

The Wisdom Psalms

Proverbs 4:3-5

*When I was a son to my father,
Tender and the only son in the sight of my mother,
Then he taught me and said to me,
"Let your heart hold fast my words;
Keep my commandments and live;
Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding!
Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth."*

Many of the great Psalms are instructional in nature. No doubt Solomon was referring in part to the instruction of these Psalms when he testified to the instruction he received at the hands of his father King David.

I can remember that early in my Christian life I had a skewed view of the Book of Psalms. I assumed this was a collection of praise hymns to God, one following another. It was during my college years that I was taught the acronym ACTS – Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication. Having become intrigued by the accurate instruction on prayer both in doctrine and in practice I began to read as many of the great classics on prayer that I could find. By this time I was reading through the Bible regularly each year and had become aware of the fact that the Psalms contained many types of prayer – not just praise. This culminated in a reading project. I decided to read through the Psalms, categorizing each as I went along.

I soon realized that not all Psalms were prayers at all. Many were instructional in nature. There were of course truths which would cause us to praise God, to thank God, to confess our sins or to entreat God on our behalf or on behalf of others in these Psalms but this is true of almost any chapter in the Bible. I came to realize that many of the Psalms were not written as prayers but rather for our instruction. The knowledge gained translated into prayer, but they were not purely prayer Psalms but rather Wisdom Psalms.

One of the great benefits of the modern praise movement in the church is to assure that God receives the praise and worship which is due Him. The weakness of this movement is that the great doctrinal instructions which came through the instructional hymns of old are being lost to a whole generation of Christians. I believe one reason for this loss is a misconception on the part of worship leaders and praise teams that the Psalms are exclusively prayers and therefore all singing in the church should be worship prayers as opposed to instructional hymns.

The zeal of youth in writing great praise songs is to be commended. The loss of the great instructional hymns written by men of God such as Luther, Wesley and a host of others is to be mourned. The great hymns of old survived not simply because of their great musical value but rather because of the great doctrinal truths, so clearly articulated by ministers of the gospel, as passed down from one generation to another. The loss to the church of great doctrine at the expense of great music is incalculable. I remember a minister friend of mine (Dr. Stanley Mukolwe) who sought to introduce his teenagers to some of the great instructional hymns of Luther and Wesley. They replied, "Oh, daddy, that is your generation's music." He was quick to point out the falsehood of the statement. Luther and Wesley both lived hundreds of years ago. These hymns were preserved because of their great doctrines, not because of catchy tunes which appealed to a generational culture.

A lesson learned by God the Holy Spirit's decision to include Wisdom Psalms for instructional purposes in the Book of Psalms is that correct prayer is impossible without correct instruction. A popular praise anthem contains the words, "It doesn't matter what we say, it doesn't matter how we pray, as long as we say Jesus". Of course nothing could be further from the truth. Man has never been free to pray what and how he pleases. God has always instructed man in prayer. Wisdom Psalms and their creative counterparts, Instructional Hymns, are crucial in assuring that each generation learns to worship God in spirit and in truth.

It is my hope that by meditating on these Wisdom Psalms that you will not only receive the benefit of the Word of God but you will also cause you to return to those hymns which so effectively instructed the church for hundreds of years.

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 1**

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 2

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 10

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 11

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 14

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 15

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD***JEREMIAH 15:16*****THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 19****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 20****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 21`****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD***JEREMIAH 15:16*****THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 22****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 23****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 24****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 31****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 34****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 37****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 42

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 44

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 45

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 46****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 49****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 50****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 52

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 53

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 58

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 62****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 72****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 73****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 74****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 75****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 76****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD***JEREMIAH 15:16*****THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 78****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 81****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 82****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD***JEREMIAH 15:16*****THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 87****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 88****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 01****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 94****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 101****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 106****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD***JEREMIAH 15:16*****THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 110****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 112****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 114****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD***JEREMIAH 15:16*****THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 119:1 - 56****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 119:57 - 120****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 119:121 - 176****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD***JEREMIAH 15:16*****THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 122****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 125****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 126****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 127**

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 129

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 129

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 131****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 133****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 137****What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Wisdom from the Psalms****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 139**

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 145

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 1

What would you consider to be the primary lesson or lessons which God is teaching us in this Psalm?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?