

Proverbs Week #95 (10:27-29)

“The fear of the LORD prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be shortened. The hope of the righteous is gladness, but the expectation of the wicked perishes. The way of the LORD is a stronghold to the upright, but ruin to the workers of iniquity. Proverbs 10:27-29

All three verses this week compare those who are right with God in contrast with the wicked. These verses speak of themes of life that include hope, long life, and security. For those who are wicked and do wicked things their hopes will perish, the length of their lives will be shortened and the houses they build will lie in ruins. My focus this week will be upon the hope that God provides. By His covenant faithfulness, we can live lives that are right with Him and even filled with joy!

To Learn – I believe that part of what we need to learn to be wise in God’s ways is that our proper response to His promises is to trust in Him. When we do not see His promises in our lives we need to increase our expectations for His provisions. Most of today’s lessons will be from Solomon’s father David and a song he wrote. King David learned to trust in God in very difficult circumstances.

“Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye is wasted away from grief, my soul and my body also. For my life is spent with sorrow and my years with sighing; my strength has failed because of my iniquity, and my body has wasted away...but as for me, I trust in You, O LORD, I say, “You are my God. My times are in Your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and from those who persecute me. Make Your face to shine upon Your servant; save me in Your lovingkindness.” Psalm 31:9-10,14-15

To Receive and Discern – How can we find joy and experience God’s lovingkindness. The words from this next song give important keys to understanding how God’s people receive His grace in their lives.

“Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. For our heart rejoices in Him, because we trust in His holy name. Let Your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, according as we have hoped in You.” Psalms 33:20-22

The last verse of Psalm 33 petitions God to place His covenant faithfulness upon us as we have hoped in Him. I do not want to oversimplify this verse, but what if God desires to pour out His riches into each life in this room right now. What if we discovered that the only thing holding that blessing back was us lacking the character qualities of trusting faithfulness and hope in Him?

To Impart – I believe that God is a loving Father and desires to give good gifts to His children. His desire is for His glory to be made known to the world through His people. He is looking for people who will not trust in their own strength but will daily trust in Him. It was said of King David that he was a man after God’s own heart. He was not always perfect (in fact at times in his life he was very bad). Even still, God made promises to Him that included his future descendants and ultimately the future King Messiah.

David proclaimed, *“How great is Your goodness, which You have stored up for those who fear You, which You have wrought for those who take refuge in You, before the sons of men! You hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the conspiracies of man; You keep them secretly in a shelter from the strife of tongues.” (Psalm 31:19-20)*

Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit David left a legacy for all of God’s people to learn from. He imparted for us words that were sung as songs and intended to encourage us even in life’s most difficult moments. David’s songs are filled with all the emotions that life contains. They were filled with anger, grief, joy, sorrow, and more than anything hope. His words will speak to us if we will write them on our hearts. Listen to his prayer at the end of Psalm 31. These words were written long ago. Could they include you?

“O love the LORD, all you His godly ones! The LORD preserves the faithful and fully recompenses the proud doer. Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the LORD.” Psalm 31:23,24