

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 07 June 2020.....Proverbs 01.....Chartered Waters
- 2) 14 June.....Proverbs 03:1-18.....Direction Offered**
- 3) 21 June.....Proverbs 03:19-35.....Compassion Demonstrated
- 4) 28 June.....Proverbs 04.....The Choice
- 5) 05 July.....Proverbs 05.....Following God's Design
- 6) 12 July.....Proverbs 08-09.....Pursuing Wisdom
- 7) 19 July.....Proverbs 14.....Living Wisely
- 8) 26 July.....Proverbs 15-16.....Pleasing God
- 9) 02 August.....Proverbs 23.....Staying Sober
- 10) 09 August.....Proverbs 29.....Accepting Discipline
- 11) 16 August.....Proverbs 31.....Finding Honor
- 12) 23 August.....Song of Songs 1-5.....Relational Foundations
- 13) 30 August.....Song of Songs 5-8.....Relational Investment

INTRODUCTION

- This proverb seems to promote a Prosperity Gospel where if we heed God's word, we can expect a longer, easier, & prosperous life. But is this an absolute truth for all, for none, or for some?
 - ♦ Remember, a proverb typically conveys a general truth, and not an absolute truth. There are direct life-long and eternal benefits to acquiring God's wisdom.

Passage	Comments
Proverbs 3:1-4	<p>Benefit in Keeping God's Commandments → Peace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-2. Nothing worse than dying young and troubled <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What does a peaceful long life look like? Is it a life of no fun & thrills, or a life full of confidence? • vv3-4. What is special about "kindness and truth"? How do we write them on the "tablet of our heart"? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What is the opposite of "kindness & truth"? ♦ Which reputation should we seek after?
3:5-6	<p>Benefit of Trusting in God → Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v5. What does "trusting in the Lord with all of our heart" look like? What about trusting Him with half of our heart? What would that look like? Is it all or none? • v6. What does a straight path look like in life? Is it all roses? Jesus had a straight path – right to the cross.
3:7-8	<p>Benefits from Turning from Evil → Physical Healing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v7. What does it mean to be "wise in our own eyes"? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Possibly, everyone does their own thing ... Judg 17:6 • v8. How does avoiding evil give us physical health? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Recall James 5:13-16. Confess your sins...so that you might be healed. Sin ultimately cause death.

A WORD ON MONEY

- You can't turn too many pages in the Bible without crossing a financial-related passage. Jesus spoke more about money than any other subject – except Love
- Over 1000 passages in Scripture deal directly with wealth, 2nd only to Love. Proverbs alone has ~250 passages on stewardship.
- Money is talked about more than Heaven or Hell
- Two Thirds (2/3rds) of the Lord's parables are about Money.
- "How we handle money is a strong indicator of our level of spiritual maturity," Larry Burkett
- There are Biblical guidelines to follow to ensure we do not put our God-given resources into a bag with holes (**Ecc 10:19** – Money is the answer to everything – at least from a worldly perspective).
- Prosperity and Poverty may be a sign of:
 - ♦ Diligence or Laziness (**Pr 20:13**)
 - ♦ God's blessings or testing (**Job**)
 - ♦ A sign of God's judgment; or
 - ♦ Cause & effect (it rains on the just & unjust, **Mat 5:45**)
- Christians spend more \$\$ on chewing gum than missions each year – so many have work to do in this area of financial priorities

Passage	Comments
3:9-10	<p>Honor the Lord with Your Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; So, your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Is this an absolute promise that can be claimed for here and now for all or for some? Or is it a proverbial truism? How do we articulate and apply this today? • Consider this: If it was an absolute promise, then the widow with 2 mites who gave 100% & the destitute faithful widows of 1Timothy 5 would not have needed to pray night & day for relief
Dangers of the Prosperity Gospel	<p>Prosperity on earth is not guaranteed (Proverbs 27:24), but Peace & Contentment are (Phil 4:7-13, Isa 55:2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperity preachers latch on to every financial passage as an absolute promise from God to get their followers to "Name it and Claim it" – but this distorts God's truth • We must know the difference between absolute promises from God, Israel-only promises, proverbial promises, and Kingdom promises (e.g., "These things I have said to you figuratively" – John 16:25) • We must watch out for covetousness and materialism for God puts them in the same category as idolatry, immorality, & blasphemy (Ex 18:21; Ps 119:36; Pr 21:26; Ecc 5:10-12; Jer 8:10; Mr 7:20-23; Lk 12:15; Rom 1:29; Col 3:5; Eph 5:3-5; 1Cor 6:10; 1Tim 6:10; Heb 13:5)
3:11-12	<p>The Lord Disciplines His Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's disciplining of His loved ones is also listed in Job 5:17 and Heb 12:5-6. It must be important. • How do most of our kids respond to our disciplining? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Grumbling? <input type="checkbox"/> Door slamming? <input type="checkbox"/> Sulking? • How do we want our kids to respond to disciplining? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Apologetic? <input type="checkbox"/> Remorseful? <input type="checkbox"/> Repentant? • How do we know if we are suffering from God's disciplining; or if we are suffering as when rain falls on the just and unjust? How do our kids know when they are falling under parental disciplining? Yep, no secret!
3:13-18	<p>Wisdom is Worth More Than Silver, Gold, & Jewels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v16. How does wisdom extend one's life or increases one's bank account? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this: Look what the opposite of wisdom does (i.e., stupidity). Addictions frequently shortens one's life and shrink's one's bank account through foolish debt and mismanagement. • vv17-18. How does wisdom bring peace & happiness? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Again, consider looking at what stupidity does through misbehavior and sinful lifestyles

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- The world says, "He who has the gold rules" and "might makes right." But God says, "He who rules should serve" (**Mat 20:26**), and "strength is found in weakness" or humility (**2Cor 12:10**)

NEXT WEEK: Proverbs 3:19-35. Numerous other principles to live by and characteristics we should have, including habitually doing good and avoiding evil to receive God's direct blessings, grace, and honor.

