

The Benefits of Wisdom, part 2

“Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.”

Albert Einstein

Proverbs 3:13-18 Christian Standard Bible

Wisdom Brings Happiness

13 Happy is a man who finds wisdom
and who acquires understanding,

14 for she is more profitable than silver,
and her revenue is better than gold.

15 She is more precious than jewels;
nothing you desire can equal her.

16 Long life^[a] is in her right hand;
in her left, riches and honor.

17 Her ways are pleasant,
and all her paths, peaceful.

18 She is a tree of life to those who embrace her,
and those who hold on to her are happy.

Something to think about...

Who is the wisest person you know? Why did you pick that person?

CSB Footnotes

a. 3:16 Lit Length of days

b. 3:22 Or be your throat

c. 3:22 Or grace

d. 3:24 LXX reads sit

A CLOSER LOOK

The literary elements of scripture are often overlooked, but today it is highlighted in this “beatitude”. Here we have wisdom and understanding personified, persuading us to see wisdom physically, relationally, and emotionally. What a gift to have lofty concepts illustrated in a way that makes our pursuits meaningful and purpose filled assisting us in seeking intangible and conceptual goals. Wisdom’s value is now observable and embraceable.

Again, contextually we hear a father addressing his son, and we see immediately the encouragement of happiness and blessing associated with the search for wisdom. The reminder that wisdom is greater than anything money can buy, even greater than any earthly treasure, is complimented by the gifts of long life, riches and honor that accompany the embracing of wisdom. As if that were not enough, we are provided a contrast to our worldly quests reminding us that pleasant and peaceful happiness is the outcome of desiring God’s wisdom.

Personified wisdom becomes an even more complex illustration as the writer states “she is a tree of life”, an anchored and deeply rooted word picture emphasizing the stability and centrality of wisdom in all God has created. Bringing with it life, refreshment, and nourishment God’s wisdom is tolerant against all of life’s storms.

Wisdom can be found, and should be pursued diligently. Once found, it changes our perspective and leads to true satisfaction.

“LET US PRAY...”

Thank you Lord for the peace and happiness that comes from finding wisdom and understanding. Help us to value wisdom over earthly possessions and to inspire others to do the same. We know that by prioritizing and seeking your guidance our lives can be recalibrated toward pursuing timeless truth and imparting that to others. Thank you for providing wisdom we can cling to. Amen

NEXT WEEK... *The Safety of Wisdom— Proverbs 4*