THE VALUE OF DIVINE WISDOM

PROVERBS 3:13-20

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INTRO: I can recall a professor in college saying that “A WISE PERSON IS NOT ONE WHO KNOWS EVERYTHING, BUT IS ONE WHO KNOWS WHERE TO GO TO FIND ALL OF THE RIGHT ANSWERS.” The older I get, the more I realize that is so true! Now, there are two sources to which one may go to receive wisdom. 1) The World. 2) The Lord. The wisdom of the world will ALWAYS lead to disorder and confusion according to James 3:13-16. But the wisdom of the Lord will ALWAYS lead to order and understanding according to James 3:17,18. So, it stands to reason that the Christian SHOULD REJECT THE WISDOM OF THE WORLD TOTALLY AND SEEK TO APPLY THE WISDOM OF THE LORD COMPLETELY! NO ONE WILL EVER BE ABLE TO PLEASE AND SERVE GOD EFFECTIVELY APART FROM THE WISDOM OF GOD! IT MUST THEREFORE BE SOUGHT AND APPLIED! Such is the entire message of Proverbs!

DEFINITION OF WISDOM: GODLY INSIGHT FOR DAILY LIVING

OBSERVATION: It is interesting to note that the text before us speaks of WISDOM in the FEMALE gender. Why?
1) Solomon was perhaps thinking of his own wife “Naamah ” who, according to Jewish history was very wise and understanding. In fact, her name means “PEACE.”
2) Women, according the scripture, are softer (the real meaning of “woman”) than men, and true wisdom from God is soft in its dealings, not harsh.
3) The height of society is a VIRTUOUS WOMAN according to Proverbs 31. Solomon is therefore, showing the value of wisdom by the female gender.

NOTE: Verse 13 is the FIRST BEATITUDE of Proverbs. The literal translation is “BLESSED IS THE MAN.”

I. THE EFFECT OF DIVINE WISDOM VS. 13

“HAPPY IS THE MAN THAT FINDETH WISDOM.”

A. The Meaning of “HAPPY” is TO BE BLESSED. In other words, the one who has wisdom is blessed in every area of life.
B. The Measure of “HAPPINESS.”
   1. By Finding Wisdom: SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURE FOR GODLY INSIGHT.
   2. By Getting Understanding: DRAWING OUT BIBLICAL TRUTHS TO LIVE BY IN EVERYDAY LIFE.

THE POINT: APPLYING DIVINE INSIGHT AND BIBLICAL TRUTH TO EVERY SITUATION OF LIFE WILL BRING GENUINE HAPPINESS!

ILLUSTRATION:

APPLICATION: ARE YOU FUNCTIONING BY DIVINE WISDOM?

II. THE ESSENCE OF DIVINE WISDOM VSS. 14-20

A. Divine Wisdom is Profitable Vs. 14
1. Merchandise of silver and gold is VERY profitable in life.
2. Divine Wisdom is MORE profitable in that it guides one in how to properly use the silver and gold he or she has which brings great return.

B. Divine Wisdom is Precious Vs. 15
   1. Rubies were extremely valuable in the day of Solomon.
   2. Divine Wisdom is MORE valuable than rubies because it is PRECIOUS, meaning RARE. Nothing can be compared to the person who applies wisdom to his or her life. Such a person is of VERY HIGH VALUE TO SOCIETY!

C. Divine Wisdom is Preservation Vs. 16a
   1. Everyone desires to live a long life.
   2. Divine Wisdom gives the insight to make the right choices to keep life safe from harming effects.

D. Divine Wisdom is Prosperous Vs. 16b
   1. The natural desire of humanity is to want “THINGS.” There is nothing wrong with that if the motive is correct.
   2. Divine Wisdom enables one to use what God gives to bring even greater riches and honor. This is NOT “PROSPERITY THEOLOGY.” It is a simple result of applying God’s insight to the material blessings of life.

E. Divine Wisdom is Pleasant Vs. 17a (”Ways” = “Highways”)
   1. No one likes an unpleasant person, place or thing.
   2. Divine Wisdom creates a “practical beauty” in everything!

F. +Divine Wisdom is Peaceful Vs. 17b (”Paths” = “Side Roads”)
   1. No one really likes tension and turmoil.
   2. Divine Wisdom is free from strife and alarm and always brings tranquility to every situation.

G. Divine Wisdom is Perennial Vs. 18
   1. Everyone likes good things to last.
   2. Divine Wisdom guarantees a life of high quality that lasts forever.

H. Divine Wisdom is Productive Vss. 19,20
   1. Goodly people like to be productive.
   2. Divine Wisdom enabled God to produce the universe and will enable those who apply it to their lives productive in every aspect of their being.

ILLUSTRATION:
APPLICATION: ARE YOU SEEKING DIVINE WISDOM?

III. THE EDICT OF DIVINE WISDOM VS. 4:7
“WISDOM IS THE PRINCIPLE THING: THEREFORE GET WISDOM.”

A. The Application of Divine Wisdom is an Expectation from God.
B. The Abandonment of Divine Wisdom is an Abomination to God.

ILLUSTRATION:
APPLICATION: SEEKING THE WISDOM OF GOD IS OBEYING THE WILL OF GOD.