

wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? ²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

3. _____ the LORD (3:7-8).

PROVERBS 3:7: “Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.”

PROVERBS 14:16: “A wise man fears the Lord and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.”

QUESTION: *What does it mean to fear the Lord and shun evil?*

RESULT:

PROVERBS 3:8: “This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.”

QUESTION: *How does fearing the Lord & shunning evil bring health to your body & nourishment to your bones?*

PROVERBS 12:4: “A wife of noble character is her husband’s crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.”

PROVERBS 14:30: “A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.”

PROVERBS 15:30: “A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.”

PROVERBS 16:24: “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”

PROVERBS 17:22: “A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.”

PSALM 32:1-5: “Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. ²Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. ³When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’— and you forgave the guilt of my sin.”

PROVERBS 4:20-22: “My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. ²¹Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; ²²for they are life to those who find them and health to a man’s whole body.”

4. _____ the LORD (3:9-10).

PROVERBS 3:9: “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops...”

QUESTION: *Do you honor the Lord in your giving, or do you rob God?*

MALACHI 3:8-10: “Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ “In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.

RESULT:

PROVERBS 3:10: “then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.”

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6: “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

MALACHI 3:10: “Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

5. _____ the LORD (3:11-12)

PROVERBS 3:11-12: “My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline and do not resent his rebuke, ¹²because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.”

RESULT:

“Chastening is a part of God’s plan to help His sons and daughters mature in godly character (Heb. 12:1–11). God chastens us, not as a judge punishes a criminal, but as a parent disciplines a child. He acts in love and His purpose is that we might become “partakers of His holiness” (Heb. 12:10).” Sometimes He chastens because we have rebelled and need to repent; other times He chastens to keep us from sinning and to prepare us for His special blessing. No matter how much the experience *hurts us, it will never harm us, because God always chastens in love (Deut. 8:2–5).*” **Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Skillful, An Old Testament study.* (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1996, c1995).**

HEBREWS 12:4-11: “In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” ⁷Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. ⁹Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. *How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!* ¹⁰Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; *but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.* ¹¹No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, *it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*”

FINAL THOUGHTS

A wise person is one who has a relationship with God that is characterized by *obedience, trust, reverential fear, honor and a submission to his loving work of discipline.*

Navigating Life: A Study in Proverbs “5 Characteristics of the Wise” *Proverbs 3:1-12*

Pastor Cory Anderson / 05.29.11

Introduction:

1. _____ the LORD (3:1-4).

PROVERBS 3:1-4: “My son, *do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart...*

RESULTS:

PROVERBS 3:2-4: “...*for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.* ³Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴***Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.***”

2. _____ the LORD (3:5-6).

PROVERBS 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways acknowledge him...”

RESULT of trusting in _____:

JEREMIAH 17:4-6: “This is what the Lord says: “*Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength* and whose heart turns away from the Lord. ⁶*He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.*”

RESULT of trusting in _____:

JEREMIAH 17:7-8: “*But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.* ⁸*He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.*”

PROVERBS 3:6: “...and he will make your paths straight.”

MATTHEW 6:25-34: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will