

Proverbs 3

1 My son, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments,
2 for length of days and years of life
and peace they will add to you.
3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness
forsake you;
bind them around your neck;
write them on the tablet of your heart.

Proverbs 3

4 So you will find favor and good success
in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

7 Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.

Proverbs 3

8 It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones.

9 Honor the Lord with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
10 then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.

Proverbs 3

11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline

or be weary of his reproof,

12 for the Lord reproveth him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.

Proverbs 3

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.

Proverbs 3

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.

Proverbs 3

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.



The Path of Wisdom

Proverbs 3:1-20



Proverbs ...

- What is a proverb?
- What is wisdom literature?
- What is wisdom's value?
- How does one become wise?
- What is wisdom?
- What is wisdom, this side of Easter?



What is a proverb?



NOT a LAW!



NOT an Unbridled
Promise



What is a proverb?

- It is “a statement of generalized truth,”
- expressed poetically,
- that is to be applied with wisdom
- to everyday situations of wide variety

Proverbs 10

1 The proverbs of Solomon.
A wise son makes a glad father,
but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.

27 The fear of the Lord prolongs life,
but the years of the wicked will be short.

Apply with wisdom:

Proverbs 26

4 Answer not a fool according to his folly,
lest you be like him yourself.

5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he
be wise in his own eyes.

“Many hands make light work”

“Too many cooks spoil the broth”



What is wisdom literature?

Old Testament:

Job

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon

Proverbs

“Wisdom” Psalms (e.g.,
1, 37, 112, 127)

New Testament:

James

some teachings of
Jesus (e.g., Luke 6:20-
49)

Characteristics of wisdom literature:

“... keen interest in the way the world works, humanity’s place within it, and how all of this operates under God’s creative, sovereign care.”
(ESV Study Bible)

Matthew 10:16 “Behold I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.”



What is wisdom's value?

3:13 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
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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.

?

How does one become wise?

1. Begin with the fear of the Lord.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.



Biblical Fear ... and Love!

Deuteronomy 10:12

“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul”

Biblical Fear... and Forgiveness!

Psalm 130

- 3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
- 4 But with you there is forgiveness, that you
may be feared.

Biblical Fear, Defined

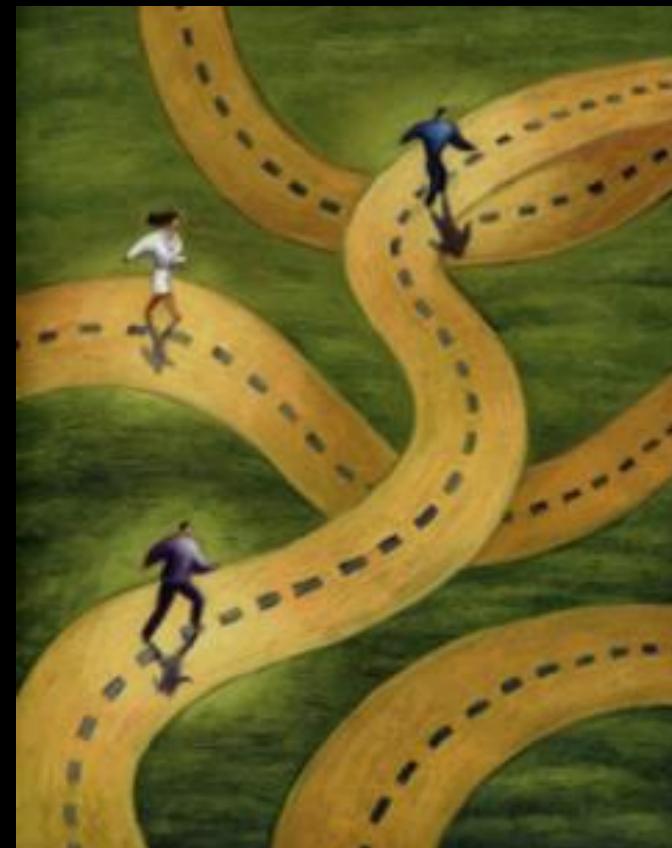
“Summed across all of the Scriptures, the fear of God is a life-rearranging, joyful awe and wonder before the greatness of who God is and what he has done.” (Tim Keller)

- 1.) Wisdom begins with reverent, joyful awe!

How to become wise?

2) Keep on the path of wisdom (3:1-6)

- walking humbly, obediently, generously, and wholly accepting of correction (3:7-12)





Keep on wisdom's path

1 My son, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments,
2 for length of **days** and **years** of life
and peace they will **add** to you.
3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness
forsake you;
bind them around your neck;
write them on the tablet of your heart.



Keep on wisdom's path

4 So you will find favor and good success
in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will **make straight your paths.**



Walk humbly & obediently

7 Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.
8 It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones.



Give generously

9 Honor the Lord with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
10 then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.



Accept God's correction

11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline

or be weary of his reproof,

12 for the Lord reprobates him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.

How to become wise?

3) Know and guard your heart

Proverbs 4:23 --

Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it
flow the springs of life. (ESV)

Above all else, guard your heart, for
everything you do flows from it. (NIV)



What is wisdom?

Proverbs 3

19 The Lord by wisdom founded the earth;
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heavens;

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Wisdom defined

- Fundamentally, wisdom pervades the universe and manifests the glory of God (Proverbs 8:22-31)
- Wisdom is also a set of skills:
 - survival (e.g. Prov 6:6 -- ants possess it)
 - social & relational (e.g. Prov 10:19 – control of the tongue)
 - administrative (e.g. Prov 8:16 – “by me rulers rule ... [and] govern rightly”)

Wisdom defined

- “Skill in the art of Godly living”
(ESV Study Bible)
- “Competence with regard to the complexities and realities of life”
(Tim Keller)
- “Devotion to God and all that flows from such devotion in thought and life”
(DA Carson)



What is wisdom, *this* side of Easter?

Proverbs 3:3

“Let not **steadfast love** and **faithfulness** forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.”

Exodus 34:6

“The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness”

Steadfast Love & Faithfulness

- On the Proverbs side of Easter, these two words represent an irreconcilable conundrum – an unwaveringly merciful God who is utterly faithful to the demand of righteousness
- All Proverbs can say is “let [these] not forsake you,” admonish us to bind them around our neck and write them on the tablet of our heart. But how?



Wisdom, this side of Easter!

1 Corinthians 1:23-25

But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.



Wisdom, this side of Easter!

Proverbs 8:17,35

I love those who love me,
and those who seek me diligently find me.

For whoever finds me finds life
and obtains favor from the Lord.



“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6