

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity
Nov 26, 2023 | “The Benefits of Wisdom-Seeking” | **Proverbs 3:13-35**

1. Wisdom enriches a _____
(3:13-18)

2. Wisdom has a dependable _____
(3:19-20)

3. Wisdom supplies _____
(3:21-26)

4. Wisdom prevents a _____ of _____
(3:27-35)

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Proverbs 3:13-18. Why is the person who finds wisdom called blessed? What does it mean to be blessed and who are we blessed by? Is blessedness the same as happiness? Is blessedness the same as prosperity?

Read Proverbs 3:19-35. Biblical wisdom is inherently practical, and the author gives us some practical examples of applied wisdom in Proverbs 3:27-35 (six “do not commands”). Are you guilty of disobeying any of these “do not commands?”

Biblical wisdom is also connected to righteous living. Explain the connection between wisdom and righteousness. Is there ever a situation where the wise course of action isn’t righteous? Is there ever a situation where a righteous course of action isn’t wise?

GET PERSONAL

In what ways have you sought for “blessings” in this world apart from the fear of the Lord and God’s wisdom? Is it possible to be blessed apart from God?

Proverbs 3:34 is echoed in the NT (Jas 4:6; 1 Pet 5:5). How does God show favor to the humble? What is favor? What is humility and why is it so important to the Lord? From an NT perspective, how is humility necessary for salvation? How is it necessary for the ongoing work of sanctification?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Reread Proverbs 3:27-35. Think through some real-life, practical ways that people in our day violate these exhortations. Why was it important to God that the ancient Israelites be people of integrity? Why is it important for Christians in our day to be people of integrity? Is there an integrity issue right now in your life that you need to confess and turn from?

ADVANCED QUESTION #1

Read Proverbs 3:24 and evaluate it as a truism (and not a promise). What actions might lead to sleeplessness in our lives? Can sleeplessness (or unsweet sleep) still occur in the life of a righteous, God-fearing person? If so, why?

ADVANCED QUESTION #2

Proverbs 3:13-34 starts with a statement about being blessed (3:13, 18) and ends with a statement about being cursed (3:33). How were blessings and curses an essential part of God’s interaction with the Israelite community (see Deut 28)? How has this changed in the NT era? See the following Bible Project video to trace this theme throughout the Bible:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/blessing-and-curse/>