

"Now then my sons, listen to me. Blessed are those who keep my way. Listen to my instruction and be wise. Donot ignore it. Blessed is the man who listens to me watching daily in ~~the~~ my doors, waking at my doorway." You notice the man who listens to him. There is more to wisdom than simply memorizing. Much more. We need to listen ~~and~~ to wisdom. We need to learn from it. We need to get understanding, not merely facts. "Waking at my doorway, for whoever finds me finds life, and receives favor from the Lord. But whoever fails to find me harms himself. All who hate me love death. Wisdom has built her house she has hewn out its seven pillars."

I read the first v. of ch. 9 also because I thought I would mention an interesting fact in this connection. That is a beautiful statement: wisdom has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars." About 50 years ago, or a little more, there was a brilliant young student of the classics--a man who studied Greek and Latin and also learned Arabic and became very proficient in Arabic. As a young man he started to write a book called THE SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM. But he didn't get beyond the first page. So he laid it aside. 20 or 30 yrs. later he again took that title and wrote a book: The Seven Pillars of Wisdom.

By that time he had a long education. He had written a translation of the Odyssey into English. He was recognized for his scholarliness, but he was far more recognized for the fact that he had almost singlehandedly been the instrument that had driven the Turks out of a large part of their empire. That had gathered the Arabs together for a rare time into a coalition that resisted the Turks and drive them out. And the adventures of T. E. Lawrence as he carried on that campaign he describes in his book. So when you see his book the Seven Pillars of Wisdom, the book has nothing to do with wisdom, nothing to do with any pillar. Even the number seven doesn't enter into it. It's an account of the great achievements in the physical sphere that were accomplished by this man who was a great scholar.

I believe that Lawrence's training in the classics had a great deal to do with giving him that flexibility of mind that enabled him to fit in with the different groups of Arabs and to mould them together into a fighting force that was really effective. I think it was this ability to mould them together that was the big element in his work rather than any particular ability as a fighter he had.

I remember reading in his book how he was leading a group of Arabs on camels making an attack on a particular Turkish headquarters. He said as they came rushing down the hills meeting them, he said he fired his pistol and all of a sudden his camel stumbled and fell and he landed on the ground and the others rushed past him and carried on and accomplished a great victory, but fortunately none of them ran into him. He was not injured by the fall. But he wondered how it came about. So he looked at the camel and found that he had actually shot his own camel in the head! That shows the importance of wisdom, and of learning to do the particular--getting the particular skill for the particular task you are attempting. Lawrence's real task was was not in fighting those ? ? but it was in his wonderful tact; his wonderful knowledge of Arabic and his ability to mould those people together in order to drive the Turks out of all