

Proverbs Week #136 (13:5-6)

"The righteous hates falsehood, but the wicked brings shame and disgrace. Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, but sin overthrows the wicked." (Proverbs 13:5-6 ESV)

Our lessons from proverbs are meant to help train us in wisdom. The Bible teaches us that we should discipline ourselves for Godliness. (1 Tim 4:7) Falsehood (those things that are not true) can be inside our minds and on our lips. Consider how to use you mouth to glorify God.

3 Things to do on a regular basis:

- 1) Sing for Joy in the Lord – learn to sing to Him and worship Him (Psa 33)
- 2) Give thanks to the Lord – learn what it means to be thankful (Psa 118)
- 3) If you lack wisdom ask God and trust Him to provide what you need (James 1)

Have you been asking God for wisdom? Have you prayed specifically that God would teach you? Did you remember to pray for others (your wife, husband, mother, father, brother, sister, etc...)?

This week's lesson provides assurances for those who take hold of wisdom. It will guard those whose way is blameless. The passages of the Shema teach us about loving God and commands parents to teach their children diligently "when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." (Deut 6:7) If you will take hold of the Godly instruction your parents provide then the verses from proverbs teach you to expect that the Lord will be your confidence as you walk and lie down.

How exactly does this work? If you have ever climbed up a big mountain or walked along a high cliff it is easy to understand the dangers of walking too close the edge. It may be this kind of image that the writer of Proverbs is trying to describe. A family that walked to God's appointed place for the festivals would likely have a potentially dangerous journey to undertake. The potential of falling or having a young child get hurt was real. The potential of being attacked by wicked people may have also been a real danger. As a part of obeying God's commands the journey would have to be taken. I believe that the wisdom from today's proverbs is meant to give us strength and confidence to do what God commands.

What we need to do is take ahold of God's wisdom and trust in Him to be confident to do what is right. If our lives seem to be like a wilderness (if we feel like we don't have the things we need to survive) are we holding onto wisdom? Wisdom says to praise God. Do we regularly praise Him? The Psalms teach that God inhabits (sits, dwells with, or is enthroned upon) the praises of Israel. (Psa 22:3) This is from the Psalm we read together last week during worship. It is the Psalm that starts out "My God why have you forsaken me?" I don't want you to miss the significance in this. At times when we feel forsaken by God do we sing? Was Yeshua doing this very thing on His execution stake? If so, He was remembering that God would be faithful. When we take hold of wisdom we are doing the same thing – remembering that God is faithful – regardless of our circumstances.

God desires for us to learn these lessons. I think it is one reason why Yeshua taught us to pray, "do not lead us into hard testing but deliver us from evil." The lessons we learn are intended to cause us to walk in liberty, security, and in what is right in God's eyes. If we ignore these lessons and live a life without faith we will be living an evil life. I'll ask again, are you asking God for wisdom and asking Him to help you learn from Him?

"Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." (Joshua 1.7-8 ESV)