

Instructions for the Game of Life (Part 6)

(Proverbs 3:13-18; 8:35)

Instructions for Finding and Using Wisdom

Introduction: Learning how-to live-in wisdom will bring pleasure to God and results in more useful and wholesome lives that will benefit us as well as others. This why we need...

I. The pursuit of wisdom: (3:13)

A. The problem of false wisdom – is; it’s just knowledge. a mere accumulation of facts, though, doesn't add up to insight and understanding. (Prov 14:12; Isa. 5:21). This is not the wisdom we want...we want...

B. The pursuit of true wisdom – *Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding* (v.13) The Bible describes a kind of treasure as being more precious than gold, silver, or rubies (Prov. 3:14-15). It is wisdom, which is more than knowledge. It's the ability to apply that knowledge to everyday life.

II. The profit of wisdom: (3:14-18)

A. Wisdom is needed to relate to God –Wisdom is a special gift from the Lord.

B. God’s wisdom is beyond our intellect and knowledge. (1 Cor.1:21; Prov. 9:10)

C. Wisdom begins when we recognize God’s ways and thoughts are higher and better than ours are and they are best,... (Isa. 55:9)

D. God’s wisdom is needed to live our lives. The same wisdom that Jehovah used to create the earth (cf. 8:22) He offers to us, to be our guide on our pilgrimage through this world. (Prov. 3:19-20)

E. Wisdom neglected results in missing out on what God desires for us -V.17 – is the promise that wisdom can make life both joyful and wholesome.

- What the O.T. affirms is that what was lost in paradise, waits to be regained and can be enjoyed in some measure here and now when man walks with God.

III. The personalizing of wisdom: (8:35) How strong are the incentives for those who would look for and listen to wisdom.

- A full life and the loving favor of the Lord.
- Wisdom’s invitation is to a “*Happy or Blessed*” life for the one who finds her.

A. The description of wisdom must be made -The description of wisdom given in Prov. 8:22-31 suggest Jesus Christ as the eternal wisdom of God, but that is not the main idea:

1. Wisdom is *not* another name for Jesus...

- *In Jesus Christ “are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col.2:3)*
- *He is our wisdom (1 Cor. 1:24, 30)* But Jesus was not created...besides...

2. Solomon personifies wisdom as:

- The joyful son of a father...
- A master craftsman etc...

3. While this is not a description of Christ, it does foreshadow Christ as the creative word that brought about creation in the beginning (*Jn.1:1-4; col.2:3*)

4. We can see the wisdom of God in creation... and the same God who worked in creation of old, wants to work in our lives as the new creation. (*2 Cor. 5:17; Eph.2:10;4:24; col.3:10*)

B. The decision for wisdom must be made –

- “Finds me” ...finds life, is paralleled in v. 36 with those who reject me...death. This shows us there are clearly two ways:
- One will either be so devoted to wisdom that he will hang on to her every word (v.34 *watching daily at my doors/gates*) or...
- He will hate her...but no one can be neutral, it is a matter of life and death.

Conclusion: Will you commit yourself to know Christ and His wisdom today? (Jn. 17:3)