"God's Miracle Pill"
Proverbs 2:1-22

C.I.T.—Pursuing wisdom will lead to life.
C.I.S.—Pursuing a relationship with Jesus will lead to life.
Purpose—I want people to choose to pursue Christ.
Introduction—big on vitamins and herbs—snake oil—miracle pill

I. ***The Pursuit of Wisdom*** vs. 1-11
   a. *Responsibility of Pursuit* vs. 1-4
      i. Wisdom is something to be received
         1. accept, store up, listening closely, directing your heart (incline the ear)
         2. These all are active reception—don't simply passively hearing something, but acting and applying
      ii. Wisdom is something to be requested
         1. Call out, lift voice, seek search
         2. Silver/hidden treasure
         3. Communicates an initiative taking, focused, and diligent search
      iii. While we receive instruction, it can and does fall on deaf ears.
      iv. So we must take responsibility to seek and acquire wisdom and knowledge
   b. *Relationship of Pursuit* vs 5-8
      i. Results of pursuing wisdom starts with knowing God.
      ii. Fear/reverence of the LORD refers to the initial conversion
      iii. Knowledge—doesn't refer to knowledge gained through a book, but through living life in obedient relationship with Him.
      iv. This will show itself in receiving even more wisdom from the LORD.
      v. It also results in his protection.
   c. *Righteousness of Pursuit* vs 9-11
      i. Then you will
      ii. Understanding of proper living/morality
      iii. This moral living will result in wisdom entering the heart, knowledge as a passion, and discernment.
      iv. This discernment will protect you.
   d. Who/what protects them?
      i. The LORD protects them through giving them wisdom and discernment.
      ii. This is something that he gives, but that we must pursue.
   e. Illus.—Christian group in Australia were charged with manslaughter—one of the daughters was diabetic, and was having an episode which would be treated with insulin, they prayed and worshipped, while the child died because they believed that God would heal her
   f. Application
      i. God would have, by using the medicine.
      ii. God keeps us safe while driving, by using a seat belt and air bags.
      iii. God will provide and protect you through His wisdom.
      iv. We are responsible to receive and request this wisdom.
      v. James 1:5; Matthew 7:7-8

II. ***The Protection of Wisdom*** vs. 12-22
   a. *Protected from The Way of the Wicked* vs. 12-15
      i. These men are wicked in heart.
      ii. They provide a tempting option to live life.

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iii. Parallel statements
iv. Tracks—If you give in to that temptation, whether you realize it or not, you end up just like them.
v. God’s wisdom allows you to see right through their arguments.

b. *Protected from The Way of the Wayward* vs. 16-19
i. She is an adulteress, abandoning her covenant relationship.
ii. She represents the temptation to sexual perversion in all of its expressions.
iii. Tracks—once on that path, you follow where she has gone to death.
iv. Wisdom allows you to see these temptations for what they are and will avoid them when they come along.

c. *Protected from The Way of the Wrecked* vs. 20-22
i. Two paths—righteous and wicked
ii. One path leads to dwelling the land and the other to eviction
iii. Refers to the promise land, which applies to heaven and hell.
iv. Adopting this wisdom through Jesus will end up in life for eternity.
v. Or death.

d. Illus.—Vaccine—already have protection

e. Application
i. You don’t wait until the temptation takes place and then take the shot.
ii. You must take the shot when healthy so that it will protect when temptation comes along.
iii. You take this shot when you place your faith in Christ and as you walk with Him.
iv. Matthew 7:13-14

Conclusion

- If you had a sickness, and you had a readily available treatment that would guarantee you healing, how foolish would it be to ignore that treatment.
- You have a treatment to strengthen and protect you from sin and its end result: death.
- Wisdom and fear of the Lord, also known as faith in Christ.
- What is keeping you from taking God’s Miracle Pill?

James 1:5 Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God-- who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly-- and it will be given to him.

Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. 14 How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.

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I. The Pursuit of Wisdom
a. R_____ of Pursuit
b. R_____ of Pursuit
c. R_____ of Pursuit

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II. The Protection of Wisdom
   a. Protected from the W_____
   b. Protected from the W_____
   c. Protected from the W_____