

# The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES  
with Pastor Greg Formey



## Two Tests For Wisdom

### Proverbs 8:1-9

Sunday, January 31, 2015

Many of us think that we must get really deep to find wisdom to live a godly life. But actually the secret to it is locked up in our every day experiences if we can learn from them.

**<sup>1</sup>Listen as Wisdom calls out! Hear as understanding raises her voice! <sup>2</sup>On the hilltop along the road, she takes her stand at the crossroads. <sup>3</sup>By the gates at the entrance to the town,**

**on the road leading in, she cries aloud, <sup>4</sup>"I call to you, to all of you! I raise my voice to all people. <sup>5</sup>You simple people, use good judgment. You foolish people, show some understanding.**

**<sup>6</sup>Listen to mean! For I have important things to tell you. Everything I say is right, <sup>7</sup>for I speak the truth and detest every kind of deception. <sup>8</sup>My advice is wholesome. There is nothing devious or crooked in it.**

**<sup>9</sup>My words are plain to anyone with understanding, clear to those with knowledge."**

There are two common experiences (or tests) through which you can find wisdom. If you learn from them, you will become wiser and more understanding of human nature. If you do not, you will travel down the road of foolishness, becoming increasingly more hardened unsuccessful.

### WHAT ARE THE TESTS?

God makes sure that we experience extremes in our lives. Times of "**more than enough**" and times of "**not enough**". Most of us experience somewhat of a balance between the two. There are times when everything is going our way, and periods when nothing is going right. These are the times that are tests for us. These two types of experiences bring out hidden things in us. Some of these things we would be ashamed of and try to deny, and others we are pleasantly surprised and encouraged by.

Oddly enough, you are tested for wisdom in the same way that you discover whether or not there are rats in your storage room. You have to sneak up on them and turn on the light suddenly. In the same way, both prosperity and pain help us by jumping out on us suddenly and showing us our hearts. These are the times that make us more of what we are – wise or foolish.

### **More Than Enough**

Periods of abundance in the lives of wise people tend to promote more righteousness in them. Just the opposite is the case for the unwise. In the end it brings them no advantage. In fact, it subtracts from them.

#### **Proverbs 10:16**

**The earnings of the godly enhance their lives, but evil people squander their money on sin.**

If you are wise and unselfish, prosperity will make you more wise and unselfish. But if you are selfish and unwise, The worst thing that could happen to you is to have all your dreams come true.

### **Not Enough**

#### **Proverbs 10:25**

**When the storms of life come, the wicked are whirled away, but the godly have a lasting foundation.**

This was confirmed by Jesus in His comparison of those who heeded and ignored His words.

#### **Luke 6:47-49**

**<sup>47</sup>I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. <sup>48</sup>It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. <sup>49</sup>But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins."**

If we can learn to submit to God's discipline during tough times, joy and peace are the results.

#### **Proverbs 3:11-18**

**<sup>11</sup>My child, don't reject the Lord's discipline, and don't be upset when he corrects you. <sup>12</sup>For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.**

**<sup>13</sup>Joyful is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding. <sup>14</sup>For wisdom is more profitable than silver, and her wages are better than gold.**

**<sup>15</sup>Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. <sup>16</sup>She offers you long life in her right hand, and riches and honor in her left.**

**<sup>17</sup>She will guide you down delightful paths; all her ways are satisfying. <sup>18</sup>Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her; happy are those who hold her tightly.**