
SERMON OUTLINE

Motivation for living wisely Proverbs 2-4

Trying to understand the “promises” of Proverbs

Problem: Why does wisdom sometimes, but seemingly not always, bring the success or outcome Proverbs anticipates?

1. God's desire to Bless us – As sinners we actually deserve nothing, but God is still gracious. However, if there were no reward for wise obedience, we would despair of pursuing God.
2. God's priority on Relationship – If God rewarded every wise choice immediately, our motive for obeying would be selfishness, not holiness. Trusting God develops closeness and dependence on Him – the only way life on a sinful earth is truly satisfying.
3. God's Sovereign plan – We must trust that God has ultimately good reasons for circumstances that seem unfair to us.
4. God's plan for Eternity – Wisdom has natural outcomes that are usually true in this life, but wait ultimate fulfillment in heaven.

I. Motivations for living a Wise Life

1. Understanding of God and closeness with Him (2:5-6; 3:32)
2. God's protection (2:7-8, 11, 3:23; 4:6, 12)
3. Live longer (3:2, 16; 4:10)
4. Better off financially (3:2,10; 3:2,9-10; 4:10,22)
5. A good reputation (3:3-4)
6. God's guidance (3:5-6; 4:11)
7. Live healthier (3:8; 4:22)
8. More enjoyment in life (3:17-18).
9. Confidence instead of fear (3:23-26)
10. Family is blessed (3:33)
11. The honor and respect of others (3:35)

II. The Actions/Attitudes of a Wise Life

1. Discretion – I avoid risky behavior (2:11; 3:21-22).
2. Friendships – I avoid close bonds with bad decision-makers (2:12-15), and pursue friendships with the wise (2:20).
3. Purity – I avoid temptation with the opposite sex (2:16-22).
4. Character – I focus on my character in God's sight (3:3-4)
5. Humility – I don't assume I know best without counsel (3:7).
6. Generosity – I honor God by being generous (3:9-10; 27-28)
7. Kindness – I don't take advantage of people or envy those who do (3:29-32).