

A Desire Fulfilled Is a Tree of Life**Proverbs 13**

1. COVENANT NURTURE: The book of Proverbs continues to remind us that the primary context for its instruction is _____ in the way of the _____.

A wise son hears his father's instruction,
but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke. (13:1)

2. THIS IS THE WAY: God's commandment "seeks to conform the one addressed to the moral order wherein righteous deeds effect good consequences" (Waltke on Proverbs 13:13).

Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless,
but sin overthrows the wicked. (13:6)
Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself,
but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded. (13:13)
Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise,
but the companion of fools will suffer harm. (13:20)

- a. Do not overlook this point because of its familiarity – sin _____ and disaster _____ (13:21), and there are life and death consequences in our choice of _____.
- b. This is the _____ we have been given in _____ (Acts 24:14, 22, 25).

But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets (Acts 24:14).

3. A DESIRE FULFILLED: Wisdom does not ignore our _____, but rather promises their fulfillment when rightly oriented toward _____ and his created order.

Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life. (13:12)

- a. The way of wickedness leads to endlessly deferred hope (there is never *enough*), while the way of righteousness is a "_____ of life" (13:12) and a "_____ of life" (13:14).
- b. The faithfulness of God – revealed in the constancy of _____, the goodness of God's _____, and in Jesus as the _____ made _____ – promises us a tree and fountain of life.
- c. This does not ignore the things of this life, but puts them in their proper perspective and balance, where flourishing is _____, where peace and contentment are _____, because eternity is in _____.

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)