

Lifting Up The

# STANDARD



*“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).*

## “IF” - “Then” And “When”

The word **“if”** occurs 1,595 times in the Word of God, and introduces a condition that includes one or more requirements.

The word **“then”** occurs 2,168 times, pointing to something taking place as a result of our action concerning meeting or not meeting the requirements of the **“if.”**

The word **“when”** is found 2,847 times, pointing to a specific time when something will take place.

The first time **“if”** occurs we read,

*“If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?” (Genesis 4:7).*

The first time the word **“then”** occurs is found in Genesis 3:5,

*“In the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods.”*

The first time the word **“when”** occurs in the Scriptures is found in Genesis 2:4,

*“These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created.”*

## The Three “Ifs” Of Spiritual Understanding

### **Proverbs 2:1-2,**

*“My son, **if** thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding.”*

### **Proverbs 2:3,**

*“Yea, **if** thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding.”*

### **Proverbs 2:3-4,**

*“**If** thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand....”*

## God’s Conditional Offer

**“if”** we will **“receive”** His words, and **“hide”** His commandments in our heart (V.1).

**“if”** we will **“incline”** our ear unto wisdom (V.2).

**“if”** we will **“apply”** our heart to understanding (V.2).

## “Receive My Words”

To receive something is to take delivery of something. In this case it has to do with receiving what God is communicating, and simply requires a choice. Many professed Christians refuse to make a decision to receive His instructions and His commandments and hide them in their heart. When I was saved back in 1955, preachers called that apostasy; today, we call it fundamentalism.

*“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”  
(Psalm 119:11)*

*“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”  
(Psalm 119:18)*

*“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”  
(Acts 17:11)*

*“Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established.”  
Proverbs 24:3*



## Following The Instructions To Understanding

### **Proverbs 1:2,** Receiving "instruction."

*"To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding."*

The Hebrew word translated *instruction* here is *muwcar*. It has been translated correction eight times.

### **Proverbs 1:7,** Despising "instruction."

*"Fools despise wisdom and instruction." (correction).*

Wisdom is having the God-given ability to make right judgments. To correct something is to change something we are doing wrong.

### **Proverbs 12:1,**

*"Whoso loveth instruction (correction) loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish."*

## God's People Refused to Receive Correction

### **Jeremiah 5:3,**

*"They have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return."*

### **Jeremiah 7:28,**

*"This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction."*

## Hiding His Commandments

The Hebrew word translated "hide" in this verse is *tsaphan*. The same word is used in Psalm 119:11 where we read, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." The phrase "with thee" in Proverbs 2:1 refers to *hiding* or treasuring up His commandments in our heart.

## Inclining Our Ear Unto Wisdom

The word *incline* in Proverbs 2:2 has been translated *harken* twenty-seven times. The dictionary says to be *inclined* is "to be willingly minded toward an action, belief, or attitude." Once again, this simply requires a decision to be *willing minded* concerning the things that God has to say to us. It is to make the choice to pay attention to the Word of God.

Knowledge is the accumulation of information, whereas, wisdom is the ability to make good judgments concerning the information we have received.

For example, we have two little children in our church. One is a really cute baby, a few months old, who has very little knowledge about life. He is a little bundle of joy; however, he is not capable of making any judgments concerning Life. He has a brother named Jed, who is two years old. In his short life he has developed the ability to make some judgments. The other day, Jed's mother told him to get ready to go to church. He went into his bedroom and came out wearing a hat and his snow boots; however, he was also only wearing his underwear. This was a poor judgment; however, he is only two years old. If a teenager made the same judgment, we would conclude something was missing concerning the ability to judge what is right and what is wrong.

Television can be a powerful influence in developing value systems and shaping behaviour in our children or the Word of God can be a powerful influence in developing value systems and shaping behaviour in our children.

*"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."*

(1. Corinthians 15:33)

The second most popular TV show last fall was Modern Family, which features the lives of three families, including two gay men and their daughter.

There is profanity and one episode implied that teenage sex was appropriate.

*"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."*

(1. Corinthians 15:33)



## Apply Our Heart To Understanding

To apply oneself to understanding is to give one's full attention to understanding what God wants us to comprehend. The word *heart* in this verse has been translated *mind* twelve times. Moses said, "Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind" (Numbers 16:28).

### The Second "If" of Spiritual Understanding

#### **Proverbs 2:3,**

*"Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding."*

The word *criest* in this verse has been translated *call* 528 times. Below are a few examples.

#### **Psalm 91:15,**

*"Call...I will answer."*

#### **Proverbs 50:15,**

*"Call upon me in the day of trouble...I will deliver thee."*

#### **Jeremiah 29:12,**

*"Call upon me...I will harken unto you."*

### The Third "If" of Spiritual Understanding

#### **Proverbs 2:4,**

*"If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures."*

The word *seek* has been translated *require* fourteen times and *enquire* three times. To search is to try to find something by thoroughly looking for it as we would for hid treasure. A treasure is something considered very valuable.

### The "Then" of Spiritual Understanding

#### **Proverbs 2:5,**

*"Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God."*

The word *understand* has been translated *perceive* seven times and translated *discern* three times.

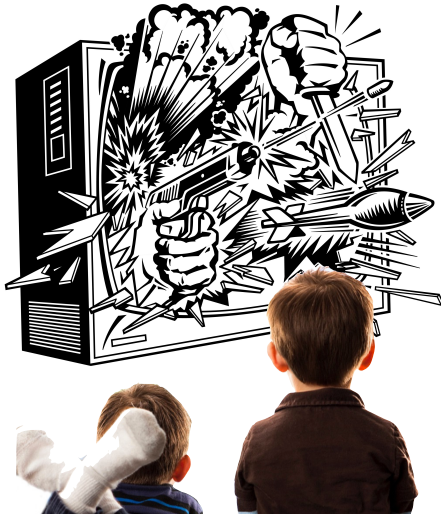
#### **Understanding The Fear of God**

If we had to do an essay on the fear of God, could we do it? I don't mean look up someone's opinion about the subject in a commentary, I'm saying do we understand what the fear of God is about? We have a promise from almighty God that we can "*understand the fear of the Lord;*" however, only "*when*" the requirements are met. He said, "*Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD;*"

#### **Finding The Knowledge of God**

We also have the promise that we can "*find the knowledge of God.*" God has all the information we need about every circumstance of life. It is available to us if we *receive* His words, *hide* His commandments in our hearts, *incline* our ear to wisdom, *apply* our heart to understanding, *cry* after knowledge, *pray* for understanding, and *seek* understanding. "**Then** thou shalt understand..." (v.5).





**The average  
Canadian  
watches  
thirty hours  
of television  
every week.**

## THE 23 Channel...

The TV is my shepherd.  
My spiritual growth shall want.  
It makes me to sit down and do nothing in my spare time.  
It keeps me from doing my duty as a Christian, because  
it presents so many good shows that I want to see.

It restores my knowledge of the things of the world,  
and keeps me from the study of God's Word.  
It leads me in the paths of failing in my Christian life,  
and do nothing in the kingdom of God.

Yea, though I live to be a hundred,  
I shall keep on viewing my tv as long as it will work,  
for it is my closest companion.

It's sounds and its pictures, they comfort me.  
It presents entertainment before me, and keeps me from  
doing important things with my family.  
It fills my head with ideas that differ from the Word of God.

Surely no good thing will come of my life because  
my tv offers me no good time to do the will of God;  
thus will I dwell in my place on the sofa for ever and ever.

Author unknown.

"Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth. For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him."

(Deuteronomy 11:18-22)

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a  
workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly  
dividing the word of truth."*

(Second Timothy 2:15)

