***PROVERBS***

**Ch. 2:10-22**

**II. The protective power of wisdom**

 A. The general statement----**Vs. 10-11**

 1. Wisdom keeps its follower from making decisions that will later bring only regret

 2. Discretion---Wisdom will keep you from many foolish choices and harmful consequences in life

 B. Wisdom rescues us from wicked men---**Vs. 12-15**

 1. Wisdom will keep us from going evil ways, and from associating with the wrong crowd---**V. 12**

 a. Our fallen natures are attracted to what is evil and perverse, and celebrates in it.

 b. This perversity is not unique to our time, but it certainly marks our present age

 C. Wisdom rescues us from the immoral woman---**Vs. 16-22**

 1. “Strange”---Stranger; in this context, ‘someone who outside of a man’s proper relations; a harlot or adulteress

 2. Solomon wrote of her as a seductress who uses words to seduce or flatter

 3. This woman had a past record of disloyalty and unfaithfulness, both to others and to God---**V. 17**

 4. An important part of wisdom’s protection is to see where a path leads---death---**V. 18**

 a. **V. 19**---“None…return”---Not an absolute promise, but a true principle

 b. Solomon had seen many go down this path with an immoral woman, never to return to the way of wisdom.

 c. A life early given to promiscuity is difficult to reclaim----It is far better to never go down such paths

**CH. 3**

Solomon’s advice as a father to his son in this section begins with a warning to never forget God’s word

**I. Walk rightly with God by seeing the value in His word Vs. 1-4**

 A. Because of a possibility of added time----**V. 2**

 1. In principle, obedience to God’s word brings long life and peace.

 a. This is a blessed combination; length of days could be a curse and not a blessing without peace.

 b. Not an absolute guarantee, but usually a true principle---Disobedience usually shortens a life

 B. Because you will have favor with God and men---**V. 4**

 1. Solomon wisely advises to keep God’s mercy and truth close at all times---always a need for it!

 2. “Binding and writing”---the teacher is stressing that the teachings should become a part of the disciple’s nature

 3. Until this is the case, the favor of God or man may be elusive

 C. Because you will find direction---**Vs. 5-6**

 1. It is our nature to put our trust in something or someone, even if that is our own selves.

 2. Solomon told us to consciously put our trust in the LORD

 3. Real trust in God must be a complete trust---“***All***”

 a. It is easy to trust when things are good, but we often have trouble when we have problems

 b. Trusting God partially is really failure to trust the LORD at all.

 1) Some are troubled by this, thinking there is some part of their heart that is not truly trusting God.

 2) Since we are imperfect people, it is impossible for us to trust in the LORD perfectly.

 a) In principle, this I not describing an objectively perfect trust in God

 b) This speaks of a heart and life that does not consciously reject or defy God with unbelief.

 4. To trust God with all our heart to follow His direction as declared in His word---**V. 5**

 a. When we step out of the picture, we acknowledge that God is in control, and we are not!---**V. 6**

 b. God will then direct our paths in the fulfillment of His will, into what is right and pleasing before Him

 1) Many are afraid to have God direct their paths because they would rather direct themselves!

 c. Seeking God’s will?--- Proverbs 3:5-6 gives the answer!