

RELATIONAL WISDOM

Tuesday, January 13
Reading: Proverbs 10

Proverbs 10:29 *The way of the LORD is a refuge for the blameless, but it is the ruin of those who do evil.*

The opening verse of chapter 10 ties us back to the previous 9 chapters which contained the instructions of a father to his son. Now we will see how this wisdom is played out in life as either the path of wisdom or the path of folly is chosen. This chapter can be divided into three parts.

WORK RELATIONS (10:1-5) – Following the way of wisdom brings joy to one's parents. The true treasure to be sought is righteousness which will bring SECURITY and "lasting value" to those who find it (10:2). Following God's wisdom also brings SATISFACTION because you "hunger and thirst for righteousness" (Matthew 5:6) instead of craving the things of the world. Those who try to satisfy themselves with worldly things will never quite reach it (10:3). It is just beyond their grasp! Being diligent in work (both physical and spiritual) will bring SIGNIFICANCE and reward to life (10:4-5).

"But God is interested in more than productive farms and big harvests. It is the character trait God is stressing – diligence and a sense of timing – which will serve the son in every other aspect of life." ¹

COMMUNITY RELATIONS (10:6-21) – Following wisdom will make you a blessing to those around you. This includes living a life of integrity (10:9-10), using your words wisely (10:11-14, 18-21), and being able to accept and learn from discipline (10:8, 17). "The wages of the righteous is life...whoever heeds discipline shows the way of life" (10:16-17). Those who follow the path of wisdom are not only blessed, but they share this blessing with others. They follow the way of life and show others how to follow God as well. Our words can either destroy or build up. Proverbs comes back to this theme over and over.

SPIRITUAL RELATIONS (10:22-32) – At the heart of these verses we see three mentions of the Lord. "The BLESSING OF THE LORD" brings true wealth (10:22). "It is not by toil alone that blessings come...The Lord is the source; diligence is my responsibility" ² (see 10:4). "The FEAR OF THE LORD adds length of life" (10:27-28). This is not just speaking about the here and now. It is the assurance of eternal life for the righteous in the future and this hope brings us joy in the present. "The WAY OF THE LORD" provides strength for us (10:29-30). "In a world of terrorism, natural disasters, uncertainty, and tragedy, the sovereignty of God is a strong tower to which believers can retreat, not in escapism, but in confidence and faith." ³

Is your life marked by wisdom and trust in the Lord? Do you know when to speak, what to say, and when not to speak? What proverbs from this chapter do you need the Lord to help you live out in your life?

¹ A. J. Higgins. What the Bible Teaches: Proverbs (Ritchie Old Testament Commentaries), p 115

² Higgins, p. 120

³ Higgins, p. 121-122