The Keys To Widsom

Love

Patience

Obedience

Mercy

Trust

Understanding

Truth

Discretion

Proverbs

WEEK 10

"Your Way or God's Way"

Study: Proverbs 14:5-12
Reading: Proverbs 30:1-14, Luke 13:23-30
Memory: Proverbs 3 Review

One of my relatives posted a video clip online of a woman who said, "I will now read all the things that Jesus said about homosexuality." She was then silent for a period of time and the clip ended. The purpose of this clip was to try to get people to believe that homosexuality is not a sin. This woman did not address the numerous other Scripture passages that deal with this. This type of false representation of biblical truths happen because people believe what they think should be right. Because of our sin nature, people naturally want to follow their own rules instead of God's.

Today, we are going to see that if we do things our own way, we will face destruction and spiritual ruin, but when we do things God's ways, we will experience great joy.

What Does the Bible Say?

"Honesty is the best policy" is not a biblical quote, but it is a biblical principle. God wants you to be honest with Him and others. Honesty is one of the ways that will help you build lasting relationships and be a credible witness for Christ (vs 5).

It seems odd that a scoffer or mocker would seek after wisdom. They do, but they look in the wrong places. A person can't have wisdom without first having a fear of the Lord. While the scoffer can't find wisdom, it is easy for the person who understands what life is all about to find wisdom. God will give wisdom to those who seek to know Him.

We shouldn't listen to or take advise from fools. That is why Solomon told us to leave the presence of fools. He knew that they would corrupt our thinking and we would begin to think like them (vs 7).

One of the main differences between a fool and a wise man is that a fool doesn't think things through, but a wise man thinks through situations and acts after he thinks (vs 8).

When a fool sins, he makes fun of the idea of confessing and making up for his sin. He laughs at the thought that he will have to be punished for his actions. On the other hand, God has promised that wise men will find favor

in Him (vs 9). Bitterness and joy are opposite emotions that can only be fully understood by the person who is experiencing them at the time. You have control over whether you are going to be bitter or joyful (vs 10).

One of the themes throughout the Bible is that obedience brings blessing and disobedience brings cursing. Verse 11 supports that concept by telling us that the wicked will face destruction, but the house of the righteous will be blessed (vs 11).

We don't think the same way that God thinks. God always knows what is best for us because His ways are perfect. When we take things into our own hands and do what we think is right, it will end in destruction. We have to do things God's way (vs 12).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you an honest person? Do you try to tell the truth all the time? God can't lie and He doesn't want his children to lie either? Who do you listen to and get your advise from? Many of our ideas come from who we spend the most time with. If you spend much of your time immersing yourself in the world's system you are getting much of your advise and ideas from fools. You need to seek advise from those around you who are godly.

Are you a bitter or a joyful person? You are the only one who can choose whether you are going to be joyful or bitter. Many people let their circumstances dictate what their attitude is. If you trust in God and believe that He knows best, then you won't allow bitterness to enter into your life. Many Christians allow bitterness to destroy their spiritual lives because they choose to let it enter into their lives.

Do you think that you know more than God knows? When you don't follow the Bible, in essence, you are saying that you know what is best. That means that you think that you are better than God. Whenever you take matters into your own hands, you are going to face problems.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Praise God because He is a sovereign God.*
* *Thank God for the joy that He gives you.*
* *Ask God to help you do things His way.*

Thought for the day

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What does a faithful witness not do (vs 5)?

Why do you think so many proverbs have to deal with honesty?

Are you an honest person? Explain.

What does a scoffer do (vs 6)?

Why do you think a scoffer will not find wisdom (vs 6)?

What comes easy for a man of understanding (vs 6)'?

What do you think verse 6 is teaching?

How are you told to deal with foolish people (vs 7)?

What are ways that you can allow foolish people into your life?

****One way that we often allow fools into our lives and to take up space in our minds is through media. What we watch and read online and through other media sources can cause our thinking to be skewed if we are constantly feeding our minds through foolish sources.*

What will a wise man do (vs 8)?

What do you think verse 9 is teaching?

****Those who realize and confess their sin will be much better off than those who ignore their wrongs and joke about their wicked actions.*

What does verse 10 reveal about the fact that no one will ever truly be able to know what you are thinking or feeling?

How will following the ways of God benefit you (vs 11)?

What seems right to men (vs 12)?

How have you seen this proverb to be true?

"Growing Christians"

Study: Proverbs 14:13-16
Reading: Acts 17:10-32
Memory: Proverbs 3 Review

We often think that a parent's main responsibility is to rear children, but that is not the case. A parent's job is not to raise children, but to rear up adults. By threats and punishments, a parent can do a pretty good job at controlling their children and keeping them out of trouble. But the true test of a good parent comes when the child is old enough to be out on his or her own. Parents who teach their children why something is right or why it is wrong will be far more successful than those whose only concern is that their child obeys.

Today, we are going to see how God wants children that think. Many times, Christians just believe what someone else tells them rather than studying the Bible for themselves to see if something is true.

What Does the Bible Say?

Before the greatest moment of joy in the entire history of time, there was a devastating time of sorrow. Jesus had to suffer the pain and agony of the cross before He experienced the greatest triumph that will ever be known to man. Solomon promised prosperity and joy to all those who live righteously, but he reminds us that sometimes grief and pain come with joy. Every person, no matter how spiritual they are, will experience difficult times in their lives. On the outside, they may laugh and give the appearance that everything is alright, but on the inside they are experiencing great pain. Though everyone of us will go through difficult times, the good news is that Christ will give us what we need to make it through (vs 13).

The principle of "sowing and reaping" is presented again in verse 14. A sinful man brings the consequences of sin upon himself, but the righteous man will usher satisfaction, fulfillment and joy into his life.

There has been a movement in some Christian circles that has taught us to believe everything we hear in church. Pastors have taught that we should accept everything dogmatically. "Dogmatically" means that we should just accept it as the truth all the time and not question it. Though we should always accept what the Bible says as truth because it is truth, we should not

always accept what other people say about the Bible. The simple man believes everything that he hears, but the prudent man studies it out to know whether or not it is true. A prudent man carefully studies the Bible to know how he should and shouldn't live, while the simple man lives the way that someone else told him to live. The Bible should be our ultimate authority on how we should live our lives (vs 15).

A wise man sees the end result of his sin and it causes fear in his heart. This fear helps him avoid sin, while the fool rushes in without giving any thought to the affect his actions will have on himself and others (vs 16).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you going through a difficult time in your life? Do you sometimes get the idea that if you are experiencing grief or pain that you aren't spiritual enough? God has designed humans to experience emotions. When Jesus was on this earth He experienced the same emotions that we do, but He was without sin. We can experience emotions without sinning as long as we don't begin to doubt God and His Word. If you are going through a tough time emotionally, remember that God has placed a light at the end of the tunnel and will use your emotions to draw you closer to Him.

Do you believe everything that you hear? Do you do things just because someone told you that is what you are supposed to do, or do you do things because God wants you to do them. I believe that many churches would have less internal struggles and would be able to do more for God if each member studied the Bible for himself to know how God says he should live his life. Many Christians stay baby Christians throughout much of their lives. They are spoon fed by others because they have never learned to eat for themselves. In Acts 17:11 Paul praised those who studied the Scripture when he said, "Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so."

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to help you to become a mature Christian.*

Thought for the day

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What does verse 13 say about laughter?

What will we still experience even after the laughter ends (vs 13)?

What does this verse reveal about our emotions?

Why is grief not bad or wrong?

Why do you think that many people tend to want to ignore grief or rush through a grieving process?

What do you think a "backslider" is (vs 14)?

****Picture the idea of climbing a hill, but, as you step forward, the ground underneath you begins to crumble and causes your feet to start sliding back down the hill, taking you the wrong direction of where you should be going.*

What will the backslider and the good person experience (vs 14)?

How do you think this fruit will be different?

What does the simple person believe (vs 15)?

How have you found yourself in this category at times?

What does the prudent person do (vs 15)?

How can you practice being a prudent person?

What will a wise person do (vs 16)?

How would you say that exercising caution is part of wisdom (vs 16)?

What does a fool do (vs 16)?

How do you know if your actions are done in faith or if they are reckless (vs 16)?

"A Respecter of Persons"

Study: Proverbs 14:17-20
Reading: James 2:1-26
Memory: Proverbs 3 Review

Several years ago, my wife and I spent a day in Hollywood and Los Angeles. In Hollywood, a visitor could pay to go on a tour to see the houses of the different stars. There were many people signing up because they wanted to have a chance not only to see the houses, but to see the stars themselves. Why would they do this? They want to see the stars because they want to be like the stars. We live in a star crazed society that puts stars up on a pedestal.

Today, we are going to see how God is not a respecter of persons and He doesn't want us to be either. We should desire to be godly more than we desire to be rich or famous. We also need to love all people no matter what their position in life.

What Does the Bible Say?

In verse 17, Solomon warned us about two types of sins that we should avoid. The first type is when we become angry and lose our temper. It is during these times that we say things and act in ways that we will regret later. Many irreversible events and damages occur during fits of rage. God has designed us to be emotional creatures, but He has also given us His Word to show us how to handle and deal with our emotions. The second sin involves being crafty or deceptive. When we want our way, it is easy to slip into sin and deceive others so we can get what we want (vs 17).

Those who lack understanding and wisdom are called simple or naive. They don't sin because they knowingly choose to be wicked and do evil things, but they sin because they lack the wisdom that is found in the Word of God. While the simple inherit foolishness, the wise man is given more knowledge. Because he studies the Word of God and wants to know more, God rewards him with more and more knowledge (vs 18).

Most likely, verse 19 is referring to future events. Sometimes it seems that evil is winning on the earth. The sex and perverseness displayed through media, in everyday conversation in the workplace, and at school leads us to wonder if Christians are accomplishing anything. There were evil men in the times of David and Solomon and there are evil men today.

Sometimes it seems that they are winning, but we know that one day every knee shall bow before the Lord, and every one will confess that He is Lord (vs 19).

Because we are sinners, men will deal with the same problems throughout time. James 2:6-7 said this about men, "But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?" This is the same subject that Solomon dealt with in verse 20. We often look up to those who are wealthy because of what they have, not because of who they are. We often hold wealth and fame far more important than personal character. We need to love and care for all men because of who they are and not for what they have or don't have (vs 20).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Who do you look up to and respect? To whom do you display your Christian love to? Who do you desire to be friends with? The world seeks to get to know the rich and famous. You can see this by the way people idolize those with money and position. If that isn't enough evidence for you, look at the magazine rack the next time you are at the checkout counter. Who are all the stories about? The rich and famous. God wants His children to be different than the world. We should love all men and try to reach out to the poor and the rich. We should also avoid idolizing sports or movie stars that live wicked lives. Ephesians 5:11 says, "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them." We need to follow the examples of godly Christians rather than the examples of wicked men.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to have a love for all people.*
* *Praise God because He is not a respecter of persons.*
* *Thank God for His unconditional love for you.*

Thought for the day

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How does a person act when they are quick tempered (vs 17)?

In what areas of life are you tempted to be quick tempered?

What do you think you can do to help you be slow to anger in those areas?

Who is hated (vs 17)?

What do you think that means?

****The ESV says "man of evil devices is hated." The Hebrew word for "evil devices" means "plan, project, scheme." The person who schemes to do evil is a person who will bring hatred upon himself.*

What will a simple man bring upon himself (vs 18)?

What do you think it means to be simple?

What will a prudent person receive (vs 18)?

What do you think it means to be prudent?

What will often happen to evil men (vs 19)?

Is this verse always true on this earth?

What do you think was the point of this verse?

****We may not always see this fulfilled on the earth, but there are many times where those who oppress the righteous end up on the losing end. We know that if not here on the earth, they will in eternity. The challenge is for you to choose to be on the side of the righteous because you will win if you are on God's side.*

Who is often disliked (vs 20)? Why?

What does the rich have (vs 20)? Why?

"It's Just Talk"

Study: Proverbs 14:21-28
Reading: II Thessalonians 3:6-13, Luke 16:19-31
Memory: Proverbs 3 Review

I have played on many sports teams over the years, and one thing I have found in common is that there are a lot of players who talk about how good they are and try to tell you what you are doing wrong, but they themselves really don't play like they know what they are doing. They will come back to the huddle or bench and tell you how you should be doing something different, but when they are in the play, they don't do what they are telling you to do. They often will blame their teammates when they are the ones who are actually failing.

Today, we are going to see that we just shouldn't talk about doing what is right, but we need to do what is right. Thinking about situations is a good thing, but nothing gets accomplished if the thoughts aren't put into action.

What Does the Bible Say?

Selfishness will never bring true happiness to a person. Selfishness leads to sin, and in verse 21, Solomon talked about the specific sin of anger. Sin leads to discontentment and personal turmoil. On the other hand, those who are gracious and loving towards all men will have great joy (vs 21).

We often spend much of our time figuring out how we can make things better for ourselves. We devise and plan, many times not caring who we step on to get what we want. This should not be the case with Christians. We should spend much of our time and effort figuring out how we can do good to others (vs 22).

As humans, we often have great ideas, but we seldom put actions behind our ideas. We even see how things work for others, but we are often too lazy to do those things ourselves. This applies to our Christian walk as well. We can know what is right, talk about what is right, but, at times, not do what is right. Actions always speak louder than words.

The wise man is rewarded by the many blessings that God gives him. Wise men will have great relationships, peace, joy and a fulfilled life. Whereas fools will not be blessed with those things (vs 24).

God demands that his children be examples of honesty. He has created

us and knows how dishonesty can hurt others and how it can hurt the cause of Christ. You need to be honest in all that you do (vs 25).

Those who trust in the Lord and walk in his ways will have strong confidence in Him. They know that he will never fail them. He will be their refuge and strength (vs 26). Not only will those who fear the Lord have confidence in Him, but they will also be blessed with eternal life. He will also avoid all the dangers and problems of sin (vs 27).

Verse 28 is applicable to all those who are in leadership positions. It teaches that if a leader has no people to minister to, then his position is useless. The main purpose of a leader is to be a servant to the people that he has authority over (vs 28).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Ask yourself the following questions to help you determine if you are a wise person. Do you show love towards all people or just the people that show love to or benefit you? Do you spend your time thinking about how you can make things better for yourself or are you concerned with how you can help others? Do you just talk about the good things that you or your church should do, or do you put actions behind your words? Are you striving to become wiser today than you were yesterday? Have you been honest in all that you have said and in all your dealings with others? Do you have a fear of the Lord? Are you trying to live for Him every moment of every day? When you are in positions of leadership or authority over someone, do you try to show them who is boss, or do you do your best to serve them and meet their needs?

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Thank God for His Word that tells you how to live.*
* *Ask God to help you become more like Him.*

Thought for the day

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Who do you think the term "neighbor" refers to in verse 21?

Who will be blessed (vs 21)?

How are you allowing blessings on yourself by being generous to the poor?

What different results will those who devise evil reap compared to those who devise good (vs 22)?

How have you seen the truth of this verse in your life?

What is profitable (vs 23)?

What is not profitable (vs 23)?

Why is it so much easier to talk about something than it is to do something?

What will wise men often be rewarded with (vs 24)?

What is a foolish person rewarded with (vs 24)?

Who helps others (vs 25)?

Who hurts others (vs 25)?

How can we develop confidence in our lives (vs 26)?

What do you think this means?

Why will children have safety and security when they are around those who fear the Lord (vs 27)?

How would the success of a king be made known (vs 28)?

What would make a prince worthless (vs 28)?

What point do you think Solomon was making in verse 28?

"Temper Control"

Study: Proverbs 14:29-35
Reading: Acts 7:51-60, Job 1:6-22
Memory: Proverbs 3 Review

Through coaching soccer, I learned an important lesson about the influence I have on others. I found this out by observing the opponents' players and coaches. If players continually complained about the referees, I could pretty much guarantee that the coach was also somebody who constantly complained. Not only did the coach's attitude affect the players, but it also affected the fans. When there was an obnoxious coach you would also find many obnoxious fans.

Today, we are going to read how the way that we handle our emotions will affect many other people. We often get the idea that it is our life and whatever we do only affects us, but that is not true. Almost everything we do has an effect on others.

What Does the Bible Say?

Several times in Proverbs, Solomon related wisdom with self-control. In verse 29, as in previous verses, we see that a wise man knows how to control his anger. Men who are quick-tempered can instantly destroy their testimony for Christ, but those who know how to control their anger will open doors that will allow them to witness for Him (vs 29).

When a person has peace of mind, it will help him stay healthy. On the other hand, when a person becomes envious and jealous, he will often find himself facing many emotional and physical problems (vs 30).

God has much to say in His Word about taking care of the poor. In America, we are somewhat unfamiliar with the plight of the poor. We live in a wealthy country where many of the "poor" have quite a bit or are poor by choice. There are many people, especially in foreign countries, who don't know where their next meal will be coming from. One of the reasons that God gives each person money is so that they can give some of it away. Ephesians 4:28 says, "Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need." God knows that it is hard for

men to become covetous and greedy when they continually see the needs and help meet the needs of others around them (vs 31).

The deathbed scene of many godly Christians is much different than that of many unsaved people. The godly Christian knows that he will soon meet his Maker and desires to go (vs 32).

The wise man knows what to say and more importantly, he knows when to keep his mouth shut. Whereas the fool blurts things out and lets everyone know that he is a fool (vs 33).

A nation is great because of the righteous people who live in its borders. But where sin is exalted, the nation is headed towards ruin. The same can be applied to families, churches and schools (vs 34).

A sure way to find favor in the eyes of most men is to act with wisdom. A wise person gains much respect, even from his enemies. On the other hand, a fool will be looked down upon and will not be respected at all (vs 35).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How are you at controlling your temper? When someone does something to upset you, do you yell at him, or do you control your temper? When you are playing sports or watching a competition, do you get upset at the referees? Many Christians have lost their testimonies by the way they treated their families or by the way that they acted at an athletic competition. Wisdom realizes that unjust acts done against you aren't that important.

How do you treat those who are less fortunate than you are? Do you look down on them and make fun of them or do you do something to help them? There is a very true phrase when it comes to sharing the gospel to all people, but especially applies to the poor. "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." One of the ways that true love is displayed towards others is when we are willing to give our hard earned money away to help someone else. It is not always easy, but in light of God's kingdom, it is well worth it.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to help you care for the poor.*
* *Thank God that He cared for you when you were lost in your sin.*
* *Praise God because He is a God of the rich and the poor.*

How is a person who is slow to anger described (vs 29)?

Why do you think they are described this way (vs 29)?

What does a foolish person do?

According to this verse, are there any areas where you are tempted to be foolish?

What helps bring physical, emotional and mental health to a person (vs 30)?

What often causes the opposite to happen (vs 30)?

What does a person do if they oppress the poor (vs 31)?

How can we bring honor to God (vs 31)?

What does the righteous person find (vs 32)?

Who had wisdom (vs 33)?

What does it mean to be a person of understanding?

What do you think the end of verse 33 means?

What leads to a nation being exalted (vs 34)?

How do you think this can also be applied to families, businesses and work places?

What is the opposite of this (vs 34)?

What will a wise servant earn (vs 35)?

What are ways that you can be a wise servant?

What happens when you don't act wisely (vs 35)?

"24 Hours a Day"

Study: Proverbs 15:1-5
Reading: I Samuel 25:18-33, Job 34:16-30
Memory: Proverbs 3 Review

Through the years, reality based TV shows have always been popular. One of the reality shows that was highly advertised when it came out was a show called "Big Brother." I am not sure if I ever watched a full episode, but the general preface was that there were TV cameras set up all over the house. The show was not only on TV, but could be watched 24 hours a day through the Internet. No matter where the participants went, they were constantly being watched.

Today, we are going to see that God watches us 24 hours a day. He sees and knows everything we do and think. We can never hide from Him no matter how hard we might try.

What Does the Bible Say?

Verse 1 presents us with an amazing truth that will help us have wonderful relationships. The problem in many relationships is that we naturally respond in ways that we shouldn't. When someone is angry at you or does something to hurt you, you can help quench that anger by responding to them in kindness. If someone lashes out at you, you naturally want to lash back at them. If you learn to control your responses and show them love and kindness, it will be very difficult for that person to stay angry at you.

It is hard to listen to a person who doesn't know what they are talking about. It is also hard to listen to a person who knows what they are saying but isn't living it out in their own lives. That is why it is important for us to know what we are talking about and to live our lives in such a way that others will listen to us when we tell them about Christ (vs 2).

The thought that Solomon presented in verse 3 is a wonderful thought and at the same time is a scary thought. To know that God always sees and always knows what we are doing can be comforting. Even when others don't understand what we are going through or don't recognize the sacrifice we are making for good, God knows. Though it's a great comfort

to know that God is always around, it is also humbling when we realize that He knows everything we do. That means that when you are all alone, God is still there. He sees when you live for Him, but He also sees when you sin. Don't ever think that you can hide something from God (vs 3).

We as Christians need to use our tongues for good. We need to use our tongues to encourage others and help them when they are struggling. We have been given incredible power for good or bad through the use of our words, whether verbal, hand written or typed (vs 4).

One of the smartest things that any child can do is listen to the instruction and correction of his parents. This also applies to all Christians because we have a heavenly Father who loves us and corrects us when we do wrong (vs 5).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How do you respond when someone does something that bothers you? Do you yell at that person or do you speak kindly to him? Next time someone raises his voice and argues with you, don't argue back. Instead, speak to him in a kind tone and try to look at things from his perspective. Even if he is totally wrong, treat him with kindness. You will be amazed at the reactions you will get from people whom you normally fight and argue with.

Do you realize that God not only sees, but knows everything you do? Are there things that you do in private or with a few of your friends that you don't want anyone else to know about? Many times we worry about what others will think and forget all about what God thinks. He is the One we should be more concerned about. If your spiritual leaders or family members watched a video tape of your life, would you be embarrassed because of some of your actions? Remember that God is always watching you.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to help you fight anger with kindness.*
* *Thank God for showing you undeserved kindness.*
* *Praise God because He sees all things.*

Thought for the day

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What does a soft answer do (vs 1)?

Why is it hard to give a soft answer?

Why are harsh responses often much easier to give?

What are areas of your life where you need to ask God to help you give the soft answer that will diffuse tense situations?

What will come out of the mouth of a wise person (vs 2)?

What will come out of the mouth of a foolish person (vs 2)?

How would others define you by what comes out of your mouth?

What are everywhere (vs 3)?

What do they see (vs 3)?

How can this be a great encouragement to you?

How can this be a great challenge and point of conviction for you?

What is a gentle tongue compared to (vs 4)?

How can the words that you say produce great life in others?

How can your words break the spirit of others?

How have you seen the truth of this verse in your everyday life?

What does a fool do (vs 5)?

Why do you think this is called foolish?

What will a prudent person do (vs 5)?

Why is it hard to welcome reproof in your life?

Proverbs 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, 2 for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. 3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; 10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. 11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, 12 for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. 13 Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, 14 for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. 15 She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. 16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed. 19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; 20 by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew. 21 My son, do not lose sight of these— keep sound wisdom and discretion, 22 and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck. 23 Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble. 24 If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. 25 Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes, 26 for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught. 27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. 28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it"—when you have it with you. 29 Do not plan evil against your neighbor, who dwells trustingly beside you. 30 Do not contend with a man for no reason, when he has done you no harm. 31 Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways, 32 for the devious person is an abomination to the LORD, but the upright are in his confidence. 33 The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous. 34 Toward the scorners he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor. 35 The wise will inherit honor, but fools get disgrace.