

I. Introduction and Review. v. 1-4

- A. This chapter is packed with truth.
- B. Listen to what God is teaching you. v. 1-4, 13, 21
 - 1. Your propensity to forget is a moral flaw, not merely a mental infirmity. v. 1a 2:17 Dt. 8:11f
 - 2. Covenant obedience, kindness and truth must be internalized. v. 1b,3 4:23 Je. 31:33 Ezek. 36:26-27
 - 3. The result will be success in your relationships with God and men. v. 2,4

II. Act wisely (humbly) towards God. v. 5-12

- A. Trust the LORD. v. 5-6 16:20 29:25 Jeremiah 17:5-8
 - 1. Entirely: *with all of your heart.* v.5a. 29:25 11:28 Ps. 146:3 Isa. 31:1
 - 2. Exclusively: *do not lean on your own understanding.* v. 5b 28:26 14:12
 - 3. Extensively: in all your ways acknowledge Him. v. 6a
- B. Fear the LORD. v. 7-8
 - 1. *Do not be wise in your own eyes.* v. 7a 26:12 Is. 5:21 Jer. 9:23-24
 - 2. The fear the LORD will keep you from evil. v. 7b 1:7
- C. Honor the LORD from your wealth. v. 9-10 Ex. 23:19a Dt. 18:4 26:1-2,9-11
 - 1. Give God the first and the best of your finances. v. 9 I Co. 16:2 Mk. 12:44
 - 2. Then God will honor you. v. 10 Dt. 28:8f Mal. 3:10 He. 6:10 II Co. 9:6 I Sa.
- D. Embrace the LORD's discipline. v. 11-12 Hebrews 12:1-12 Rev. 3:19 Ps. 89:30-34
 - 1. Life isn't always smooth and easy for God's people.
 - 2. Why does God discipline us? Heb. 12:11 5:8.
 - 3. Don't respond sinfully to affliction. v. 12
 - 4. Honor God by welcoming chastisement. Ps. 119:67,71
 - 5. Because we are sons, He doesn't let us get by with much. v. 12 13:24 22:15 29:15

III. Act wisely towards men. v. 27-35.

- A. Repay your needy neighbor. v. 27-28 Ro. 13:7-8
 - 1. Pay your debts immediately. Dt. 24:14-15 Js. 5:4
 - 2. Return what you have borrowed.
 - 3. You also owe him love (charity). 11:26 Ro. 13:8 1:14 Job 31:16 Ja 1:27 Ga. 6:10
 - 4. Don't delay or make excuses. Ps. 37:21 Js. 4:17 Mt. 15:5.
- B. Don't harm your innocent neighbor. v. 29-30
 - 1. Don't slander him with gossip. 20:19
 - 2. Don't cheat him financially. 20:10,14 I Ti. 6:10
 - 3. Don't strive against (sue) him. 25:8 17:14 I Co. 6:1-8 Ro. 12:18 Mt. 5:29f
- C. Don't envy your wicked neighbor. v. 31-35 23:17 24:1,19 Psalm 73:1ff 37:1ff
 - 1. His crimes will not pay. v. 32a, 33a, 34a, 35b 6:16-19 Js. 5:1f
 - 2. God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Js. 4:6 I Pet. 5:5

IV. If you act wisely towards God and men you will succeed in life. v. 2,4,14-26,32-35

A. The wise are greatly blessed. v. 2,4, 14-26

1. You will enjoy a long, healthy, peaceful and pleasant life. v. 2, 6, 8, 16a,17-18
Ps. 16:11 1:3 Gen. 2:9 Rev. 22:2,14 Jer. 17:7-8
2. You will enjoy the favor of God and men. v. 4, 35a Luke 2:52
3. You will enjoy material prosperity. 10, 16b
4. You will enjoy spiritual blessings which surpass earthly treasures. v. 14-15
5. You will partake of the wisdom displayed by God in creation. v. 19-20 8:22f
6. You will be protected from trouble and fear. v. 22-26
7. You will be privy to the intimate counsels of God. v. 32b Amos 3:7 Ps. 25:14
8. You will be honored by God. v. 35a

B. Does *Proverbs* promise too much? The wise do not always enjoy material wealth and long life. The wicked sometimes prosper. v. 31 Ps. 73:1ff 37:1ff Job 1:1ff

1. *Proverbs* contains maxims which describe the way life generally works in God's world. These are not promises which can be unconditionally "claimed".
2. *Proverbs* reflects the covenant blessings and curses to the nation of Israel under the Old Covenant. v. 33 Lev. 26:3ff Dt. 28:1ff
3. *Proverbs* portrays the ultimate (eschatological) blessings to the righteous and curses upon the wicked in God's kingdom. v. 33-35,18 2:21-22 23:17-18 12:28 Ps. 37:29 Mt. 5:5 Rev. 22:14 2:7 Lk. 12:33 Heb. 6:10 Gen. 2:9

V. Concluding Applications:

A. Christ has come to give us wisdom and life.

1. He is the supreme example of hardship coming upon the wise.
2. He endured the curse of God, the punishment, and the dishonor that our sinful folly deserves. v. 33 I Pet. 3:18 II Cor. 5:21 Isa. 53:5
3. Through Him we are made wise unto salvation, even Partakers of the tree of life.

B. Seek wisdom in Christ. Trust Him alone. Rom. 3:20 Eph. 2:8-9 Phil. 3:7-9

Family Worship Discussion Questions.

1. What kind of forgetting is innocent and what kind of forgetting is sinful? v. 1a
2. In what ways are you tempted to lean on your own understanding? v. 5-6
3. What does it mean to be wise in your own eyes? v. 7-8
4. Are you giving the LORD your firstfruits? v. 9-10
5. Do you sense that you are presently being disciplined by the LORD? v. 11-12 Why?
6. Is there someone to whom you owe something? When will you pay them? v. 27-28
7. Are you a peacemaker or are you quarrelsome? Do you stand on your rights? v. 29-30
8. What is the cure for the temptation to envy the wicked? v. 31-35
9. What are some of the blessings which come to the wise? v. 2,4,6,8,10,13-26, 32-35
10. Are the blessings of wisdom (i.e. long life and riches) unconditional promises in this life?
11. How does Christ make us wise?