

Message #11**Proverbs 3:11-20**

Within the soul of man there is a self-centered spirit that wants to rebel against proper Biblical instruction. Solomon knew that God uses His Word, His people, difficulties, sicknesses, circumstances and conflicts to develop His people into becoming what He wants them to become. The problem is **many** people become hostile and bitter to instruction and instead of learning the lessons and moving forward for the glory of God, they reject the instruction and stay in the same miserable state in which they have always been.

WISE PEOPLE WILL NOT EVER REBEL OR BECOME HOSTILE AGAINST THE DISCIPLINED INSTRUCTION OF GOD BECAUSE GOD IS USING INSTRUCTION TO DEVELOP US INTO A WISE PERSON.

Solomon gives two primary reasons for not becoming rebellious or hostile to God's instruction:

REASON #1 – Because of the source of the disciplined instruction. **3:11-12**

The main thought in these two verses is that we are not to become hostile to instruction because Jehovah is the One giving it. Jehovah is in the process of correcting our life and since He is controlling all things, we can learn from everything we are experiencing.

The idea behind the word “despise” or “reject” is one makes a choice to reject something.

The word “weary,” better “loathe,” is one that speaks of an attitude that actually is a hostile aversion or resentment even to the point of vomiting.

Verse 12 gives the reason why (“for”) a person should never react this way to disciplined instruction: because God (Jehovah) is giving this instruction as a loving Father so that He can bring His child to the point where he will be a great delight.

Knowing that it is God who is giving us the discipline should cause us not to negatively react against it.

REASON #2 – Because of the results of the disciplined instruction. **3:13-20**

The result that generally prevails in this context for not rejecting the disciplines of God is the result of happiness (**3:13, 18b**). This is not some type of emotional giddiness, but emotional stability that comes as a result of knowing that we are moving in a fortunate, successful and strong direction.

The idea of “finding wisdom” (**3:13a**) is the idea of finally attaining or arriving.

The verb “gains” understanding is Hiphil stem which is the causative form. The idea is the happy, strong, stable person is the one who has caused himself to submit to the disciplines of God and has pursued the wisdom of God.

Verses 14-15 give the reason for the happiness—one is becoming extremely wealthy and valuable in God’s estimation, far beyond the greatest forms of wealth of this world.

Six benefits that are worth much more than material wealth:

(Benefit #1) - A long life. **3:16a**

No amount of money in all this world can add anything to your length of life.

(Benefit #2) - A prosperous life. **3:16b**

The word “riches” is a word used of prosperity, especially in the realm of finances.

We do know that our ultimate wealth and honor will come in eternity. The person who will pursue the wisdom of God will find God will give him a very prosperous life.

(Benefit #3) - A pleasant life. **3:17a**

The word “pleasant” speaks of a lovely, delightful life.

(Benefit #4) - A peaceful life. **3:17b**

One who pursues God’s wisdom will be given a life of tranquility.

(Benefit #5) - An eternal life. **3:18a**

The “tree of life” represents special nourishment from God, given to one who is in harmony with Him. The privilege of eating from this tree was lost in Eden (Gen. 2:7-9; 3:23-24); it was theologically restored at Calvary (Eph. 2:16) and will be literally restored in eternity (Rev. 22:2).

(Benefit #6) - A divine goal. **3:19-20**

Wisdom is a prime communicable attribute of God and therefore should be a divine goal of our lives.

God uses difficulties and hardships to train us and grant us His wisdom; that is why we should never despise the chastening of the Lord no matter how difficult it may seem to be.