

Finding Wisdom In Our Lives!

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► Introduction:

- I. This morning in our Bible class here in the auditorium we studied about Solomon and particularly Solomon asking for wisdom from God.
 - A. And we noticed how that Solomon's wisdom was known throughout not only Israel but all the surrounding nations as well. (I Kings 4:29-31)
 - B. The Bible relates that Solomon using his wisdom "spoke three thousand proverbs" and that kings and officials from other nations came to hear Solomon wisdom.

► C. One of his Proverbs relates the importance of having wisdom in our lives!

Proverbs 3:13-22

"Happy is the man who finds wisdom,
And the man who gains understanding;
For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver,
And her gain than fine gold.
She is more precious than rubies,
And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.
Length of days is in her right hand,
In her left hand riches and honor.
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
And all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her,
And happy are all who retain her.
The LORD by wisdom founded the earth;
By understanding He established the heavens;

By His knowledge the depths were broken up,
And clouds drop down the dew.
My son, let them not depart from your eyes—
Keep sound wisdom and discretion;
So they will be life to your soul
And grace to your neck.”

- ▶ II. From this Proverbs of Solomon we learn the importance of seeking and obtaining godly wisdom.
 - A. Someone that has and uses their wisdom will be happier individuals. (13)
 - ▶ B. Wisdom is far better than material possessions such as silver, gold, and other precious items and more precious than anything else we might desire. (14-15)
 - ▶ C. With truly wisdom we can extend the quantity and quality of our lives. (16)
 - ▶ D. Wisdom promotes peace in a very disturbing and difficult world. (17)
 - ▶ E. The Lord used wisdom to establish and create the world and everything else. (19)
 - ▶ F. Having wisdom that is rock solid will provide our lives with purpose and godly grace. (22)
- III. So, in our lesson tonight we are going to look at several truths of life that when we understand and accept then we will grow in greater wisdom!

Discussion:

- ▶ I. Wisdom comes when we recognize that life is not always fair!
 - A. From the very day we were born to the day in which we breathe our last breath, we will recognize this truth!
 - 1. There are many individuals that are rich and there are others that are poor!
 - 2. Some folks are highly intelligent and others that are like me and plum ignorant!
 - 3. There are others that have more food than they would ever need and there are others that are constantly hungry!

4. Some individuals seek to have good fortune to always find them while others struggle at every turn.
 5. There are individuals that are free while others are enslaved.
 6. And there are many individuals that are healthy while others that sick and struggling with disease.
- B. Life is just not fair, yet God never promised that life would be fair!
1. God did promise us that if we seek after Him and His kingdom first, then He would take care of us.

Matthew 6:33
“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
 2. God also promised that He would be fair in regard to salvation.
 - a. God’s amazing grace in offering His Son for our sins and providing the needed directives to receive His salvation are given to everyone.

Titus 2:11
“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,
teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,”
 - b. He is not bias concerning who will receive or who will not receive His offering of salvation.

Acts 10:34-25
“Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.
But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.”
 - c. Life is not fair however, God is fair to all that giving everyone the opportunity to be saved.
 3. God promises that all men will be judged.

- a. A few years ago, I went to a funeral service to pay respect to a person of whom I knew several in his family.

It was interesting that the individual that presented the service related how this individual that had died was a crook and swindler and that everyone that knew him, knew this fact.

He continued saying that he prided himself in using profanity and curse word. This man was known for cheating and lying, this was just common knowledge concerning him... Everyone just accepted him this way!

This individual presenting this funeral service then related how wonderful it would be to see him again in Heaven for indeed that is where he is now!

- b. We are warned by Deity that one day there will be a Judgment Day and that judgment will be rendered to what we had done in this life.

II Corinthians 5:10

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

Acts 17:31

“because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

- C. These things we can be have confidence because God has given His Word, yet we should not believe that life on this earth is going to be fair, that was never promised.
- D. So, when we accept this truth, we gain wisdom; and then we will not be as disappointed with life does indeed let us down.

► II. We gain wisdom when we recognize that you cannot change the past!

- A. Time marches forward, not backward!

- 1. There are many individuals who would like to “revise” history instead of dealing with what might had or had not occurred. Things did not go their

way and they did not like the outcome. Therefore they simply ignore what took place.

2. The truth is that once something happens it is fixed to the past and does not change.

B. There are a couple of consequences to understanding this life truth!

1. Once our words and actions are said or done, then you cannot go and take them back!
 - a. Therefore we must be extremely careful what we said and what we do.
 - b. David wrote encouraging us to ask God for help in practicing self-control concerning what we do and say!

Psalm 141:3-4

“Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;
Keep watch over the door of my lips.
Do not incline my heart to any evil thing,
To practice wicked works
With men who work iniquity;
And do not let me eat of their delicacies.”

2. The second consequence is recognizing that the past is in the past and there is nothing that we can do about it!
 - a. The Apostle Paul did things that he so regretted! He relates to Timothy that he was the chief of sinners. (I Timothy 1:15)
 - b. Paul did not forget what he had done; the story of his sinful behavior is recorded three times in Acts, two of them which he told.
 - c. Yet Paul did properly deal with his sinful actions by turning to Christ, developing proper faith, proclaiming Christ as his Savior, repenting of his sinful past, and obeying Christ by being baptized.
 - d. He could not change his past, but he could properly deal with it so that he could live for the future!

Philippians 3:13-14

“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

- e. We know Paul did not forget his past, he recounts it when necessary, yet he changed his focus. The Greek word for “forgetting” in this passage means “neglecting, no longer caring for...”
 - f. Paul did not concentrate on his past failures; he focused upon his future endeavors of serving the Lord!
- C. Yes, we must properly deal with the past, yet when we accept that we cannot change the past, then we can leave it in behind and work for the future.

► III. We gain wisdom when we recognize choices have consequences!

- A. Alan, you just said that we need to leave the past in the past!
- 1. However, we must still deal with the consequences of unwise and sinful actions of the past.
 - a. I might have to deal with the consequence of lung cancer due to my past years of smoking!
 - b. I might have to deal with broken relationships because I made wrongful decisions in that past that hurt others.
 - c. I might have to deal with being separated from God because I sinned and my sin does separate me from Deity!
 - 2. Leaving things in the past does not mean, I do not have to deal with them, it does not mean that I can pretend that there are no consequences.
 - 3. To properly keep things in the past, and move forward then I accept and deal with the consequences that my bad choices might have caused.

Galatians 6:7-8

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

- B. When we understand that all choices have consequences and sometimes they might be **unintended consequences**, then we will be extremely careful to consider those decisions before we ever make them.

► IV. Wisdom is gained when we recognize that words have meanings!

- A. The old adage: “Sticks and stone might break my bones, but words will never hurt me:” is simply untrue!

1. Word and what we say can be extremely hurtful!
2. And we can also add how some words can also be very hurtful!
3. Yet, why? Why do words hurt us so badly? And the answer is simply... because words indeed carry meaning!

- B. God has related that we must be careful in what we say.

1. Jesus relates that if we use words without considering their meaning then we will have to give an account of those idle words.

Matthew 12:36-37

“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

2. Paul relates that individuals that use vain words will receive the wrath of God.

Ephesians 5:6

“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”

3. And Paul warns Timothy to avoid those that use words that cause strife.

1 Timothy 6:3-4

“If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness,

he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.”

- C. Understanding the truth that words have meanings helps me carefully consider what words that I might use and the words that I avoid to use.

- V. Wisdom and understand are gained when I understand that you will be opposed for doing what is right!
- A. There is another phrase that you might have heard: “There is no good deed that goes unpunished!”
- B. Jesus related to us that as Christians trying to do what is godly and right means that others will oppose us!
1. I am made this statement several times in the last few years, we here in the United States for many years now have enjoyed not being persecuted or abused because of our Christianity. However, I seriously wonder if that is changing in our society!
 2. Yet, what we have experienced is not necessarily the norm!
 - a. It is far more common for Christians, for those doing good and righteous behavior, to be abused and ridiculed.
 - b. Jesus taught us that if we were going to be His disciples then we ought to be prepared to face persecution.

John 15:19-20
“If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.
Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you...”
 3. So, what should be our attitude when others oppose us for doing that is godly?

Jesus answers that question when he was offering the beatitudes or those things that ought to make us happy.

Matthew 5:11-12
“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.
Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”
- C. Understanding that we are going to be opposed and persecuted for doing what is right will help us be prepared to do right regardless!

▶ VI. We become wise when we recognize that learning the hard way hurts!

A. There are two different ways of learning in this life!

1. You can be taught by someone else and learn from their experience.
2. Or you can learn through the process of experience or what many call trial and error.
3. More than often we choose to learn through experience and many times learning this way can cause difficulties and hardships.

B. The Bible offers us counsel concerning how we ought to listen to others and learn from them.

1. To our young people the Lord directs us to listen to our parents and learn from them.

Ephesians 6:1

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”

2. Peter relates that young men are to submit to their elders.

I Peter 5:5

“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.””

3. Solomon teaches that listening and abiding to wholesome instruction is wise!

Proverbs 2:1

“My son, if you receive my words,
And treasure my commands within you,”

- a. Many scholars suggest that Solomon is not necessarily talking to his personal son, but rather he is saying “my son” in reference to the one in whom he is teaching.
- b. Either way Solomon is directing through this Proverb that one ought to listen to his wise teaching.

- C. Sometimes learning from experience is necessary however God encourages us to learn from those that are wiser and have experience, such could save us a lot of heart ache and trouble.

▶ VII. Another wise lesson to learn in life is that things change!

- A. It seems that whenever you finally figure something out, it changes!

- 1. During my studies in counseling I remember my professor relating that when people struggle emotionally the most is when changes occur in life.

- a. And it does not have to be negative changes!

- b. Even what one might consider positive changes (a new job, marriage, the birth of a child, etc.) can still cause high anxiety.

- 2. The very fact that life is unpredictable is something that we all need to learn and recognize.

- B. This is why a wise individual is turn to Jesus and His Word and rely upon its stability.

- 1. God and His Message to us will never change!

Hebrews 13:8

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

I Peter 1:23

“having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

- 2. Therefore when we trust in Christ and His Word then we can be sure that it will never change and our lives can be anchored and stable.

II Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

- C. Understanding that in this life change is going to occur will prepare us for when change does happen, yet we are not left without a strong and stable foundation to rest upon, Christ and His Word.

- VIII. And lastly tonight, we develop wisdom when we recognize that unless the Lord returns we are all going to die!

A. There is not escape from this reality!

1. For centuries man has attempted to find ways of pressuring, extending, and avoiding death.
2. Yet, death has never been avoided unless divine intervention has taken place.
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3. The Bible relates that there is a time in which all will face death.

Hebrews 9:27

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,”

B. Realizing this life truth should lead us to Christ who offers an answer for death.

1. Paul teaches us that through Christ we have the hope of victory over death!

I Corinthians 15:20-22

“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”

2. Later in the same passage Paul relates that through Christ we can have “victory” over death. (I Corinthians 15:57)

C. True wisdom is recognizing that we are all going to die, yet even greater wisdom is understanding that through our Lord, we have a Savior that through Him we can conquer death!

Conclusion:

I. So, we have noticed several life truths that when we accept and then godly and properly dealt with we will obtain great godly wisdom.

A. There is great wisdom in understanding these irrefutable Truth of Life:

1. Life is not fair.

2. You cannot change history.
 3. Choices have consequences.
 4. Words have meaning.
 5. Someone will oppose you for doing what is right.
 6. Learning the hard way hurts.
 7. Life will change.
 8. Everyone will die!
- B. The true answer to all these life truths is to focus upon something much greater than life on this earth. Let us tell our focus upon eternal life and our Lord Jesus Christ for ultimately He has the real and complete answer to these truths of life!

II. This evening if we can assist you into coming to Christ we are here to assist you!

- A. If you want to learn what the Bible teaches concerning how to receive the gift of salvation from the Lord then we are willing to assist you, please let us know and we would love to study God's Word with you.
- B. If you know what your obligation are to the Lord and you desire to obey them, then why not tonight? If you need to accept the Lord and His salvation through obedience then we again are willing to assist you, tonight!
- C. If you are a Christian and fallen back into the ways of the world, please humble yourself and repent! Do not allow anything or anyone to cause you to lose your Lord and His redemption for you.
- D. If you just need the prayers of the church we are so very willing to approach Deity on your behalf.
- E. If we can assist you in any way, please let it be known, right now as we stand and sing!