

Series: Successful Living

Title: Treasures, Excellency, & Justice of Wisdom

Text: (Proverbs 3:13-35)

God's Promises to us is His Revealed will for us.
God is eager to reveal his will to us: (Eph 5:8-10)(Jn 7:17)

I. The Rewards of Wisdom: (Vs 1-12)

a. Listen to His Word: (Vs 1-4)

b. Obey His Word: (Vs 5-10)

c. Submit to His Word: (Vs 11-12)

II. The Treasure of Wisdom: (Vs 13-20)

a. Happiness of Those Who Find Wisdom.

We must take pains to obtain wisdom because that is the way to gain wisdom, and to gain happiness by wisdom.

13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

The development of godly wisdom & genuine understanding of the issues of life will bring happiness and blessing to one's life.

The world is continually running around trying to find happiness.

Yet, they usually reject the true source of happiness-God.
—the wisdom which comes from God.

As we develop true wisdom and its precursor, understanding, happiness in life develops.

Things go right.

Failure is minimized and success becomes the norm.

14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

Merchandise~Profit

The profit of wisdom is far superior to the profit of money.
One may have money and be utterly miserable.

However, one with wisdom will be happy and may eventually have money as well.

The greater thought is that wisdom and understanding in life are far superior to monetary wealth.

b. The Personification of Wisdom

15 She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

Wisdom is far more valuable than expensive jewels.
Power Ball Vs. Blessings of God

16 Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

Wisdom on the one hand brings longevity of life and on the other hand, prosperity and honor.

Wisdom brings quantity of life as well as quality of life.

Wise people will live longer b/c they avoid the dangers of foolish living.

Wise living will increase one's income and reputation.

17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

The path of wisdom brings pleasantness of life and peace.

Wisdom brings a richness of life which the ungodly and fools never find.

18 She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.

The tree of life in Eden brought health and longevity of life. The same is true of wisdom.

It brings sweet blessings to life.

Happy or blessed are those who hold onto wisdom throughout their lives.

One sad exception to this promise was Solomon himself.

His later life was a departure from godly wisdom.

He was the man who wrote over & again:

(Ecc 1:2) "*vanity of vanities, all is vanity.*"

B/c Solomon did not retain wisdom in the latter portion of life, he faced years of emptiness and frustration.

Clearly implied is that wisdom once obtained can fly away like a bird.

The retention of godly wisdom is found in verse 1 of this chapter.

c. The Creation of Wisdom: (Vs 19-20)

19 The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

Demonstrates how that God used His wisdom and understanding to create the heavens and the earth.

Implied is the great skill & genius of His wisdom & understanding.

The point is that wisdom & understanding lead to wonderful things.

20 By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

God's Creative Powers were brought to bear in Creation through the use of Wisdom.

What may be in view here is the awesome judgment of God at the flood.

In that day, the great deep was broken up (Genesis 7:11).

In that day, the clouds certainly dropped down dew and rain.

The point is that wisdom accomplishes great works.

III. The Excellency of Wisdom: (Vs 21-26)

We can enjoy the Blessings the Word brings to our lives.

Note how every part of our body must be kept under Control of the Word of God: (Rom 12:-12)

We must always govern ourselves by the rules of wisdom.

21 My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:

Once again, Solomon speaks to his son.
God is speaking through Solomon to us today.

“them” = wisdom, knowledge, & understanding

Hebrew word for wisdom here, ~ ‘applied wisdom.’

Applying practical wisdom & discretion in day-to-day living.

22 So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.

(The Result of Applying practical wisdom & discretion in day-to-day living.)

The outworking of such wisdom & discretion of life will result is richness & pleasantness of life.

Wisdom & discretion will add fullness to us & be a blessing to others.

23 Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

When sound wisdom & discretion are developed in our lives, it will lead to safety & stability of life.

A life which is secure and stable is rich indeed.

24 When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

The Result is PEACE
His sleep will be sweet.

In contrast to the world
Frequently in panic & anxiety
Needs Pharmaceuticals to combat sleepless nights.

There may be pleasures in sin for a season,
But the Remorse, Regret, & Anguish last a lifetime.

Truly wisdom is of great value.

d. The Admonition of Wisdom

25 Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

Crises and trouble do arise in life.

However, for the people of God possessing godly wisdom, the injunction is to fear not.

26 For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

Justice and Kindness Recommended; Caution against Envy

When we dwell in the secret place of the most High and possess godly wisdom and discretion of life, God will be our confidence and guard.

He will not suffer the righteous to be moved.

IV. The Justice of Wisdom: (Vs 27-35)

a. The Lord is Watching: (Vs 27)

Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

When one is due good at our hand, there is great wisdom in rewarding that good.

The good may be money owed or a word of thanks.

The greater thought is that when we owe someone, there is wisdom in paying the good due to them promptly.

We must do all the good we can, and no hurt, to our neighbors, because according as men are just or unjust, charitable or uncharitable, humble or haughty, accordingly they shall receive of God

“What Goes Around, comes Around”

b. Our Pride is the Problem: (Vs 28)

Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.

There is folly in procrastinating due obligations whether they are financial or otherwise.

When we owe something to another, make it good as soon as possible.

c. The Lord Hates Bullies: (Vs 29)

Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.

How foolish it is to deal unseemly against one's neighbor. The mutual security of a neighborhood rests upon the trust and reliance of neighbors.

When neighbors plot against each other, all security and peace evaporate.

Devising evil against a neighbor has a nasty way or reciprocating itself.

d. The Lord's Favor B/c of Wisdom: (Vs 30)

Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.

Picking a fight with a stranger for no cause is folly.

He very well may whip you.

In the preceding verse, the admonition was to avoid fighting with neighbors.

Here, the advice is to avoid getting into a fight w/ a stranger.

The greater truth is to avoid strife altogether.

There is great wisdom therein.

CR: (Lk 6:27-29) Insult vs. Bodily Harm

The applications of this wisdom are many in modern culture whether it is squabbling with a next-door neighbor or exhibiting road rage in traffic. Both are folly.

From all this it appears what a tendency religion has to make men both blessed and blessings.

31 Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.

Oppressor~have the sense of a ‘tough guy’ or a ‘fighter.’

The world often creates the image of a ‘tough guy’ in a positive way.

Yet, God says to avoid such an image or such a way of life. Profound is the wisdom thereof.

Tough guys usually have been hardened by sin and in due season are destroyed by their own sin.

Wise to avoid them.

32 For the froward is abomination to the LORD: but his secret is with the righteous.

Froward ~one who is ‘crooked,’ perverse,’ or ‘devious.’

It is apparent that the term is used in apposition to that of the oppressor (i.e., tough guy) in the preceding verse.

The greater thought likely is of an outlaw—one with no morals, scruples, or integrity.

Though the world glamorizes and even emulates such characters, the Bible says that these are an abomination to God.

Rather, God shares the secrets of His wisdom with the righteous.

The word so translated (rvy yashar) refers to one upright in his living.

Such an one is in stark contrast to the tough-guy outlaw described above.

The word translated as secret (dwo sode) has the sense of ‘counsels’ or ‘special advice.’

God gives special wisdom to those who are upright in their living.

3:32-35 The chapter concludes with several contrasts, showing how God deals with the ungodly versus the godly.

33 The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just.

There is a general curse of God against wickedness. House~ It can also refer to one’s household.

Sad is the truth that the sin of the parents and its trouble are often passed on to the children.

In contrast, God blesses the home of the just.

The latter refers to those righteous of principle.

A truth which runs throughout the Bible is that God blesses the righteous.

(Psalm 5:12) For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.

His curse or blessing extends to our very homes & families.

(Hos 10:12-13) Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you. 13 Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men.

34 Surely he scorneth the scorers: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.

Though men may foolishly scorn the things of God, God will have the last laugh.

For it is He who will scorn the scorers.

He will mock when their trouble comes.

Implicit is a pride of spirit in a scorner.

However, in contrast, God gives grace, (i.e., strength and help) to the humble of spirit.

Truly, God exalts the humble and abases the proud.

35 The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

This magnificent chapter ends by summarizing the wisdom of the wise and the folly of fools.

Implicit in the category of the wise are those upright and humble of life.

On the other hands, fools are the summation of the tough-guy outlaw, who are proud and scornful.

For those who promote such folly, only shame awaits.

If not in this life, it will be certainly when they stand before God.