

Topics in Proverbs

I. Trust

A. Trust in The Lord: The Basis

1. Pro 16:20 He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.

a. He who heeds the word wisely - *sakal* - to be (**causatively**, make or act) circumspect, intelligent, consider, expert, instruct, (deal) prudent(-ly), (give) skill (-ful), (have, make to) understand(-ing), wisdom.

i. Not passive– emphasis on the act of attentive observation

ii. Verb calls for diligent mental and intelligent activity

iii. Used in - De 32:28-29 to discern - Neh 8:13 to study

- Job 34:27 to regard - Ps 41:1 to consider - Ps 64:9 to ponder

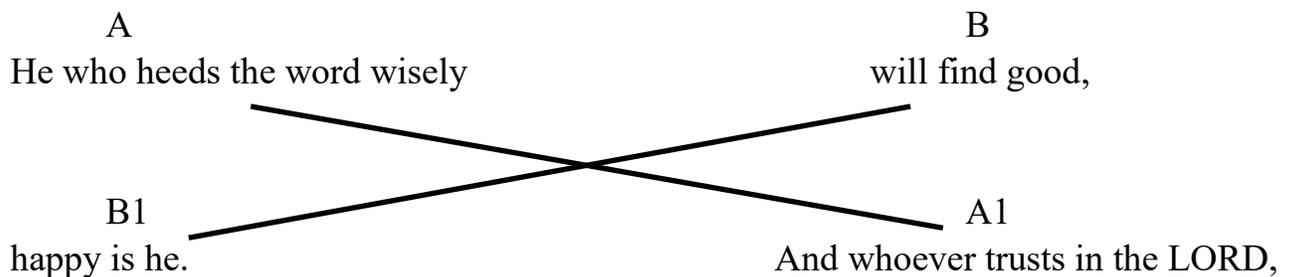
b. the word

i. refers to the word of God

ii. Parallels with Pro 13:13 He who despises the word will be destroyed, But he who fears the commandment will be rewarded.

iii. Trusting in the Lord and heeding His word are related ideas to Solomon - Pro 22:19; 1 Kgs 2:3

c. The Form of 16:20 - Chiasm



i. will find good expands the idea of being happy

ii. trusts in the LORD expands the idea of heeding the word

d. The “I’m not into Doctrine,” “I’m Not a Theologian” excuse

i. cannot separate love for God, worship, and Christian living from doctrine, teaching, considering the facts and truth revealed in the Word

ii. Faith and Doctrine are wed in the scripture - there is no biblically defined trust w/o doctrine - 2 Ti 3:15-17

2. Pr 22:19 So that your trust may be in the LORD; I have instructed you today, even you.

a. the goal of biblical teaching is not intellectualism

i. knowledge puffs up - 1 Co 8:1

ii. The contrast of types of wisdom - Jas 3:13-18

b. the goal of teaching wisdom is cultivating a vital relationship w/ God

B. Trust in The Lord: The Opposites

1. Arrogance

- a. Ps 119:21 You rebuke the proud-the cursed, Who stray from Your commandments. - the proud-the cursed = the one “Who stray from Your commandments.”
- b. Ps 119:85 The proud have dug pits for me, Which is not according to Your law.
 - i. “the Proud” in line A is explained in line B by those act contrary to God’s Word
 - ii. Arrogance is in the rejecting of God’s viewpoint in favor of one’s own
 - iii. By rejecting God’s word
 - one acts like Satan - "Has God indeed said?"
 - one exalts their own judgment over God’s judgment

2. Fear of Man - Pr 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

- a. *charadah* - fear, anxiety:--care, quaking, trembling.
 - i. used in Ex 19:18 of Mt Sinai shaking
 - ii. People who worry or tremble at concern about other’s opinions of them
- b. Fear of Man and trusting God are mutually exclusive - Jo 5:44

C. Trust in The Lord: Putting it Together - Pr 3:5-7

1. the distinctive pattern of 3:1-12 - alternating verses, first exhortation, then a consequence

- a. vs 1-2,
 - i. exhortation - do not forget my law
 - ii. consequence - long life And peace will be added to you
- b. vs 3-4,
 - i. exhortation - Let not mercy and truth forsake you
 - ii. consequence - find favor / high esteem In the sight of God and man

2. A Biblical view of 3:5-7

- a. Hebrew Parallelism in vs 5
 - i. two paired verbs
 - “Trust” and “Lean”
 - Trust is specific in the image of seeking and finding support
 - ii. Two contrasting objects of the verbs
 - the LORD as opposed to your own understanding
 - one puts me in the way of God, the other leaves me in my own inborn foolishness and waywardness - Pro 12:15; 22:15a; Ps 51:5; 58:3
 - iii. A volitional process, not an emotional vibration
 - emphasis - with all your heart,
 - the center of thinking, treasuring, deciding (the mind of the NT)
 - purpose of Proverbs - 1:2-6 serves to develop skill for godly living
 - 2:1-6 taught we must seek, memorize, analyze with diligence
 - 6:21 Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck.
 - 7:3 Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart.

iv. The Misuse of the Heart

- Contrast in Parallelism - Pro 28:26

-the opposite of trusting one's own heart is walks wisely (in light of God's word)

-one cannot walk in wisdom w/o knowing wisdom

- parallel idea of Jer 7:23-24

-they walked in the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts

-after His call to 'Obey His voice and walk in all the ways that He commanded

b. Verse 6

i. In all your ways

- all of life's pursuits

- no separation of the secular and the sacred

ii. acknowledge Him,

- *yada* - to know

- more than intellectual awareness

- intimacy - be involved with, relate to Him- 1 Chr 28:9

iii. And He shall direct your paths.

- *yashar* - to be straight, smooth, (causatively, to make) right, pleasant, prosperous, be upright(-ly).

- when used w/ ways or path, can mean free from obstacles or morally/spiritually straight - Ro 8:2

- not dealing with personal guidance or direction, found in God's word

- Pro 11:3; 14:2; 15:21; 21:8

iv. Encouragement to know God in every area of life

- in worship, as a friend, spouse, parent, child, citizen, employer, employee, neighbor

- this is a life of faith lived out before a lost and dying world - 1 Pe 3:15

v. How to do this - Ps 1:1-6; Ps 119:9-11

c. Verse 7

i. the opposite of being wise in your own eyes

- not heeding to some inner voice

- turning away from evil, which is done when one heeds the word of God

ii. The Fear the LORD again is the beginning of wisdom gained by one

receiving, treasuring, leaning, applying, crying out for, seeking, and searching,