



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

THE VALUE OF WISDOM: Part 2

Proverbs 3:21–35

Sunday, October 15, 2017

TEXT: PROVERBS 3:21–35

Everyone wants to be happy. There is disagreement among men on what brings the greatest happiness, but everyone longs to have it. This longing for happiness is not wrong because it is part of the image of God in man.

The longing for happiness is evil when man seeks to find happiness in ways that displease and dishonor the Lord. The goal of mankind is to find happiness in ways that please and honor God. When man finds God's wisdom, he begins a journey towards ultimate happiness. Solomon tells his son, "How blessed is the man who finds wisdom And the man who gains understanding," (Pro 3:13). The Hebrew word for blessed can also be translated happy. In verse 18 where Solomon is comparing wisdom with the tree of life, he says that happy are all who hold [wisdom] fast.

God has sovereignly designed the pilgrimage of the believer in this world in such a way that seeking wisdom and doing what is right will eventually lead to greater blessedness (or happiness). The believer can be assured that while in this world God will never make him choose between his eternal happiness and God's glory! When, in wisdom, the believer chooses to glorify God with his choices in life, he will be happier for it and find security because it.

I. THE VALUE OF WISDOM TO THE SON, vv. 21–26

- A. Wisdom Keeps the Eyes from Wandering**, v. 21– *My son, let them not vanish from your sight; Keep sound wisdom and discretion,*
- B. Wisdom Keeps the Neck from Turning the Face Away from God**, v. 22– *So they will be life to your soul And adornment to your neck*
 - 1. Keeping wisdom leads to security, v. 23a– . . . *you will walk in your way securely. . .*
 - 2. Keeping wisdom leads to stability, v. 23b– . . . *and your foot will not stumble.*
 - 3. Keeping wisdom leads to safety when most vulnerable, v. 24– *When you lie down, you will not be afraid; When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet*
- C. God Keeps Those Who Keep Wisdom**, vv. 25, 26– *Do not be afraid of sudden fear Nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes; For the LORD will be your confidence And will keep your foot from being caught.*

II. THE APPLICATION OF WISDOM FOR THE SON, vv. 27– 35

To embrace Lady Wisdom is to embrace devotion to God and His word. Now the father shows the inseparable nature of Lady Wisdom with a right response to one's neighbor.

A. Do Not Withhold Good from Your Neighbor, vv. 27–28.

1. Do not deny tangible good to your neighbor, v. 27—*Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in your power to do it*
2. Do not delay in doing good, v. 28— *Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give it," When you have it with you*

B. Do Not Harm Your Neighbor, vv. 29–30

1. Do not plan evil against your neighbor especially if he trusts you, v. 29— *Do not devise harm against your neighbor, While he lives securely beside you*
2. Do not accuse anyone without legitimate cause if he has not treated you wrongly, v. 30— *Do not contend with a man without cause, If he has done you no harm*

C. Do Not Envy Your Neighbor, v. 31— *Do not envy a man of violence And do not choose any of his ways*

1. The LORD detests the perverse but is intimate with the upright, v. 32— *For the devious are an abomination to the LORD; But He is intimate with the upright*
2. The LORD curses the house of the wicked but blesses the house of the upright, v.33— *The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the dwelling of the righteous*
3. The LORD mocks the proud mockers but gives grace to the humble, v. 34— *Though He scoffs at the scoffers, Yet He gives grace to the afflicted*
4. The LORD holds the fools up for shame but bequeaths honor to the wise, v. 35— *The wise will inherit honor, But fools display dishonor*

III. APPLICATION

A. Rely on the Word for Security.

B. Be Ready to Do Good to Those Whom God Has Providentially Brought into Your Life.

C. Do not Envy Sinners, But Learn Contentment and Focus on the Future Hope.