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## Proverbs 3 - Part II

The Merchandise of Wisdom

The word “wisdom” appears in 53 verses, and in all but seven chapters of the book of Proverbs. While it is described in plain language, it is also used metaphorically. It is said to be the substance with which to build our spiritual houses: *3 Through wisdom a house is built, and it is established by understanding, 4 and by knowledge the inner parts shall be filled with precious and pleasant riches, Pr 24:3-4. But to the called out ones, both to Jews and to Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, 1Cor 1:24. (LITV). There was a literal temple/tabernacle called the house of God, 1Ch 23:27-28, which is a parable, a literal outward thing to teach about those who become a spiritual temple of the living God, 2Cor 6:16, and receive His precious riches.*

Read Proverbs 3:13-18:

1. What one word describes the benefits of wisdom? Verse 14

{In Proverbs 24:3-4 it produces *precious and pleasant riches*, more valuable than gold, silver or rubies.}

2. What is another way wisdom is described? Verse 18; cf Pr 11:30; 15:4 - bears fruit of a wholesome tongue  
{The overcomers in the church of Ephesus are given to eat from the “tree of life” - which is in the midst of the paradise of God. (Cp Gen 2:9 & Isa 51:3 + 58:11). The “tree of life” is a figure for God’s spirit, His understanding we receive through Christ.}

3. In verse 16, what is meant by “length of days” and “riches” being in the hands of wisdom? Mt 11:27; Jn 17:3; Pr 14:24, 18; 22:4; Jn 9:3-4; Dan 12:5-7 *power h3027 = hand*; a symbol for “faith & works.”

{Knowing the Father is length of days; Wisdom is the source of riches/knowledge, all from the heaven, Jam 1:17}

Read Proverbs 3:29-30:

4. Who is our neighbor?

{It would be anyone with whom we have any dealings or contact.}

5. What does verse 30 imply about striving with your neighbor?

{ Avoid contention. If he has abused or defrauded you, or taken any thing from you by force or fraud, or withheld from you what is your right and due, then pursue a legal course, but not without a just cause, or out of anger & revenge.}

Read verses 31-35:

6. When I think of “violence” I always think of he act. According to verses 31-32, how is a man of violence described?

{“Froward” (KJ) is an old English word which means *to turn aside, away, be perverse*. A person of violence has turned away from God, & has a perverted understanding, which governs the outward actions.}

6a. Why might a person envy a person of violence? (Suggestions)

7. What is the curse of the Lord in the house of the wicked? Dt 28:15; Gal 3:10 (Dt 27:26)

{Obedience to what the Lord says is always requirement for that inner peace.}

7a. How can a person become cursed? Pr 28:27

{Eyes=understanding, Eph 1:18: It is common for people to make an excuse for not sharing what they believe. However, sharing is as much, or more, for the one sharing as for the one hearing. When challenged with something that you cannot explain, or with questions you cannot answer, gives you incentive to pray, study and seek God’s understanding.}

8. Where are we in our experience when we inherit God’s glory? Jn 17:22

{Fools exalt shame/disgrace because they lack wisdom - *the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth*, Pr 17:24; *The wise man's eyes are in his head*, Eccl 2:14.}