



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

THE VALUE OF WISDOM

Proverbs 3:13-20

Sunday, October 8, 2017

TEXT: PROVERBS 3:13-20

INTRODUCTION:

The Book of Proverbs is the best manual you'll find on people skills, because it was given to us by the God who made us, the God who can teach us what we need to know about human relationships, whether it's marriage, the family, the neighborhood, the job, or our wider circle of friends and acquaintances. If we learn and practice God's wisdom as presented in Proverbs, we'll find ourselves improving in people skills and enjoying life much more. Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Skillful*, "Be" Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 96.

I. THE VALUE OF WISDOM TO MAN, vv. 13–17

A. Wisdom's Scarcity , v. 13

How blessed is the man who finds wisdom And the man who gains understanding.

B. Wisdom's Quality, vv. 14-15

1. Wisdom is more profitable than precious metals, v. 14

For her profit is better than the profit of silver And her gain better than fine gold.

2. Wisdom is more precious than coral jewelry, v. 15

She is more precious than jewels; And nothing you desire compares with her.

C. Wisdom's Benefits, vv. 16-17

1. Wisdom promises a long and prosperous life to those who find her, v. 16

Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor.

2. Wisdom provides a pleasant and peaceful path to those who follow her, v. 17

Her ways are pleasant ways And all her paths are peace.

3. Wisdom personifies eternal blessedness to those who hold fast to her, v. 18

She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who hold her fast.

II. THE VALUE OF WISDOM TO GOD, vv. 19-20

A. In Wisdom, God Made the World, vv. 19-20a

The LORD by wisdom founded the earth, By understanding He established the heavens.

B. In Wisdom, God Sustains the World, v. 20

By His knowledge the deeps were broken up And the skies drip with dew.

III. CONCLUSION

Everyone wants to be happy. There is disagreement among men on what brings the greatest happiness, but everyone longs to have it. This longing for happiness is not wrong because it is part of the image of God in man.

The longing for happiness is evil when man seeks to find happiness in ways that displease and dishonor the Lord. The goal of mankind is to find happiness in ways that please and honor God. When man finds God's wisdom, he begins a journey towards ultimate happiness. Solomon tells his son, "*How blessed is the man who finds wisdom And the man who gains understanding,*" (Pro 3:13). The Hebrew word for blessed can also be translated happy. In verse 18 where Solomon is comparing wisdom with the tree of life, he says that *happy are all who hold [wisdom] fast*.

God has sovereignly designed the pilgrimage of the believer in this world in such a way that seeking wisdom and doing what is right will eventually lead to greater blessedness (or happiness). The believer can be assured that while in this world God will never make him choose between his eternal happiness and God's glory! When, in wisdom, the believer chooses to glorify God with his choices in life, he will be happier for it.