

The Keys To Wisdom

Love

Patience

Obedience

Mercy

Trust

Understanding

Truth

Discretion



Proverbs

WEEK 1

“Great Wisdom”

Study: Proverbs 1:1-6

Reading: II Timothy 3:10-17, Psalm 119:89-100

Memory: Isaiah 40:16

Solomon was known as the wisest man who ever lived. He was one of the sons of King David and was crowned king after the death of his father. He was known throughout the world for his great wisdom. At one point in his life, God told him that he could have whatever he wanted, and he asked God for more wisdom. He took the wisdom that God had given him, and through the leading of the Holy Spirit, wrote the book of Proverbs.

One of the things that we are lacking in today's society is wisdom. Knowledge runs rampant, but wisdom doesn't. We have put men on the moon, created robots to do our work, and have made many scientific breakthroughs. We have thousands of commentaries on the Bible and several thousand books written about the Bible. Why then is our society in such moral decay when we have such great knowledge all around us? It is because we don't have wisdom. We don't know how to take the truths of the Word of God and apply them to our everyday lives. Today, we are going to look at our need to have wisdom.

What Does the Bible Say?

Proverbs is known as the book of wisdom. The first six verses lay out Solomon's purpose for writing the book. The first purpose is so the readers of the book may have wisdom. Wisdom is different than knowledge. Simply stated, wisdom is applying the truth of the Word of God to everyday situations. It involves being able to think through a problem or action. This helps you determine the results of your decision before you make it (vs 1-2).

Solomon also wanted to give practical wisdom so that our behavior will be proper in the sight of God. He wanted his readers to know how to do what is honest and fair and right (vs 3). He tells us that the book wasn't written just for those who were smart, but it was written to allow the uneducated to become smarter and the young to have discretion as they live their daily lives (vs 4).

The only way that we can allow wisdom in our lives is by listening to

what God is saying to us. The result of listening will be a greater understanding of who He is. A person who is wise is one who desires to hear the wise counsel of others. In this context, it appears that Solomon is referring to the wise counsel that God had inspired him to write in the book of Proverbs. It also applies to wise and godly people that you know personally(vs 5).

No matter how educated a person is or how smart they are, they have the ability to be a wise person. Wisdom is found in knowing and applying the Word of God and not just in how much you know or how quick you can think (vs 6).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you want to be a wise person? Do you want to have the ability to continually make decisions that are pleasing to God? I am not asking if you are a smart person. It doesn't matter what grades you received or are still receiving in school, you can still be a very wise person. Wisdom involves making decisions. To make a proper decision about anything, you need to know what the Word of God says about that particular decision. Once you know that, wisdom will help you do what God wants you to do and to do it in the best possible way. There are several people who are geniuses and at the same time they are fools because they make unwise decisions. Solomon presented the key to wisdom in verse 5 when he wrote that a wise person will be open to receive instruction and will listen to wise counsel. Every time you are confronted by the truth of the Word of God, whether it be in your devotions or a sermon, you need to be ready and willing to listen to what God is saying to you.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Ask God to help you listen to wise instruction.*
- * *Thank God for giving you His Word.*
- * *Praise God because He is a God of great wisdom.*

Thought for the day

Who wrote many of the proverbs (vs 1)?

Describe what you know about the author?

What two reasons are given in verse 2 for why Proverbs was written?

- 1.
- 2.

In verses 2-3, three terms, “know,” “understand” and “receive” (ESV) were used. Describe what each of these terms means and the difference between them.

What three areas should we seek to be wise in (vs 3)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What does it mean to be “simple” (vs 4)?

Why shouldn't believers be satisfied with being simple?

Why do you think youth is mentioned in verse 4?

What should the wise person seek to do (vs 5)?

Why is it important to be continually growing and learning in life?

What do you think are things that hinder your growth and learning?

What are proverbs (6)?

****It is important to understand that a proverb is not a definitive truth, but a general statement and rule to live by.*

“Earning A Respect”

Study: Proverbs 1:7-19

Reading: Ephesians 6:1-4, 10-18

Memory: Isaiah 40:16

Several years ago, I saw some guys playing a game of tackle football. Seeing that football was my favorite sport, I couldn't resist changing my clothes and joining in. During the course of the game I was asked a couple of interesting questions. Because I was playing very physical, one of the players asked me if I was a wrestler. A little later, one of the guys asked me if I had ever taken karate. (I still haven't figured out what karate and football have in common.) At another time in the game, they asked me if I had been a college football player. To be honest, none of them were very good players and I think they asked me all those questions because I was doing better than they were.

Today, we are going to see how we should stand in awe of God. The more we see Him act and the better we get to know Him, the greater respect we will have for Him. The more we know and respect Him, the more we will know how He wants us to live and will obey Him.

What Does the Bible Say?

As we saw yesterday, verses 1-6 gave the purpose of the book of Proverbs. In verse 7, Solomon gives the preface that the whole book of Proverbs is based on. For a person to have wisdom, he must first fear the Lord. Fear doesn't mean that we have to be terrified of God. Many people get the idea that God is a mean tyrant up in heaven who is waiting to punish a person when they sin. The word “fear” can be somewhat described as a “reverential awe.” It is to have a great respect and love for God and to revere Him because of His great power. The main reason that God has given us His Word is so that we might not just know about Him, but that we might know Him. When we begin to see who He really is and what He can do, we will have a greater respect for Him. The only way to have true wisdom is to have the fear of the Lord.

The opposite of a wise person is a foolish person. A foolish person despises wisdom and instruction. A fool doesn't pay attention to what the Word of God says. They don't spend time getting to know God. Instead,

they focus all their efforts and attention on pleasing themselves (vs 7).

Solomon knew the importance of listening to his parents. He knew that God had given him his parents to instruct him and teach him (vs 8). When a person honors and obeys his parents, God will honor him (vs 9).

The world is full of sin and evil. There are people all around you that want to entice you into their sin. A wise man is a man who stands strong and doesn't give into peer pressure (vs 10). Verses 11-16 give an illustration about giving into peer pressure. They describe a person who is being talked into a robbery attempt. They planned to sneak up on some wealthy people and beat and rob them.

The robber thinks that he is setting up a trap for others, but in actuality, he is trapping himself because of the internal pain and misery that sin brings. Though sin may appear profitable for a short time, it always ends in disaster (vs 17-19).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you have a fear of God? If you want to be a wise person, you must begin by having a desire to know God in a greater way. You must begin to formulate a respect and reverence of His great power and strength and choose to live the way that He wants you to live.

Do you listen to and obey your parents? God will bless you if you respect and obey your parents teaching and instruction. Even if your parents are not saved, God will honor your obedience in a great way.

Do you take a stand for God when your friends don't? Satan wants to use your friends to entice you into sinning. Solomon used the example of robbery, but didn't limit it to just that. That was just an example to show that sin leads to destruction. It could be the music or TV that your friends trick you into. Maybe its sexual pleasure or dirty jokes. Maybe it's financial wealth and prosperity. Whatever the case, you need to resist the evil peer pressure of your friends.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Ask God to help you have a fear of Him.
- * Thank God for the parents He has given you.

Thought for the day

What does it mean to “fear the Lord” (vs 7)?

How is that the “beginning of knowledge” (vs 7)?

What do fools do (vs 7)?

How can you see this to be true?

Who does Solomon encourage us to listen to (vs 8)?

Does this apply to all situations of life?

What will obedience to your parents be to you (vs 9)?

What does that mean?

What are you to do if you are enticed by sinners (vs 10)?

Why is this not always as simple as it sounds?

What are ways that you are enticed by sinners in your situations of life?

What type of people was Solomon warning against (vs 11-13)?

How can you face this similar type of temptation today?

How should we treat others who are trying to entice us to be apart of their sin (vs 15)?

What do verses 17&18 reveal to us about the traps of evil?

What are greedy men actually doing to themselves (vs 18)?

How can we hurt ourselves by trying to help ourselves?

How have you seen verse 19 true in your life or the lives of others?

“Three Bad and One Good”

Study: Proverbs 1:20-33

Reading: Luke 12:13-22, Proverbs 3:13-26

Memory: Isaiah 40:16

As I look back on the different stages of my life, I can see all four types of people that we are going to talk about today. I was saved at an early age and lived in a Christian home. For the first several years of my Christian life I was simple. I made decisions based on the little I knew about God and His Word. As I entered my pre-teen years, I became a scoffer. I began to make fun of my pastor and other spiritual leaders. I called the good Christians bad names and made jokes about them. As I entered into my middle teen years, I became a fool. I rejected Christianity and the teaching and preaching that I heard. I wanted to do my own thing and didn’t care about God and the Bible. Finally, during my first year of college, I began to become wise. That was accomplished by allowing the Holy Spirit to change my attitude about God. I began to listen to and read the Word of God and let it change my life.

Today, we are going to look at four types of people. As you read, ask yourself what type of person you are.

What Does the Bible Say?

Solomon contrasts the way of evil men (verses 10-19) with the way of wise men (verse 20-21). Evil normally involves enticement and secretive acts, but wisdom is proclaimed openly. It has nothing to hide and is available to everyone. Verse 22 mentions three different groups of people that wisdom can change, the simple ones, the scoffers and the fools. The simple ones are naive and have little knowledge of God. Scoffers are those who make fun of Christians and God. Wisdom is widely available to them so that they can see that their scoffing is in vain. Wisdom will also help the fool. Fools are people who hate to be told what to do. Many times, they think that if they follow biblical guidelines, they won’t have freedom in life, but the opposite is true. Sinners are trapped in the chains of their sin. Real freedom comes when God frees us from the misery of sin.

People who are truly wise will listen to rebuke. That means that a wise man will listen when the Word of God reveals sin in his life. Wisdom has the ability to penetrate beyond our outward actions and challenge the purpose

behind the actions. A wise man is willing to listen to rebuke and change his ways, but a fool closes his ears and is unwilling to change (vs 23).

When we refuse to listen to the calls of wisdom, we are headed down a path of destruction. When we want to do things our way instead of God's way, our lives will end in pain and misery. Verses 24-32 describe the terrible affects that sin will have on a person's life. One of the marks of a wise person is that he is able to foresee the future consequences of his present decisions.

Though destruction characterizes the simple, the scoffer and the fool if they don't heed the Word of God, peace and security will be the characteristics of a wise man (vs 33).

How Does this Apply to Me?

What type of person are you? Are you a naive person who lives in sin because you don't know what the Word of God says? Are you the scoffer who knows the truth, but makes light of it? Often, scoffers grow up in religious homes or are exposed to the Bible at church, but they never make the beliefs that they hear their own. Are you a fool who knows the truth, but chooses sin over righteousness? Are you a wise person who is constantly striving to be more like Christ? A wise person wants to know the truth of the Word of God and how the Word can change his life. These four types of people exist in almost every Bible believing church. As you read about the four types of people, some people in your church might have come to your mind. But I don't want you to decide what category they are in, I want you to see what category you are in. What category do you fit in — Simple, Scoffer, Fool, Wise?

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Ask God to change you so that you will be more like Him.*
- * *Thank God for giving you His Word.*
- * *Praise God because He is a God of peace and security.*

Thought for the day

What point was Solomon trying to get across in verses 20-21?

****He was comparing wisdom with deception in previous verses.*

What does this reveal about the ability you have to gain wisdom?

What different types of people are mentioned in verse 22?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How can you be these types of people?

What should you do when you are reprovved (vs 23)?

How is realizing where you are wrong one of the first steps to growth?

Why is this not always easy to do?

What picture is given in verses 24-25?

What will happen to those who fail to listen to reproof (vs 25-27)?

Why do you think such a grim picture is painted in these verses?

What will God not do at times when you are facing the consequences for your foolishness (vs 28)? Why not?

What attitude is developed when you choose not to listen to reproof (Vs 29-30)?

What does verse 31 reveal about the results of your choices?

What is verse 32 teaching?

What will happen to those who listen to instruction and reproof (vs 33)?

“Valuable Treasure”

Study: Proverbs 2:1-8

Reading: Psalms 19:7-14, II Peter 1:16-21

Memory: Isaiah 40:16

In January 1848, James W. Marshall, a carpenter building a sawmill for John A. Sutter in California’s Sacramento Valley, discovered gold. Sutter made his workers promise to keep the discovery a secret. However, the news leaked out. Within a few months, a shrewd merchant, hoping to increase his business, set off the gold rush in earnest. Samuel Brannan, one of the early Mormon settlers in San Francisco, owned a store near Sutter’s fort. In early May, he returned to San Francisco from a visit to the diggings and spread the word of gold. Within a few days, boats filled with townspeople were heading up the Sacramento River to look for gold. Brannan, of course, had stocked his store with mining supplies and was doing a thriving business. San Francisco soon was a ghost town, as almost everyone was off to the gold sites. This was the beginning of the California gold rush of 1849.

Today, we are going to see how we need to seek the wisdom that is found in God’s Word like the 49’rs sought for gold.

What Does the Bible Say?

One of the greatest hindrances to being a wise person is a lack of desire to learn and to change. Verses 1-4 each give several ways that we should cherish and desire the instruction and correction that we receive from the Word of God. This can be seen in words like, “receive,” “treasure,” “attentive,” “cry,” “seek,” and “search.” All of those words tell us that if we want to grow spiritually, we must actively seek to know more about God and His Word. That means that we have to have that attitude of learning every time we go to church and every time we open God’s Word.

If you do the things that are mentioned in verses 1-4, you will be able to know what the fear of the Lord is and how you can display it in your life. You will also be able to discover the great knowledge that is found in God and His Word. Verse 5 is conditional on verses 1-4. To get to the results that verse 5 promises, you must follow the advice that is given in verses 1-4.

Wisdom doesn’t just come naturally, but it comes from the Lord. It doesn’t come from men who are considered “wise” in the world’s eyes, but

is given by God because it is God alone who knows and understands everything (vs 6). God desires to give wisdom to those who seek Him and walk in His ways. He also wants to be their shield to protect them from danger, as well as from the temptations and traps of the world (vs 7). When you do things God’s way, you will never fail because you have God on your side (vs 8).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Take a look at verses 1-4 and see if the things mentioned in those verses describe your attitude towards God and His Word. Vs 1 -- Do you receive God’s Word with open ears, even if it goes against your desires? Do you look at your Bible as a treasure? Vs 2 – Do you attentively listen to what God is saying to you when you are in church? When you open your Bible everyday do you do it with the intent of listening to God? Do you change your ways if they don’t match up to God’s ways? Vs 3 -- Do you have a desire to know what God’s Word is really saying to you? Do you have a desire to have a deeper understanding of God and His Word? Vs 4 – Do you view the Bible as a valuable treasure? Do you seek the truths about God just like you would seek after silver or gold?

Carefully examine your life so that you can truthfully answer these questions. If God has shown you an area where you need to change your attitude about Him and His Word, take steps to make those changes today.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Ask God to help you to change your attitude in the areas where it needs to be changed.*
- * *Thank God for giving you the treasure of His Word.*
- * *Praise God because He and His Word are always the same.*

Thought for the day

Verses 1-4

What are the eight parts of the “if’s” found in verses 1-4 and how can we practically do these things?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

What will be the result of the “if’s” listed in verses 1-4 (vs 5)?

How have you seen this true in your own life?

Who is the source of all wisdom (vs 6)?

Why don’t we often seek for wisdom from the Lord first?

What does it mean that God “stores up sound wisdom” (vs 7 - ESV)?

What will God do for you (vs 7)?

What condition needs to be met in order for God to fulfill His role (vs 7)?

What does it mean that God “guards the path of justice” (vs 8 - EVE)?

What does God do for His saints (vs 8)?

“Pain vs. Peace”

Study: Proverbs 2:9-22

Reading: Proverbs 2:1-8, II Timothy 2:20-26

Memory: Isaiah 40:16

I don’t often think of myself as a stubborn person, but sometimes I realize how stubborn I am. Occasionally, I will get headaches. Many people’s first response when they get a headache is to take some medicine, but not me. I stubbornly decide that I am going to suffer through the pain and that it will go away. The problem is that it often doesn’t go away. Instead of getting better, my headache starts to get worse. Finally, I decide to take some medicine for my headache. Guess what happens? My headache goes away. After my headache is gone, I start looking back and thinking about how crazy I was for not taking the medicine in the first place.

Today, we are going to see how we should choose peace and joy over pain and misery. When we are stubborn and unwilling to let God change our lives, we are headed into a life of destruction.

What Does the Bible Say?

In verses 1-4, we saw the actions we need to take to be wise. In verses 5-8, we saw God’s actions in giving us wisdom. The rest of the chapter explains the numerous benefits that we will receive when we obey God, and the problems we will have when we don’t.

God will give us the wisdom to discern what is right and fair in our dealings with others. He will give us the ability to look at both sides of a situation to determine what is the best course of action to take or what is the best counsel to give (vs 9). Wisdom isn’t an outward action, but it is something that comes from the heart and the soul (vs 10). A wise person will be guarded by discretion. A person who uses discretion is able to avoid evil because he understands the way Satan works. He knows how he is tempted and does his best to avoid putting himself in places and situations where he can fall into sin (vs 11-15).

Wisdom will also help you avoid falling into sexual sins. Sexual temptation is around every corner, and as Christians, sometimes they are hard to avoid. But many times, we put ourselves into situations that cause us to

fall. Solomon understood the power of the sexual drive and the ability that an evil woman or man had to entice a godly Christian into sexual sin (vs 16-17). Though sexual pleasures may seem so enticing and gratifying, they only lead to destruction. Giving into such sins leads you down the opposite path that God wants you to go down (vs 18-19).

Exercising wisdom leads to joy and peace, but those who live in wickedness and give into their evil desires will face ruin. Satan wants to ruin your life by making sin look far better than it is (vs 20-22).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you want to avoid pain and misery in life? Do you want to live a life that is filled with joy and peace? If you answered yes, then you will want to live a life that is full of wisdom. If wisdom can bring you joy and peace, then why doesn't everyone live the life of wisdom? Because it is not always easy, and it takes work. Yesterday, we saw how we can live a life that is full of wisdom. Many people aren't willing to follow the steps to wisdom that are found in verses 1-4, and therefore, head down the path of pain and misery. Take for instance, a person who struggles with sexual temptation. If a TV show comes on that has partial nudity or sex scenes, a wise man would immediately turn the channel. A foolish man would watch and lust after what he has seen. If unconfessed, that lust will build and will often lead to him having some type of sexual relations outside of marriage. Our society is sex crazed and it shows by the number of rapes, sexual abuses, and divorces that happen every day. Wisdom can help you avoid these pitfalls and the many other consequences of sin.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Ask God to help you be willing to make the sacrifices you need to make in order to be a wise person.*
- * *Thank God for the wisdom that He gives you.*

Thought for the day

What does the "Then" at the beginning of the verse 9 reveal?

What does it mean that you will understand "righteousness", "justice" and "equity" (vs 9)?

Why were good paths important in those days?

Describe how you will be able to walk according to what is right

What will be the end results of applying godly principles in your life (vs 10)?

How will discretion and understanding help protect you (vs 11-15)?

According to verses 1-15, what is the only way to live a godly life?

What is a "forbidden woman" (vs 16)?

How will we be delivered from a "forbidden woman"?

How does the type of woman mentioned in verse 16 deceive?

What does verse 17 describe?

****This is a woman who chose to leave her husband or the man she was bound to and "play the field."*

What do the flatteries of a "forbidden woman" lead to (vs 18)? What does that mean?

What does this reveal about the great destruction of sexual sin (vs 18-19)?

Is this just limited to sexual sin? Explain.

How can we walk in the ways of righteousness (vs 20)?

What will happen to the upright and the wicked (vs 21-22)?

“Hang It Around Your Neck”

Study: Proverbs 3:1-4

Reading: Romans 12:9-21, II Kings 6:15-23

Memory: Isaiah 40:16

Dr. Laurence M. Gould, president emeritus of Carleton College, said “I do not believe the greatest threat to our future is from bombs or guided missiles. I don’t think our civilization will end that way. I think it will die when we no longer care. Historian Arnold Toynbee has pointed out that nineteen of twenty-one civilizations have died from within and not by conquest from without. There were no bands playing and flags waving when these civilizations decayed. It happened slowly, in the quiet and in the dark when no one was aware.”

Today, we as Christians can make a difference in the world when we have a love for God and display a kindness to others. In a society that only cares about themselves, loving Christians can make a huge impact on others around them.

What Does the Bible Say?

Verse 1 sheds some light on two very important principles concerning wisdom. The first is that we can’t be wise if we don’t know or don’t keep in mind the principles that are found in God’s Word. It is not enough to hear it or to have known it at one time, we have to constantly spend time in God’s Word so that we will know his commandments. The second principle is that God’s commandments must penetrate our hearts. That means that we can’t just have a head knowledge about what is right, but we must have a heart knowledge. We must obey God because we love Him and not just because someone told us to (vs 1).

A wise person will have a long and peaceful life. This doesn’t mean that if a person dies at a young age that they are sinning. Several times in God’s Word people who lived righteously died young. This is a general principle that applies to length of life, but also applies to the fullness of life. When a person lives for God, they will experience a peaceful and fulfilled life. On the contrary, those who live in sin will constantly be seeking for the next thrill or the next dollar to make them feel fulfilled (vs 2).

A wise man is also characterized by kindness and truth. Kindness

displays itself by extending a helping hand, forgiving offenses, and sympathizing with those in trouble. Truth displays itself by placing a great importance on the Word of God. Binding them around one’s neck and writing them on one’s heart are expressions to describe how we should make them integral parts of our lives so we won’t forget (vs 3). When we are characterized by kindness and truth, we will have a great reputation with those who are around us. Even our enemies can’t find fault in us when we display great kindness towards them (vs 4).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you consistently spending time in God’s Word so that you can know Him in a more intimate way? Do you do what is right because you love Him or because you know you will get in trouble if you don’t? If you want to live a life that is peaceful and fulfilled then you should take time to know God’s Word and to develop a greater love and appreciation for Him.

Is your life characterized by kindness? How do you display your kindness to others every day? Do you get angry and yell at others when they mistreat you, or do you love them more when they do things to hurt you. Many times, it isn’t easy to love, but you will discover that you will find favor in the sight of others if your life is characterized by kindness. The Word of God and kindness should have a high priority in your everyday life.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Ask God to show you any area of your life where you have not been displaying kindness to others.*
- * *Thank God for the kindness He consistently displays to you.*
- * *Praise God because His Word is the absolute truth.*

Thought for the day

What does it mean to forget the teaching of God (vs 1)?

Why is this easy to do?

How can we practically work on remembering?

What does it mean to keep the commandment of God from the heart (vs 1)?

What is the promise given in verse two to those who obey verse one?

Does this mean that anyone who dies early was living in sin?

How would you define “steadfast love” (vs 3 - ESV)?

How would you define “faithfulness” (vs 3 - ESV)?

What are we to do with steadfast love and faithfulness (vs 3)? Why?

What is the promise for those who dwell in these things (vs 4)?

What does it mean to find favor with God?

What does it mean to find favor with men?

Why is this hard to do?

Why does it seem that it is much easier to do things man’s way rather than God’s way?

Describe how you have seen the truth of these statements in your life.

Memory Verses

Isaiah 40:1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God? 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. The LORD has spoken!” 6 A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. 9 Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young. 12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? 13 Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel? 14 Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? 15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust. 16 Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.