be yours out there in the heavenly places. Now, don't come and ask me the details of all this. We have more to day about this when we get back here and this isn't all you will be taught about it. You will really be given the details of it when you get into level 2 of your education. But I just wanted you to begin seeing that there is a value to the wisdom and instruction that is being offered to you. And that probably will wrap us up for this session.