

Message #10

Proverbs 3:1-10

THOSE WHO PURSUE A WISE LIFE WILL RECEIVE SEVERAL RICH BENEFITS AND BLESSINGS FROM GOD.

This is the third “my son” message and Solomon is going to give his son an important message—gaining God’s wisdom brings great eternal benefits and blessings.

BLESSING/BENEFIT #1 – A remembrance of and obedience to God’s Word will lead to a long, prosperous and peaceful life. **3:1-2**

When Solomon challenges his son not to forget his teachings, he is not speaking about a defective memory that cannot remember a particular verse; he is speaking of a willful wandering away or departure from what is right.

The words “length of days” refers to prolongation of life to the appointed limit. The words “years of life” or “long life” literally in Hebrew read “years of lives,” and these words speak of a full life of prosperity, life in its fullness.

Practically speaking, it is possible for an unbeliever to live a long life chronologically, but it is not possible for any person to live life in its fullness apart from obedience to the Word of God.

BLESSING/BENEFIT #2 – A proper attitude toward others will lead to a favorable position with God and man. **3:3-4**

Two qualities Solomon wanted firmly implanted in his son’s character were “mercy or loving-kindness” and “truth.”

The word “mercy” or “lovingkindness” speaks of a loving kind of zeal for another person, especially those who are suffering some kind of misfortune. The combining of “mercy” with “truth” is a popular Davidic phrase (Ps. 25:10; 40:11; 57:3, 10; 108:4; 138:2).

Demonstrating lovingkindness and mercy to someone is always based on truth.

The result for one who is willing to make “mercy” or “lovingkindness” and “truth” an intimate part of one’s personality and life will discover that he will find great favor with God and with man.

BLESSING/BENEFIT #3 – An intense dependency on God will lead to the sovereign, positive, safe direction of God. **3:5-6**

The actual Hebrew word “trust” conveys the idea of having enough confidence and faith in something that you would cast yourself on something.

When Solomon says, “trust in the LORD with all your heart,” the idea is trust with your whole person—your intellect, your emotion, and your will.

The Solomonic charge to “not lean on your own understanding” is “antithetic parallelism” to trusting in the LORD, which is not an exhortation to stop thinking; in fact, it is a challenge to have such an understanding of God and His Word that in every possible circumstance in life you can confidently lean His way.

Dr. Bruce Waltke said trust God entirely—with all your heart. Trust God exclusively—not relying upon yourself. Trust God extensively—in every situation of life.

The word “direct” means to make something straight or smooth by removing all obstacles.

BLESSING/BENEFIT #4 – A proper attitude concerning self and God will lead to a healthy physical and spiritual life. **3:7-8**

The danger of success and prosperity is forgetting who gave you the success and prosperity.

The words concerning healing in **verse 8** actually communicate that the humble spirit will actually have some stabilizing effect on your nerves. Relying upon God and not yourself is medicinal, bringing types of physical benefits that include psychological and physiological invigoration.

BLESSING/BENEFIT #5 – A proper attitude concerning self and God will lead to great financial prosperity. **3:9-10**

One of the great tests as to whether a person is truly willing to trust God in everything is the test of finances.

The idea behind the word “honor” is that of weight, acknowledging the proper weight of God with your substance.

Solomon is teaching his son to see to it that he continually gives his money to the work of God. It is the wise way to live life and if one does this, God has promised He will abundantly prosper him.

Notice carefully that the motivation for giving is to honor God, not to get more. There is no doubt that a general principle of the entire Bible is that God will give money to those who give money to Him (Deut. 28:1-14; Mal. 3:10; II Cor. 9:6).

There are real physical benefits gained from obeying God’s Word and living God’s wise way in life.