

WISDOM IN PROVERBS

John Edwards

The keynote of the book of Proverbs is Wisdom. Solomon humbly asked God for wisdom and God not only gave him “*a wise and an understanding heart*” but also “*both riches and honour*” (1 Ki. 3:5-13). When “*the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon’s wisdom*”, she said, “*the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard*” (1 Ki. 10:7). Solomon “*spake three thousand proverbs*” (1 Ki. 4:32). The word “*wisdom*” occurs 54 times in the book of Proverbs. The stated purpose of the Proverbs is “*To know wisdom*” and “*To receive the instruction of wisdom*” (Prov. 1:2-3). Here are a few things revealed about wisdom in Proverbs:

FOOLS DESPISE WISDOM.

Proverbs 1:7, “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*” To “*despise*” is to hold in contempt, hold as insignificant, show despite toward. What is your attitude toward wisdom?

THE LORD GIVES

WISDOM. Proverbs 2:6, “*For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*” James said, “*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that*

giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him” (Jas. 1:5).

HAPPY IS THE MAN THAT FINDS WISDOM. Proverbs 3:13, “*Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.*” Another word for “*happy*” is “*blessed*”. Wisdom brings happiness and blessedness to one’s life!

WISDOM IS THE PRINCIPAL THING. Proverbs 4:7, “*Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*” Wisdom is the absolute chief thing. That is why we must exhaust every effort to “*get wisdom*” (Prov. 4:5, 7). “*How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!*” (Prov. 16:16).

WISDOM IS BETTER. Proverbs 8:11, “*For wisdom is better than rubies: and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.*” It is said of wisdom: “*For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold*” (Prov. 3:14). “*My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver*” (Prov. 8:19). May we truly appreciate how valuable wisdom is!

THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM. Proverbs 9:10, “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*” Much is to be learned about the fear of the Lord in Proverbs (1:7, 29; 2:5; 3:7; 8:13; 10:27; 14:2, 26, 27; 15:16, 33; 16:6; 19:23; 22:4; 23:17; 24:21; 31:30).

HE THAT GETS WISDOM LOVES HIS OWN SOUL. Proverbs 19:8, “*He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.*” We either help or hurt ourselves. Proverbs often speaks of the harm and hurt one brings to self (Prov. 5:22; 6:32; 11:17, 19; 15:32). Wisdom says, “*But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death*” (Prov. 8:36). What are we doing to ourselves?

WHOSO LOVES WISDOM REJOICES HIS FATHER. Proverbs 29:3, “*Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance.*” We bring gladness or grief to our father and mother. Proverbs 10:1, “*A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.*” Wise or foolish: which are you?

Ponder the Proverbs!

WHAT MAN IS HE THAT FEARETH THE LORD?

Nicolas Edwards

This question is asked in Psalm 25:12. The book of Psalms answers this question:

THE MAN THAT SERVES THE LORD. “Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling” (Ps. 2:11).

THE MAN THAT WORSHIPS THE LORD. “But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple” (Ps. 5:7). “O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before Him, all the earth” (Ps. 96:9).

THE MAN THAT STANDS IN AWE OF THE LORD. “Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him” (Ps. 33:8).

THE MAN THAT DEPARTS FROM EVIL AND DOES GOOD. “Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see

good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it” (Ps. 34:11-14).

THE MAN THAT CHANGES FROM WICKEDNESS. “God shall hear, and afflict them, even he that abideth of old. Because they have no changes, therefore they fear not God” (Ps. 55:19). In this Psalm, David is praying to God concerning the wicked. In reference to the wicked, he says God will afflict them but “they have no changes, therefore they fear not God.” God chastens us through His word (Heb. 12:5-13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). When a man hears God’s word, his sin is reprov’d, but if he never changes, he does not fear God! Some members of the church can sit and listen to sermons preached on sin that they are engaged in and after hearing the word of God thank the preacher for the lesson, but not a single thing will change in their life! Why? They fear not God! When a person hears God’s word and changes in accordance to it, that person fears God!

THE MAN THAT KEEPS

AND REMEMBERS GOD’S COMMANDMENTS. “But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him...to such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them” (Ps. 103:17-18).

THE MAN THAT DELIGHTS GREATLY IN GOD’S COMMANDMENTS. “Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments” (Ps. 112:1).

THE MAN THAT TRUSTS IN THE LORD. “Ye that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord: he is their help and their shield” (Ps. 115:11).

THE MAN THAT TREMBLES AND IS AFRAID. “My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments” (Ps. 119:120).

THE MAN THAT WALKS IN GOD’S WAYS. “Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord: that walketh in His ways” (Ps. 128:1).

“The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear Him” (Ps. 147:11). Do you fear the Lord?

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com