

Proverbs 16:16–20 (Family Worship lesson in “the Proverb of the day”)

“The Way of Prosperity and Protection is Obsession with God not Stuff or Self”

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- 16 How much better to get wisdom than gold!  
And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.
- 17 The highway of the upright is to depart from evil;  
He who keeps his way preserves his soul.
- 18 Pride goes before destruction,  
And a haughty spirit before a fall.
- 19 Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly,  
Than to divide the spoil with the proud.
- 20 He who heeds the word wisely will find good,  
And whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.

Pastor leads his family in a verse from “the Proverb of the day.” In this Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that God Himself, by means of His Word, is our greatest prosperity and protection.

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

Proverbs 16 verses 16 through 20. These are God's words. How much better to get wisdom can gold? And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver. The highway of the upright is to depart from evil. He who keeps his way. Preserves his soul. Pride goes before destruction and the haughty spirit before a fall better to be of a humble spirit to the lowly, then to divide the spoil with the proud, he who heeds the word wisely will find good.

And whoever trusts in the other way, happy as he,

So in these five verses, the Lord reminds us of what we should treasure and where who should find safety. And that is in the Lord, and his Word, which is what true wisdom is. True wisdom is not being clever enough to handle everything yourself. That's pride, that's what goes before destruction.

That's the Holy Spirit that goes before the fall. True. Wisdom is knowing the Lord himself, is your only hope you see that in the conclusion of this section? Whoever trusts in Yahweh. Happy. Is he? So if you know the Lord himself is your only hope, then you see his word as something that is above.

You something that he uses to preserve you and you submit to the Word He who heeds the Word. First half over is 20 heeds. The word wisely will find good and whoever trusts in Yahweh. Happy, is he? So if wisdom is the best treasure and the strongest protection, then that should be what we desire.

Now, you don't really value, silver and gold very much. You're not like people of the day. That Solomon lived in, who were constantly thinking how to inquire silver or gold, you might think dollars, but you guys probably don't think that way too much. Maybe some of you think about dollars a lot, but you can do earn.

You can pay attention to what you are thinking in your heart and desiring. What you spend a lot of thoughts on how to get or what you can get more of that thing. And realize whether or not the Lord himself, him being your treasure, your pleasure, your protection is something you're spending a lot of time thinking about.

Now if we desire wisdom, the way that verse 16 is training us to desire wisdom, then we will constantly be mulling over what we have heard from God's word, because that's what he uses in our life. And we will be mulling over him thinking upon him, and how he is, the one who is teaching us these things.

And now he has made himself our righteousness, in Jesus and his love is what makes us able to have blessing instead of wrath? Which is what we would deserve in ourselves. But upon those who in ourselves would have been objects of everlasting wrath, he has made us objects of everlasting love because he doesn't consider us of ourselves, he considers us in Christ, he has loved us in Christ from before the world began and chosen us in Christ from before the world again.

And so we'll be thinking much on him and how wonderful he is and not wonderful. It is to belong to it and how we ought to to love him and serve him to whom we belong with everything that we do. Now, obviously,

this is a difficult thing even as we saw yesterday in Colossians, when the apostle was praying for something, similar for the Colossians, he prayed that they would be strengthened with all might according to the Lord's power.

So we see that this is something for which we must depend upon the Holy Spirit to give us these desires to grow us in these desires. But it's a good reminder in verse 16 of what the growing Christian is becoming like desiring the Lord himself in his word with his wisdom more than anything else.

And that's exactly what Jesus was like, right? When Satan comes to tempt him and says, if you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread and flying. That Jesus was missing out on something. Not because he didn't have silver or gold, but for 40 days, he didn't taste it food.

The Lord Jesus content with his father. And with his father's word, It's a man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God, That, which he desired the most knowledge of, and delighted dependence upon as father. The Lord Jesus had by means of every word that proceeded from God's mouth.

So we can rejoice to know that those for whom this righteousness of Jesus has been counted likeness to Jesus as being worked in us. And so, this is what the Holy Spirit is making us like, and one day, when the work is finished, we will be like this. So even now little pay attention to that life that inner thought life of our hearts and what it is that we are dwelling upon and desiring but it's not just the most pleasant way.

The most desirable the Lord himself and his word. The wisdom that we get by fearing him from his word. It's not just the most pleasant or desirable thing. It's also the most protective thing. The highway of the upright is to depart from evil. Well, you are accustomed to thinking of the highway as the, the road with the extra lanes and the exits and where people go fast and where we can always drive on the far left, because we have so many people in our car all the time, the highway for them was the way that is safe.

Not down through the valleys where there's a bunch of places that robbers could hide. But along the top rich where if a robber was trying to jump up to you, you would already have the high ground and where you know robbers generally wouldn't hang out anyway. So, the highway is that safe path.

Maybe you remember, doctor bikie using that puritan phrase couple of times. I think in his talks that the family Bible conference, the highway of God's holiness, describing it, not us something that we do to earn or to be worthy rather in ourselves God does reward us for by grace.

According to Christ, even though our whole holy actions aren't worthy in themselves, but the highway of God. Holy God's holiness reminds us that he's given us the best place to walk the best way to walk with safest place to walk. That's exactly what we see here. The highway of the upright is to depart from evil.

The safest place is to walk. According to God's Word, he who keeps his way, preserves a soul. So if you want to be, if you want to be in the safest path of life you live, according to the words of God you obey his commandments. He's trying to keep you safe, he loves you.

Just as you have often unsure, perhaps of a little brother or sister or some other child from another family given them some instruction. And because you say no to go this way and what are you doing? You're trying to help them, aren't you? And if they knew your affection for them and love for them and wisdom about the, the safest place to go, then they would walk in that way.

And they don't walk in that way, or they don't do the thing. You said, and you're frustrated, well, what we not to be frustrated with ourselves, if we disobey the Lord is there. Anyone who so loves users, so wise. So so earnestly and has given us action and the right way, So it's not just walking with the Lord and dependence upon him by following his word isn't just the most desirable thing.

It's also the safest thing. The the alternative, as we remember from chapter three is to lean on our own understanding. Either you trust in the Lord, with all your heart or you lean on your own understanding trusting, the Lord, and all your heart means, and all of your ways, know him and he will direct your steps, but leaning, on your own, understanding means doing things according to your own.

Cleverness, that's the way to get destroyed. That is not the highway of the upright. That's, that's full speed ahead, right through the barrack raid barricade that says bridge out. And you plummet to your demise pride goes before, destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly than divide the spoil.

With the prouds of the proud owner, counting up their silver and their gold from verse 16. And they have not received the instruction. That wisdom would have been better than that, silver and gold. And you're like, oh, I want to be with them and count, silver and gold, too.

And you are about to be destroyed. So thank God for his mercy that he's given us Christ to his these things perfectly for us. And let us see the love and wisdom of our God, the kindness of his good commandments and think much upon his word and what he says.

So that instead of living according to our own cleverness and ending up desiring the wrong thing's and going the wrong way. And plummeting to our destruction, we would live. According to his words enjoying fellowship with him, enjoying dependence on him and enjoying the safety of that highway of his holiness.

May God, grant to us, to be God. Obsessed Christ, obsessed scripture, obsessed, good theology, obsessed people, rather than all the other things that can fill our thoughts and desires. Let's ask him to do that.

Our father in heaven. We thank you for this portion of your word. We thank you. That you gave your son to be a man that you has made, like us in every way, except without sin. So that he is the wise man, indeed, although he is foolishness to Greeks and stumbling block and to Jews, you have made him for us, not only your wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and power, whether you have made him or all of those things for us, and you have made him our wisdom.

That the wisest thing is to abandon any hope and ourselves and hope only in Christ and belong to you through him for you have given the Lord of glory Himself to be crucified for us. So we pray that you would make us to treasure Christ for all of the that he is for us.

And even as our wisdom help us, Lord to love your word. We pray that your spirit would keep bringing your word to mind that he would give us a soft heart that we would, neither quench the spirit nor grieve the spirit that we wouldn't get cold and dull and unfeeling towards you and our thoughts.

But the we would be tender and lively and submitted submissive to you. As the spirit brings your word to mind, grant unto us to be those who walk with you as beloved children taught by your spirit trusting in Jesus having fellowship with you. How God, how much more? I wish I would have done these things and I only my have only myself to blame but I pray for my children that you would work in them and grant them a diligence and consistency and walking with you, that they would have less to regret when they come into the season, where I am blessed to them disportion of your work, we ask by your almighty spirit for we ask, in Jesus name, amen.