

**The Path of Life and the Paths of the Dead**  
**Proverbs Chapter Two**  
**Berean Baptist Church**  
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**INTRODUCTION**

The first chapter of Proverbs teaches us that we must pursue wisdom because the simple are vulnerable to being led down the path of greed, evil, violence and, in the end, self-destruction. Now, the second chapter teaches us how to stay on the one path of wisdom and life, and warns us of other paths – the paths of the dead. *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Matt 7:13-14”*

*Follow the Path of Life by diligently filling yourself with God's teachings, and you will avoid the paths of the dead!*

**Proverbs 2:1-9 The Path of Life**

**Vs 1-4** The Path of Life begins with words. But these are not just any words, these are trusted words from a man anointed and filled by the Holy Spirit. And these words are not to be just heard, look at the commands:

Receive and hide – you must take Wisdom deep inside of you as you would food.  
incline and apply – You must go out of your way for Wisdom, be willing to alter your life.  
cry for and call out for – you must actively seek for Wisdom  
seek as silver and search as treasure – Be willing to work for Wisdom and value it like money

Wisdom is a lifestyle, a way of living, as opposed to just a few facts or hacks or tricks.

*You must follow Wisdom as a lifestyle, dive deep into it, and allow it to fill you; this is the Path of Life.*

**Vs 5** if we strenuously follow this comprehensive lifestyle of wisdom then our walk with God will be just as complete: we will have the fear of the Lord (a right attitude to God) as well as the knowledge of God (a tender personal relationship with God).

Some people are very religious but know nothing of the love of God. Others may be spiritually sensitive but know nothing of the true doctrine. The Wisdom of Proverbs is the perfect meeting of love and doctrine.

Follow after this Wisdom and the Path of Life will lead you to God. Why does Wisdom lead to God?

**Vs 6** Wisdom leads to God because it also comes from God. Seeker of Wisdom must understand where it comes from and why. This chapter starts by telling us that the path of wisdom starts with “words and commandments”, now we learn the ultimate source: God.

Wisdom comes directly from God; out of His mouth! This means and wisdom morality cannot be separated; those who love wisdom are also those who love God.

**Vs 8** the lovers of Wisdom are "saints" literally: "the loyal ones who love." This is the personification of the word "lovingkindness" used to describe God's, faithful love.

**Proverbs 2:10-19 The Paths of Death**

**Vs 10** Over time the student of wisdom acquires a taste for wisdom and loves it. This taste for wisdom is his protection against many dangers:

the way of the evil man (12), the way of the froward (lit. twisted or perverted) (12), those who leave the path of integrity to walk in darkness (13), and those who rejoice to do evil and twisted acts (14). In summary...

**Vs 15** Wisdom keeps you on the straight path and protects you from those on the twisted path

**Vs 12 and 16** We have now met thee "characters" that are trying to lead people off of the Path of Life. In chapter one we met "the sinners" whose lust for money and blood leads them down the path of self-destruction. But there are many paths of the dead and now we meet two more:

The Froward Man – loves to twist and pervert others with his words. He leads others, especially, the simple into pointless lives. Peter refers to this sort in 2 Peter 3:15-18.

*Know that many, and convincing words, do not guarantee wisdom!*

The Strange Woman – forsakes covenant and family in order to pursue pleasure. The basic impulse of pursuing temporary pleases at eternal costs is the impulse of the flesh in Romans 8:5-8.

*Just because something feels good does not mean that it is wise!*

The Paths of Death are also marked by words. The evil man (12) speaks froward (lit. twisted or perverted) things and the strange woman (16) flatters with her words.

**Vs 17** “guide” is likely her husband, whether “the covenant of her God” refers to the Lord or a false god, the point about her is that she is basically unfaithful. This woman who flatters also forsakes and forgets.

*Carefully follow Wisdom because the paths of the dead are many, easy, and attractive.*

## CONCLUSION

### **Proverbs 2:20-22 Where the Paths End**

Notice the extreme difference between the Path of Life and death. There is no middle ground and no one stays on the Path of Life accidentally. The Path of Life takes deliberate effort, but the path of death just happens.

Those with integrity (the upright) are those who are complete, sincere, whole (the perfect), these will be established in the land by Wisdom. The evil path ends in violence and homelessness through folly.

*Follow the Path of Life by diligently filling yourself with God's teachings, and you will avoid the paths of the dead!*