***PROVERBS***

**Ch. 3:21-35**

**V. Give attention to God’s wisdom**---Vs. 21-22

 A. Solomon stresses the importance of constant attention to God’s wisdom and discretion.

 1. This requires us to recognize that God’s wisdom and discretion are greater than our own

 2. This requires a surrendered heart which recognizes that God’s wisdom and discretion are greater than our own

 B. **V. 22**---“Life unto thy soul”---Constant attention to God’s wisdom and discretion brings real benefit to life

**VI. The safety of walking in God’s wisdom** Vs. 23-26

 A. A safe path---You will walk safely in your way---**v. 23**

 1. In principle, God guides those who honor His wisdom into paths of safety.

 2. There is nothing safer than living in the wisdom and will of God

 3. This is, of course, subject to God’s will and discretion---**Ps. 23:3, Rom. 8:28**

 B. Confidence---**V. 24-26**

 1. You can let go of fear---**V. 24**

 2. Sleep soundly---**V. 24**

 3. Confident in God, we need not be afraid of sudden terror or trouble from the wicked---**V. 25**

 a. “Wicked men’s sleep is often troublesome, through the workings of their evil consciences” (Trapp)

 b. Peter, in prison on the eve of his expected execution, was able to lie down and not be afraid

**VII. Practical lessons for personal relations** **Vs. 27-30**

 A. Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due---**V. 27-28**

 1. Solomon gives some practical examples of the lessons wisdom teaches.

 2. He began with the simple principle that we should do good when it is in the power of our hand to do so.

 a. The good we should do should be done promptly.

 b. If we leave it to tomorrow, it may never happen

 c. Definitely ***COULD*** have happened sooner!

 B. Do not devise evil against your neighbor—**V. 29-30**

 1. Wisdom tells us to treat others well---our own security and safety are connected to the good of our neighbor

 2. We should not strive with our neighbor when there is no cause (if he has done you no harm)

**VIII. The benefit of a life that loves God’s wisdom** **Vs. 31-35**

 A. Do not envy the oppressor---**V. 31**

 1. It may seem enviable, but believers should never do this

 2. God knows how and when to judge such wickedness---**V. 32-33**

 B. He gives Grace---**V. 34**

 1. This principle is repeated twice in the NT---**James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5**

 2. Pride sets God in opposition to us---humility invites the grace of God.

 a. There is a sense in which Solomon spoke of wisdom and humility as being closely related.

 b. Wise people who see God and themselves as they really are will have a natural and appropriate humility

 C. An inheritance of glory---**V. 35**

 1. Whatever exaltation the wicked seem to have, it is only temporary.

 2. Their legacy shall be shame, but God has a destiny of glory for His wise, humble ones.