

The Book of Proverbs
Introduction "Part II"

"The Particulars of Wisdom"
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Creekside Church June 28, 2009

The Practical Benefits of Wisdom:

Wisdom brings favor from the Lord:

"For whoever finds me (wisdom) finds life and received favor from the Lord.
But whoever fails to find me harms himself and all who hate me (wisdom) love death"
8:35-36

"The perverse in heart are an abomination to the Lord,
But the blameless in their walk are his delight" 11:20

"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord,
But the prayer of the righteous is his delight: 15:8

"The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord,
but he loves him who pursues righteousness" 15:9

"The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayers of the righteous" 15:29

Wisdom builds your faith in him:

"Keep sound wisdom and discretion..."

"for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught." 3:20b
& 26

"Incline you ear and hear the words of the wise,
And apply your mind to my knowledge;
For it will be pleasant it you keep them within you,
That they may be ready on your lips,
So that your trust may be in the Lord,
I have taught you today, even you." 22:17-19

Wisdom brings abundant life:

"She is a tree of life to those that embrace her" 3:18

"Keep sound wisdom and discretion,
so they will be life to your soul, and adornment to your neck." 3:21-22

"Keep my commandments and you will live" 7:2

"Whoever finds me finds life" 8:35a

"If you are wise your wisdom will reward you" 9:12a

"He who is steadfast in righteousness will attain to life,
And he who pursues evil will bring about his own death." 11:19

Wisdom results in a blessing and happiness:

“How blessed is the man who finds wisdom” 3:13

“Happy are all those who hold her fast” 3:18b

“Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways.

Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it.

Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway” 8:32-33

“He who gives attention to the word shall find good,

And blessed is he who trusts in the Lord.” 16:20

Wisdom is good for the soul:

“My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings.

Do not let them depart from the midst of your heart.

For they are life to those that find them, and health to all their whole body.” 4:20-22

“He who gets wisdom loves his own soul: 19:8

“Eat honey, my son, for it is good; honey from the comb is sweet to the taste. Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul” 24:13-14a

Wisdom gives you peace:

“Her ways are pleasant ways and all her paths are peace” 3:17

Wisdom gives you a future and a hope:

“The hope of the righteous is gladness,

But the expectation of the wicked perishes.” 10:28

“Do not let your heart envy sinners,

But live in the fear of the Lord always,

Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off” 23:17-18

“Know that wisdom is thus for your soul;

If you find it, there is a future hope for you,

and your hope will not be cut off.” 24:14

“Do not fret because of evildoers,

Or be envious of the wicked;

For there is no future for the evil man;

The lamp of the wicked will be put out.” 24:19-20

Wisdom gives security and safety:

“Keep sound wisdom and discretion....

Then you will walk in your way securely,

and your foot will not stumble” 3: 21b & 23

“Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you;

love her and she will watch after you.” 4:6
“When you walk, your steps will not be hampered,
when you run, you will not stumble.” 4:12
“But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness;
They do not know what makes them stumble.” 4:19
“He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.” 28:26

Wisdom takes away fear:

“When you lie down, you will not be afraid;
when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.
Do not be afraid of sudden fear, nor the onslaught of the wicked when it comes” 3:24-25
“What the wicked fears will come upon him,
And the desire of the righteous will be granted” 10:24
“The sluggard says, “There is a lion in the road! A lion is in the open square!” 26:13
“The wicked flee when no one is pursuing. But the righteous are bold as a lion.” 28:1

Wisdom can lengthen your life:

“Long life is in her right hand” 3:16
“For by me your days will be multiplied, and years of life will be added to you” 9:11
“The fear of the Lord prolongs life” 10:27a **Keep in mind that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (15:33)*
“Righteousness delivers from death.” 11:4b
“The path of the wise leads upward to life, to keep him from the grave below.” 15:24

Quite the opposite for those who follow folly:

“His own iniquities will capture the wicked,
and he will be held by the cords of sin.
He will die for lack of instruction” 5:22-23
“Fools die for lack of understanding” 10:21b
“But the years of the wicked will be cut short” 10:27b

Michael Jackson

Wisdom gives power, strength and stability:

“I am understanding, power is mine” 8:14b
“When the whirlwind passes, the wicked are no more,
But the righteous has an everlasting foundation.” 10:25
“The way of the Lord is a stronghold to the upright, but ruin to the workers of iniquity.”
10:27
“A man will not be established by wickedness,
but the root of the righteous will not be moved.” 12:3
“The wicked are overthrown and are no more,

But the house of the righteous will stand.” 12:7

“A wise man is strong, and a man of knowledge increases power.” 24:5

“For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again,

But the wicked stumble in time of calamity” 24:16

Wisdom makes you capable of conquering and competing:

“A wise man scales the city of the mighty,

and brings down the stronghold in which they trust.” 21:22 **Wise people are not mimbo-bambo pansies...think of Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Caleb, Elijah, Samuel, and David:*

Wisdom gives you the ability to win souls:

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,

and he who is wise wins souls” 11:30 **why Christians should be the wisest people around... Wisdom is attractive and it wins souls.*

Amplified: “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise captures human lives for God (as a fisher of men) – he gathers and receives them for eternity.

Wisdom can build a house and fill it with cool things:

“By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established;

and by knowledge the rooms are filled with precious and pleasant things” 24:3-4

(I engraved these verses in my fireplace when we were doing a remodel six years ago. I am not a builder but remodels are expensive and to save some \$ I was the general contractor for the job. It took great wisdom to make the 1001 decisions that needed to stay a step ahead of everyone working and to complete the project. It also took great restraint to keep from tearing the heads off the subs who I hired to do the work.

It is just the opposite with the foolish:

“The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands”

14:1

“The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of the righteous will flourish.”

14:11

Wisdom is exalting:

“Prize her and she will exalt you” 4:8

“The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.” 29:25

Wisdom brings honor:

“Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor” 3:16b

“She will honor you if you embrace her”: 4:8b

“The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor and life.” 22:4

It is the opposite for fools:

“The wise inherit honor, but fools display dishonor” 3:35

“Like snow in summer, or rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool: 26:1

Wisdom keeps you from immorality and from sin:

“Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,” and call understanding your intimate friend; they will keep you from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words”
7:5

“By the fear of the Lord one keeps away from evil.” 16:6 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (15:33)*