

FINDING ANSWERS TO LIFE'S DEEPEST QUESTIONS

Part 1 of WHO AM I? Proverbs 2:1-11.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. September 18, 2022.

INTRODUCING THE *WHO AM I?* SERIES

Knowing who I am is very important because:

- If I don't know who I am, I can't know why I am.
- If I don't know who I am, I can't know the truth about myself.
- Identity confusion leads to deep unhappiness and harmful choices.

How can we find answers to life's deepest questions?

SOCRATES AND THE QUESTIONS OF LIFE

Socrates was a Greek philosopher born in 469 BC.

- Plato recorded Socrates' sayings. For example, "By all means marry; if you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher."
- Socrates' most famous saying may be: "The unexamined life is not worth living."
- We cannot live life to the full until we understand what life is all about. For example, who am I and why am I here?

THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

Solomon was the king of Israel from 970-931 BC.

1 Kings 4:29-31 (ESV) And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore, 30 so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. 31 For he was wiser than all other men,

Solomon wanted to pass on his God-given wisdom to his son.

Proverbs 2:1-11 (ESV) My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; 3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, 4 if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures ...

5 ... then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. 6 For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; 7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, 8 guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. 9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; 10 for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; 11 discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you.

PROVERBS 2:1-4, SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS

Search in the right places - verses 1-2.

- My words, commandments, wisdom.
- Psalms 119:160 (ESV) The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

Search with openness to God - verses 1-2.

- Receive, treasure, be attentive to ...
- Ephesians 4:17-18 (NLT) With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. 18 Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him.

Search with intense focus- verses 3-4.

- Call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding; search for it as for hidden treasures.

PROVERBS 2:5-11, FINDING ANSWERS

When we cry out and search, the Lord gives us answers.

- The Lord gives wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.

Wisdom etc. gives us the Lord's perspective on life.

- The good path - v. 9.
- Righteousness, justice, equity - v. 9.
- Protecting, shielding, watching over us - vv. 7-8.

GETTING THE MOST FROM THIS SERIES

- Be here every Sunday. Catch up online.
- Read Victory Over the Darkness.
- Join a Cornerstone Group.

CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

Start Talking. Get the conversation going.

- Do you have friends or co-workers or neighbors who struggle with identity issues? What kinds of struggles do they have? How have you interacted with them?

Start Thinking. Review Sunday's teaching.

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching was most impactful for you and why?
- Does your study Bible define wisdom and understanding? Share its insights.
- Read Ephesians 4:17-24 and discuss the contrast between our perspective on life before and after knowing Jesus.

Start Sharing. Apply Sunday's teaching.

- How has studying God's wisdom in the Bible helped you navigate life better?
- How have you grown your desire to gain God's wisdom and understanding?
- What are some ways you have experienced conflict between God's wisdom and our culture's answers to life's questions? How have you resolved it?
- What are some questions you still have about Sunday's teaching?

Start Praying. Be bold.

Father, thank you for caring us us. We believe you want the best for us. Please increase our desire to find YOUR answers to life's deepest questions. Give us wisdom and insight as we study your Word. Help us apply your perspective to our life-choices. We praise you, our great God. In Jesus' name. Amen!

Keep Reading. In preparation for next Sunday.

- Read chapter 1 of Victory Over the Darkness.