**PROVERBS**

**Ch. 3:9-35**

**I. Walk rightly with God by seeing the value in His word** Vs. 1-4

A. Because of a possibility of added time----V. 2

 B. Because you will have favor with God and men---V. 4

 C. Because you will find direction---Vs. 5-6

**II. Walk rightly with God in regard to your possessions** **Vs. 9-10**

 A. This is a practical way to show that you trust the LORD

 B. The word “Honor” has a connection with sacrifice

 1. When we give some of our wealth back to God, we recognize that God is the one who gave it

 C. “Firstfruits”--- If we will truly honor the LORD with our giving, it won’t be with the last and leftovers!

 1. This principle also means that we give to God in active anticipation that He will provide more.

 2. I can give God the first and the best because I know He can and will give much more

 a. OT Jews brought the Lord the firstlings of their flocks (**Exo. 13:1-2**) and of their fields (**Lev. 23:9-14**)

 b. In this way, they acknowledged His goodness and sovereignty---***Wiersbe***

 3. “Filled with plenty”---God has unlimited resources and He honors those who honor Him with what He has given

 a. “New wine”--- The difference between old and new wine is based on fermentation.

 1) Old wine is fermented and has an alcoholic content.

 2) The new wine mentioned in the Bible is usually grape juice and has no alcoholic content

**III. Receive the hard lessons of wisdom**

 A. Receive correction from God with the right attitude----**Vs. 11-12**

 1. The word for chastening signifies correction, discipline, and instruction.

 a. Instruction is essential to show a man the way in which he is to go

 b. Discipline is necessary to render that teaching effectual

 c. Correction is required to bring the mind into submission so it can acquire knowledge

 2. “Chastening” primarily involves training rather than punishment---Similar to military training

 3. Seen rightly, God’s correction of His people is a wonderful sign of His love

 B. The benefits of God’s correction---**Vs. 13-18**

 1. “Happy”---Depicts the condition of wellbeing that comes with God’s blessing or a reward for righteousness

 2. **V. 14**---Wisdom is better than material gain.

 a. It imparts character and training that brings contentment and quality of life---money can’t provide that!

 b. **Vs. 14**b**-15**---Solomon knew that the blessings from God were beyond comparing to material things

 3. “Days”---Wise people typically live longer, with lives marked by pleasantness, peace, and happiness

**IV. Always value wise living**

 A. ***Example***---**Vs. 19-20**---This section shows that God’s wisdom both directs life and created the universe

 B. This design is seen in the smallest details of the single cell, but also in the expansive majesty of the heavens.

 1. We live in a “Just right” universe:

 a. A just-right gravitational force---The stars burn at just right speed and temperatures to support life

 b. A just-right average distance between the stars

 1) If greater, there would only be gaseous planets.

 2) If smaller, planetary orbits would become destabilized because of the gravitational pull from other stars

 2. **V. 20**---Likely refers to what happened at the flood described in Noah’s day (Genesis 7:11).