

Proverbs Week #36 (3:34-35)

*“He mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humble and oppressed.
The wise inherit honor, but fools get only shame.” Proverbs 3:34-35*

I want to repeat three themes as we finish our study in this chapter. Our lessons from Proverbs are meant to help train us in wisdom. Part of the training process is reviewing what we have learned and remembering why we are learning. The Bible teaches us that we should discipline ourselves for Godliness. (1 Tim 4:7) I have suggested that you remember three things and do them on a regular basis as part of this training process.

- 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)

Our verses today speak of God’s actions toward those who are humble and oppressed. They speak of an inheritance. Those whom God favors inherit honor. What is an inheritance? Paul prayed for the believers in Ephesus. He asked God to give them something. Listen to these words and see if you can hear how they relate to an inheritance and also to wisdom.

For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Yeshua which exists among you and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Yeshua The Messiah, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in The Messiah, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. Ephesians 1:15-21

Are you humble? Are you wise? Be careful how you answer that. Both of these character traits require us to seek something that we should never self-proclaim when we possess them. Do you understand what I mean by that? If you are humble you should not go around bragging about how humble you are. If you are wise you should not go around telling everyone how wise you are. The fruit of being humble and wise is seen in your life by others when they observe how you live your life; how you treat your brothers or sisters, your parents (or your children if you are a parent), your friends, and especially your enemies. The inheritance that the Messiah gives us is to be like Him. He is our example of humble and wise service to God.

Up to this point I have tried to focus on the positive themes of these verses. But these verses should also be a warning to anyone who would live a life of foolishness or pride. God will resist the proud. (I encourage parents to consider this warning and review James 4:1-12 as families – help prepare your children to gain wisdom from these verses).

Are you learning to sing to and praise God? Are you thankful to Him? Are you continuing to ask Him for wisdom?