TREASURED TEACHINGS

**DATE: 5/3/2015 pm**

**TEXT: Proverbs 3:19, 20; 25-35**

**INTRODUCTION**

So far, we have looked at these thoughts in the Book of Proverbs …

-- By way of Introduction we looked at …

A Preview of Proverbs, and the Profit of the Proverbs in chapters 1 & 2

--Then, when we got to chapter 3 … we’ve seen …

The Reward and Preciousness of Wisdom …

We now continue in **Chp. 3**

Remember Wisdom is the Principle thing

**Principle** – *Primary source of something (everything)*

**Proverbs 4:7 –** ***“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding”***

**Quote:** Lockyer defines Wisdom in the Biblical sense as, the *“ability to judge correctly and to follow the best course of action, based on knowledge and understanding”*

So as we continue to study this wonderful Book of the Bible

Let’s continue to look at Proverbs 3 and some …

**“TREASURED TEACHINGS”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “POWER” OF GOD’S WISDOM IN CREATION**

**vs. 19, 20 - *“The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath He established the heavens” “By His knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew”***

When I talk about Power, I’m talking about the ability of something or someone to bring about change

Wisdom will do that … bring about change

Creation was accomplished by Wisdom

God changed nothing into something!

Evolution does not require wisdom, but chance

Creation does not function the way that it does as a result of chance but because of order

The world being created by chance is about as likely as a dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing shop

**A. Divine Wisdom – v.19**

***“The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath He established the heavens”***

It certainly was not man's wisdom or creation would be chaos by now

Human government has made a mess of everything

Great would be the mess if human wisdom determined creation

Jesus is the Wisdom of God

**I Corinthians 1:24, 30 -** ***“But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God” “But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:”***

And the universe was made by Him

**John 1:3, 10 *– “All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made”
“He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not”***

**Ephesians 3:9 – *“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:”***

**Colossians 1:16, 17 – *“For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him:” “And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist”***

Jesus is the **Divine Wisdom** of God

**B. Dynamic Wisdom** (a force of change)

Wisdom is very powerful and it took great power to create the universe

2 things are noted about the Creation here

 Its *Character* and Its *Control*

**1.** The Character of Creation **– v.19**

The Character of Creation is two-fold as well

**v. 19** says that it was ***“Founded …established”***

-- The Firmness of Creation – ***“founded”***

This word has the idea of *something that is stable, fixed*

We can chart a course by the stars for they are stable, fixed in their movements

Mariners crossed the great oceans by nothing else but the stars

The Sun is consistent every day

**Psalm 19:1-6 …**

**Psalm 50:1 – *“The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called (God’s alarm clock) the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof”***

**Isaiah 40:26 –** ***“Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number:***

***He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one faileth”***

The Character of Creation is that the Lord Jesus Christ has ***“founded”*** it

That is, it is fixed, and will not fail until He says so

At which time He will bring forth a New Heavens and a New Earth

**Revelation 21:1 - *“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea”***

The Firmness of Creation

-- The Forming of Creation –***“Established”***

This word involves the idea of *bringing something into existence*

God brought the universe into existence from nothing

When I was in grade school, they taught us that two stars collided and a piece chipped off to become the earth

That’s stupidity

God did not need stars to create the earth, but rather spoke it into existence

As a matter of Biblical fact,

… the earth was created before the stars

The earth was created on the 3rd day

**Genesis 1:9, 10, 13** …

The Sun, Moon and Stars on the 4th day

**Genesis 1:14-19 …**

God ***“established”*** the world

**Psalm 24:1, 2 – *“The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein” “For He hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods”***

**Psalm 78:69b – *“…like the earth which He hath established for ever”***

**Psalm 96:10 – *“Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: He shall judge the people righteously”***

**Proverbs 30:4 *– “Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in His fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is His name, and what is His Son's name, if thou canst tell?”***

**Isaiah 45:18 – *“For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it;***

***He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else”***

**Jeremiah 10:12; 51:15 – *“He hath made the earth by His power, He hath established the world by***

***His wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by His discretion”***

The instrument used in creation was Infinite wisdom

Everything points to earth’s intelligent design

The laws that govern it, the air that we breathe in it, the bodies that we occupy on it,

…the seasons we observe in it, the sunshine and rain that we enjoy in it

All speak of a Divine Preparation and Process

Next let’s look at …

**2.** The Control of Creation **– v.20**

… in this Dynamic of Wisdom

***“By His knowledge* [wisdom] *the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew”***

God by Wisdom Superintends the world

There are some who say God created the universe then left it to develop on its own

This is a view that tries to accommodate evolution

But God not only created the universe, but He also maintains and controls it

He determines when and where it will rain and He controls even the dew

In the Middle East, the dew is extremely heavy

It did the work of rain in the rainless seasons by providing the needed moisture

What is said here about dew can also be said about the rain

The phrase *"depths are broken up"* reminds us of

…the breaking up of the great water reservoirs for the flood in Noah's day

**Genesis 7:11 – *“In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened”***

God runs the show

He Created the universe and also Controls it

**THE “POWER” OF GOD’S WISDOM IN CREATION**

Let’s skip down now …

And look at …

**II. THE “PRECEPTS” OF GOD’S WISDOM IN LIFE – vs. 25-32**

Again a **“Precept”** is a Biblical Command

A **Precept** is something mandated in the Word of God

The Dictionary defines it as – *authoritative rule prescribing a particular kind of conduct or action; a standard or guide for morality*

**Psalm 119:4 – *“Thou hast commanded us to keep Thy Precepts diligently”***

Our first command here is not to be afraid

**A. Phobias – v. 25, 26 …**

***“Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh” “For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken”***

A Phobia is a very powerful fear of something

**1.** Sudden Fear **– v.25**

***“Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh”***

The word ***“fear”*** is found over 400 x’s in the Bible

This fear is the reaction to a threat that comes without warning

**Job 22:10** – ***“Therefore snares are round about thee, and sudden fear troubleth thee;”***

**1Thessalonians 5:3 – *“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape”***

I’ve preached that warning for some time now

Don’t be like those who will not heed the warning

**Jeremiah 6:10 –** ***“To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the Word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it”***

Being ready for the Lord’s sudden coming should prepare us for anything else that comes suddenly

He cometh as a thief in the night – **I Thess. 2; II Pet. 3:10**

**2.** Facing fear **– v.26**

How do we face sudden fear?

***“For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken”***

Love throws out fear

**I John 4:18 – *“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love”***

Fear is not from God

**Romans 8:15 – *“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father”***

**II Timothy 1:7 – *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind”***

Fear should not have any persuasion in your life

**Isaiah 54:17 – *“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of Me, saith the LORD”***

(our text) **v.24** says **– *“When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet”***

**vs. 25** speak of judgment upon the wicked

The wise person, the one …

- Who has embraced Wisdom

- Who has embraced Christ as Saviour

**Colossians 2:2, 3 – *“… of Christ;” “In Whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”***

… does not, and should not, fear what the unsaved fear

Wisdom does not fear when the unsaved are judged

But rather … **v. 26 -** Wisdom has hope –

***“the Lord shall be thy confidence and shall keep thy foot from being taken”***

This Hope enables a wise person not to Fear

Our next command deals with …

**B. Philanthropy – vs. 27, 28**

*A general love for, or benevolence toward, the needs of others*

**1.** The Payment **– v.27**

***“Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it”***

***“good”*** could mean any number of things

Time, Talents or Treasures

The Wise Person is not a miser, but is charitable

The Wise Person is a true philanthropist

They open their Hearts to those in need

***“to whom it is due”***

Those that truly have a need

The words ***“in the power of thine hand”*** refer to ability

Not everything we see or is asked of us can be done

Some pleas are beyond our ability

**2.** The Put off **– v. 28**

***“Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee”***

**James 2:15, 16 *– “If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food” “And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?”***

Do what you can, when you can

It might be good to put away something for just such a purpose

**C. Provocation – vs. 29, 30**

Don’t provoke, stir up, or cause strife

***"Devise not evil against thy neighbour … “Strive not with a man without cause"***

**1.** Don’t Promote

***"Devise not evil”***

***“Devise” -*** *To invent; to contrive; to form in the mind; to plan; to scheme; to fabricate*

To *“Devise evil against someone”* is devilish

**James 3:16 –** ***“For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work”***

**2.** Don’t Pervert

***“Strive not”***

***“strive”*** – oppose, compete against

We are not to cause Strife

**Romans 13:13** – ***“Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying”***

***“without a cause”***

If you are going to oppose someone or something you better make sure it is for the right reasons

The Lord Jesus went toe to toe with the Pharisees

We are always to **(Jude 3)** ***“earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”***

But we are to **(II Tim 2:14) –** ***“… strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers”***

**D. Pattern – vs. 31, 32**

In these verses we are told not followthe Patterns of the wicked but the Pattern set forth by God

***"Envy thou not the oppressor … choose none of his ways … for the froward* *is abomination to the LORD: but His secret is with the righteous”***

**A Pattern** - *a regular or standard way of moving or behaving*

The oppressor / the forward have a way about them

But the Wise follow God’s way

First we are told to …

**1. *“Envy … not the oppressor”***

First let’s identify who the ***“oppressor”*** is

*Someone who dominates in a harsh and cruel way, the source of stress or trouble*

***“Envy”*** *- to desire something possessed by somebody else*

**2. *“choose non of his ways”***

Why in the world would anyone want to be an oppressor?

The oppressor is often rich because of the way he dominates / takes advantage of others

And because he is rich, it causes others to envy his possessions

Envy then is covetousness

It is indicative of bad affections

The end does not justify the means

The gain of the oppressor does not justify his evil

It’s tempting to imitate the oppressor since he seems to be successful

But wisdom tells us that *the means* as well as *the end* must both be holy

**3.** ***“for the froward* *is abomination to the Lord"***

The Oppressor is also ***“Froward”***

We do not commonly use the word **“*froward”*** today

The word **“*froward”*** means *crooked, perverse, devious, and full of guile (deceitful, to disguise craftily)*

***“forward”*** describes the character of an oppressor

God tells us that this type of person is –

***“abomination to the Lord"***

Disgusting, abhorrent, repugnant

Let’s look at the right Pattern for the believer …

**4.** ***“but His secret is with the righteous”***

God reveals to His own what He does not show to anyone else

A ***“Secret”*** - is *something discussed in private, something know by only a few*

God’s people meet with God in the secrecy of His presence

**Psalm 91:1 –** ***“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty”***

A secret is something shared with only a few

**Psalm 25:14 – *“The secret of the LORD is with them that fear Him; and He will shew them His covenant”***

**Matthew 11:25 – *“At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the (worldly) wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes”***

**Matthew 13:11 – *“He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given”***

**John 15:15 – *“Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you”***

A secret is something beyond ordinary understanding

**I Corinthians 2:14 – *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned”***

God gives insight to His own … in spiritual matters

A secret is a method for success

God gives to His own the methods for successful living

**Joshua 1:8 – *“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success”***

The secret is our salvation and our intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus

**THE “POWER” OF GOD’S WISDOM IN CREATION**

**THE “PRECEPTS” OF GOD’S WISDOM IN LIFE**

**III. THE “PRINCIPLES” OF GOD’S WISDOM FOR NOW**

3 Principles of Wisdom are recorded in these 3 last verses of this chapter

A Principle Delivers a Guiding Policy which can be applied to non-specific situations

These verses show where God's interests and loyalties are

Which is where our interests and loyalties should be

Which is to be considered Wise

 **A. The Principle of ‘Retribution’ – v.33**

***"The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked; but He blesseth the habitation of the just"***

Retribution *– the dispensing or receiving of reward or punishment especially in the hereafter, return on investment*

This is a fundamental truth found in the Word of God

What you sow is what you reap

God is righteous

And He will have to bring judgment upon the wicked

 **1.** The Condemned

***“The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked”***

-- ***“curse”****– is a cause of unhappiness or harm*

I know it says ***“the curse of the LORD”***

But it’s not like God caused this curse to come

God clearly articulated that if Adam & Eve were to eat of the fruit of …

***… the tree of knowledge of good and evil,*** that judgment would follow

**Genesis 2:16, 17 – *“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:” “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”***

It was man’s disobedience to God’s command that brought about this curse

-- The ***“wicked”*** are obviously those who have no regard for God

The ***“house*** ***of the wicked”*** is not limited to the place where he lives

It refers to all things associated with his life:

His time, his thoughts, his words, his plans, his desires, his pleasures

All he is and does is under God’s curse

And God will have to judge it one day

Men who disregard God may think they are getting away with it as they prosper for a while

But eventually the curse shows itself, for it was there all along

Sin comes with a built-in curse which sooner or later will manifest itself

In comparison, note ...

**2.** The Commended

***“but He blesseth the habitation of the just”***

-- ***“Blessing”*** - *A bestowal (placing) of benefits*

**Psalm 68:19 *– “Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation”***

**Psalm 103:2 – *“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits”***

The house of Obededom was blessed by the presence of the Ark of the Covenant in …

**II Samuel 6:11 *– “And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obededom, and all his household”***

 -- ***“the just”*** – *are those who live their lives by faith*

**Habakkuk 2:4 – *“… the just shall live by His faith”***

A curse is bestowed on the house of the wicked but blessings are bestowed on the habitation of the just

Little is made more

Enjoyment is made greater

The labor is made more satisfying

The outlook is made more assuring

The difference is made clear between the two

There is a decided difference

The just are better off than the unjust

**B. The Principle ‘Reproach’ – v.34**

This principle is akin to the previous principle only it makes a different application

**1.** The Reproach of the Scorner

***“Surely He scorneth the scorners:***

***Scorner*** – *someone who has a strong feeling of contempt toward others*

The word refers to those who make fun of someone or something

In their supposed intelligence they mock what they perceive as ignorance

They find endless fault with God’s people and God’s Word

Scorners get what they give

The contempt they show is shown to them

What the scorner has to say is sinful but what God has to say is perfectly pure

Every word of His mouth is spoken in absolute holiness

The action determines the reaction

Pride brings punishment

Man often gives their honors and respect to the wicked …

(i.e. Hollywood Oscars, Nobel peace prizes, etc.)

… And scorn the righteous

The contempt shown by man is usually against those which have determined to live holy

But heaven shows respect for godliness and laughs at the ungodly

**Psalm 2:4 – *“He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision”***

**Proverbs 1:26 – *“I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh”***

It will be a terrible day for the wicked,

Who have been praised by men, when they are shown contempt from Almighty God

**2.** The Reward of the Submissive

***“but He giveth grace unto the lowly”***

God's best gifts do not go to the unholy, but to the righteous who are generally the “lowly” in esteem in society

It’s the ***“meek”*** that shall inherit the earth

Humility gets help

The lofty gets lowered and the lowly gets lifted

**C. The Principle ‘Recompense’ – v.35**

The future is in view here

The writer uses the word ***“inherit”***

The present may reflect injustice but the future will not

**1.** The Praise of the Wise

 ***“The wise shall inherit glory:”***

***“Inherit”*** - *to acquire something*

***“Glory”*** - *The word here speaks of respect, dignity, and honor*

Those who are wise will get the highest respect

They will be recognized as people of faith

The wise may be in poverty in this world, but the future holds great blessings for them

When you embark on a course of action, you need to consider the end of that endeavor

Not just the end in terms of time but the end in terms of eternity

Many endeavors so esteemed today will have a horrid end in eternity

**2.** The Promotion of the Fool

***“but shame shall be the promotion of fools”***

Our conduct results in our promotions

Good conduct results in good promotions

Bad conduct results in bad promotions

Which we could better call demotions

Wickedness ends in shame

Many in high and exalted positions today will have nothing but shame in eternity because they are fools and have left out Divine wisdom in their lives

**CONCLUSION**