

Daily Devotional - Proverbs Study

Week 2 - Day 1

Approaching God

Read Psalm 81:10 - I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt. Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.

Prayer: "Father, I haven't asked enough from you and as I begin a new week I am realizing how great your promises and offer of provision are for the people you rescue and save. Help me to rejoice in you, taking what you so generously give and sharing what you so joyously provide."

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Proverbs 3:13-30

Passage Introduction: A Hymn to Wisdom - Following the encouragement to humbly trust the Lord's instruction and discipline, this section describes the benefits of wisdom as more precious than anything that could be gained on earth, as the way of true peace and life, and thus as the means by which those who cling to her are blessed by the Lord.

Proverbs 3:13-30 - ESV

13 Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, 14 for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. **15** She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. **16** Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. **17** Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. **18** She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed. 19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; **20** by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew. **21** My son, do not lose sight of these-- keep sound wisdom and discretion, 22 and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck. 23 Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble. 24 If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. 25 Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes, **26** for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught. **27** Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. 28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it"--when you have it with you. 29 Do not plan evil against your neighbor, who dwells trustingly beside you. **30** Do not contend with a man for no reason, when he has done you no harm.

Daily Study Questions

This passage strengthens the Father's appeals in vv. 1–12. His wisdom matters for three reasons. **First**, according to verses 13–18, "blessed is the one who finds wisdom" (v. 13). The word "blessed" describes a person to be admired. As "a tree of life" (v. 18), God's wisdom, ultimately revealed in Christ, restores the ideal we lost in Eden (Gen. 3:22–24; Rev. 2:7; 22:2). **Second**, according to Proverbs 3:19, "the LORD by wisdom founded the earth." His wisdom is embedded in how the creation works. Ignoring him cannot succeed. Trusting him cannot fail. **Third**, according to verses 21–26, "you will walk on your way securely" (v. 23), because the Lord will "keep your foot from being caught" (v. 26; cf. 2 Tim. 4:18). "Do not lose sight of . . . sound wisdom and discretion" (Prov. 3:21) calls for diligent attention to our lives, moment by moment, confident in the Lord's protection.

- What 1 or 2 principles do you observe in this section?
- When in your life or the life of someone else have you seen this observation illustrated?
- · How can you put this observation or principle into practice?
- Remembering that the Lord has built wisdom into the fabric of how the world works, where might you be ignoring wisdom in your life?
- Lastly, try to summarize your thoughts by rewriting your main ideas and observations into your own words in a sentence or two.

Close in Prayer:

Lord, I have a heart that does not love correction, and I live in a society that tells me to trust only my own, inmost feelings. All things inside and outside of me seem to conspire against my efforts to become a teachable student of your Word and of life. I seek a broken and contrite spirit. Amen.