

EIGHT KEYS TO HAPPINESS

Text: Proverbs 3:13

INTRO: The book of Proverbs was written by Solomon, son of David. Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived. This book consists primarily of short bits of wisdom, gathered by Solomon & passed on to his son Rehoboam. See 1:8, 10, 15.

In this study, we will consider the thots of Proverbs, chapter 3, which may be divided into 8 sections, each dealing with a key factor in a happy life.

I. HEED THE WISDOM OF YOUR ELDERS, vs. 1-4.

Ex 20:12

1 Pet 5L5m Likewise, you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders.

II. TRUST GOD'S LEADERSHIP, vs.5-8.

A. The first sin of man kind was the failure to trust God, Gen 3:4-6

B. In fact, there is in every sin an element of disbelief.

Num 20:12, Then the LORD spoke to Moses & Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

III. GIVE TO GOD'S CAUSE, vs. 9-10.

Mal 3:8-10, Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes & offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the

storehouse, that there may be food in My house, & try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven & pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

Luke 6:38, Give & it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together & running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it shall be measured back to you.

IV. BENEFIT FROM YOUR HARDSHIPS, vs. 11-12.

It has been said that things turn out best for those who make the best of the way things turn out.

A. The psalmist:

Psa 119:71, It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn Your statutes.

B. Joseph:

Gen 50:20, But as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant in for good in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

C. Paul:

Phil 1:21, But I want you to know brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel.

V. OBTAIN WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, vs. 13-20.

A. Tho the terms wisdom & knowledge are sometimes used interchangeably, there is a basic

difference between their primary significance.

1. Knowledge, basically, is an accumulation of facts.

2. Wisdom is knowing how to use those facts.

B. We attain knowledge primarily by study

C. Wisdom is obtained by prayerfully putting to use the facts we learn in our study.

James 1:5, If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally without reproof, & it will be given him.

Heb 5:14, But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good & evil.

VI. PUT YOUR UNDERSTANDING TO USE, vs. 21-26.

A. It was at this point that Solomon experienced his greatest weakness.

1 Kings 11:4, For it was so when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods: & his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God as was the heart of his father, David.

B. The N.T. abounds with admonitions to use what we know.

1. The house built on the sand, MT 7:26-27.

2. Statements of James, 1:22-27

VII. DO GOOD AS YOU HAVE OPPORTUNITY, vs 27-30
As we have therefore opportunity, let us
do good to all, especially to those who
are of the household of faith.

A. This, the good Samaritan did, LK
10:33-35.

B. This, the rich man of Luke 16 failed
to do.

VIII. DON'T ENVY THE WICKED, vs. 31-35.

A. This is the mistake the psalmist of
Psa 73 had made.

B. We might have been inclined to envy
King Herod in Acts 12, or the rich man of
Luke 16.

CONCLUSION: I commend to you the words of the
wisest man who ever walked the earth--words
further purified thru the inspiration of the
H.S.. These 8 key thots can assure you a happy
& meaningful life upon the earth, and prepare
you for a happy forever.

La Porte, TX, June 8, 1980

Exton, PA, November 20, 1988

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, November 10, 1996