

“Purpose of Protection”, Proverbs 2:12–22
Pastor Shawn Newberry, August 30, 2026

Main Idea

Key thought: There is a great difference between falling into the mud and making the mud your home.

I. Wisdom Delivers You from the Way of Evil — vv. 12–15

“Delivering you from the way of evil...”

Wisdom shapes not only our decisions, but also the people with whom we walk.

A. Evaluate the voices influencing you — v. 12

- “Men of perverted speech”
- Our words reveal the condition of our hearts — Matthew 12:34–35
- Perverted speech includes lying, manipulation, gossip, slander, belittling, hostility, and provoking conflict.
- **A wise person chooses friends who make wise choices.**

B. Evaluate the direction they are walking — v. 13

“Who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness.”

- *Forsake* = to leave or abandon.
- These are not merely people who stumble; they have abandoned the right path.
- The issue isn't merely: Do you know God's commandments?
- The greater question is: Do you treasure them?

C. Evaluate what they celebrate — vv. 14–15

“Who rejoice in doing evil...”

There is a progression:

Forsake what is right → Walk in darkness → Rejoice in evil → Delight in perversity → Walk crooked paths

Application: Be careful whom you allow to walk beside you. Eventually, their path can become your path.

II. Wisdom Delivers You from the Way of Temptation — vv. 16–19

“So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman...”

Wisdom doesn't merely help you resist temptation—it teaches you not to put yourself where temptation can easily reach you.

A. Wisdom has a plan — vv. 16–17

- “Discretion will watch over you.”
- Wise people establish boundaries before temptation arrives.
- “Smooth words” appeal to desires and weaken judgment.
- Don't trust yourself to make your best decisions in the heat of temptation.

Principle: *Wise people have a plan that keeps them away from places where they are likely to fall.*

B. Adultery forsakes covenant — v. 17

“She forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God.”

- Marriage is more than companionship; it is covenant.
- Comparison produces dissatisfaction.

- Guard your heart against comparing your spouse with someone else.

C. Sin takes you farther than you intend — vv. 18–19

“Her house sinks down to death...”

- Adultery destroys trust, peace, family, reputation, and intimacy.
- **Leviticus 20:10**
- Sin promises pleasure but ultimately produces death.

The wages of sin is death.

Application: Don't ask, *“How close can I get without sinning?”* Ask, “What path keeps me farthest from destruction?”

III. Wisdom Directs You into the Way of Righteousness — vv. 20–22

“So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous.”

A. Wisdom gives you a direction — v. 20

Walking is intentional.

You deliberately place your feet on God's path.

Crooked paths → Straight paths

Darkness → Righteousness

Temptation → Integrity

B. Wisdom produces integrity — v. 21

“Those with integrity will remain...”

Integrity means doing what is right when no one is watching.

The person of integrity doesn't have to fear being caught because he isn't living a hidden life.

C. Wisdom remembers that God sees everything — v. 22

- **Numbers 32:23** — your sin will be exposed.
- **Hebrews 4:13** — nothing is hidden from God's sight.
- **Psalms 90:8** — even secret sins are before Him.

The fear of the Lord recognizes that God's justice is part of God's goodness.

Conclusion

Proverbs 2 presents **two paths and two destinations**.

The crooked path:

Evil → Darkness → Temptation → Betrayal → Destruction

The path of wisdom:

God's Word → Wisdom → Discernment → Integrity → Life

The question is not whether you will occasionally stumble. **We all stumble.**

The question is:

What path have you chosen to walk?

Receive God's Word.

Treasure His commandments.

Choose your companions wisely.

Plan for temptation before it arrives.

And intentionally walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous.