

God's Wisdom is an Eternal Gift

- I'm now 12 years removed from my graduation: I can still remember the waiting, the walking, none of the speeches, throwing our hats in the air and all the hugs/joy afterwards.
- I think of the church celebrations and family parties and the many well wishes I received.
- I have also begun to think forward, to my own children's graduation. I wonder what the world will be like in 15 years.
- It is not the case for all, but my senior year of high school was the last time I really lived at home.
- If I send my daughter and then my son off to college or tech school or the work force—what impression will I leave on them. Will they be prepared for to be an adult?
- Some of you here are facing those concerns, worries or thoughts this morning: you desperately long for your child, grandchild, cousin, or friend to succeed or be productive in life.
- You wonder if they are prepared. You worry about the culture or work opportunity or environment they will find themselves
- This morning I want to look at a father who shared many of these same concerns. A father and mother who longed for their son to be prepared for adulthood. Prepared for the temptations, trials and successes that would come.
- I pray this morning as we look at this father's heart and his teaching toward his son. We will ask ourself—what do we desire most for our children, grandchildren or the young people God places in our midst. And what are we teaching them, impressing on them and leaving with them as they enter into adulthood?
- Let's face our concerns or fears or anxiety this morning with confidences as we look into God's word for instruction and encouragement.
- Turn with me to the book of Proverbs to look at Solomon's instruction to his son.
- Let me read to you a few verses of each of the first 7 chapters
- Solomon spends 7 chapters teaching, imploring and pleading with his son. Let's zoom in on chapter 3 to read his heart and instruction for his son.
- **Proverbs 3:1-8**
 - How sweet are those words? What a hope that our children, in a world of violence, corruption, sexual perversion, greed can find healing and refreshment.
 - **So what is the source of this healing and refreshment?**
 - Solomon, as a dad, pleads with his son or impresses on his son to above all pursue financial security
 - Sorry, Solomon pleads with his son never to forsake pursuit of personal fulfillment or happiness
 - No really, **Solomon impresses on his child to run after godly wisdom.** If you want an all surpassing goal for life or something to never forsake—may it be walking with God in wisdom.
 - Trust in God alone and walk in his wisdom (not our own)
 - Look at the words Solomon uses—do not forget, let not, bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.
 - Why was this Solomon's charge to his son in these first seven chapters? Why did he plead and beg and teach and long for his son to understand this...
 - Because he understood that—**God's Wisdom is an Eternal Gift**

- *Proverbs 3:1-8*
- **Look at how Solomon describes the blessings of the gift of godly wisdom**
 - **Verse 2: for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you**
 - **Verse 4: so you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man**
 - **Verse 6: He will make your path straight**
 - **Verse 8: It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones**
 - What greater gift can we give to our children than to know that God's provision and peace and healing is readily available to them. That is why Solomon pleaded with his son to walk in God's wisdom and not his own. Because our wisdom is fleeting and corrupt, but God's wisdom is an eternal gift.
 - Are we showering our children, grandchildren with gifts that get discarded in few months, or are we giving them an eternal gift?
 - Look at how Solomon continues to describe this gift
- **Proverbs 3:13-15**
 - **God's wisdom is an eternal gift with all-surpassing value.**
 - It will never decay, corrupt, or depreciate.
 - **It is more valuable than a diploma, great job, promotion, or engagement ring**
 - **We must teach our children to value what will bless and benefit them for the long-term.** This is NOT the message of our culture, but it is the message of God's Word!
 - Our children are growing up in a world where whatever makes them feel fulfilled or happy (money, sex, fame, power, comforts, experiences, entertainment) is what they should pursue. It is a message to seek immediate happiness, pleasure, success or results—with little concerns for long-term consequences.
 - It would be like taking all types of medication for short-term boosts in health, energy, weight lose, etc. without reading the long list of side-effects.

- **We must battle the lies of Satan perpetuated through our culture by teaching and displaying the all-surpassing value of walking in God's wisdom.**
- Our children need to understand that selfishness and self-centeredness might produce short-term fulfillment in getting what we want or being in control in a relationship, but is nothing compared to the lasting joy of serving others before our self.
- We must teach our children that the joy and pleasure of sex within the covenant of marriage is a lasting blessing of God compared to the short-term pleasure of hooking up.
- Our children need to understand that money can be a blessing from God as we live within our means, give back to God, save and be generous to others. Instead of being enslaved by greed or debt because we have to have the newest gadget, car, or clothing.
- We must teach the younger generation that God's presence is more glorious than any personal comfort we can buy or achieve.
- We must teach, impress and hold up the glorious, gut-wrenching, agonizing and all-sufficient joy of walking in God's wisdom.
- **God's wisdom is an eternal gift without equal**
- No desire for your child is greater than seeing them walk in God's wisdom.
- It is good and godly to desire that your child work with diligence in school. But the work and achievement of education is not the greatest goal or an end in itself. We should teach our children to honor God by working with diligence in all things.
- If you child has the gift, talent or desire to be involved in sports, band, dance, art, etc. Then by all means encourage them to hone these gifts/talents/passion and work with excellence. But not so your child can find their identity or fame or wealth in these talents. But so they can use the talents given by God for God.
- **We must be aware that Satan wants to twist, distort and rewrite the desires we have for our children.** Satan would have us take good desires—education, sports, music, art, financial success and make them our greatest desire. Thus pitting them against and above what should be our greatest desire—seeing our children walk in God's wisdom.

- Satan will gleefully watch me if I devote more time and energy in showing Anna Kate the mechanics of kicking a soccer ball, than showing her how to discern between right and wrong.
 - Satan will rejoice if I pour over Joshua's homework without pouring God's Scripture into his heart and mind.
 - **Again, our faults are not necessarily in what we desire for our children, but what we desire most for our children.**
 - **Is our greatest goal and passion for our children to know God and walk with him faithfully?**
 - Many of you here gladly agree with God's word this morning. In your heart and mind you are saying amen. I too desire for young people to learn and see the glory of walking in God's wisdom.
 - **Our challenge this morning is not as much in the understanding of this truth, but in the application of this truth.**
-
- Are we teaching and showing our children how to walk with God each day?
 - I am burdened that Satan is bullying, discouraging, harassing, hurrying us and blinding us as parents from leading our children spiritual.
 - I am burdened that pursuits of personal comfort and financial security are causing parents to sacrifice their families
 - I am burdened that we are not necessarily losing a generation (away from Christ) but that we are leading a generation (away from Christ).
 - The competing goals and desires of our heart are causing us to lead our children to value and prize so many things before Christ.
 - When the good things become the greatest things for our children. Christ goes from being the passion of our heart and the prize of our life, to a hobby we dabble in. We will get around to spending time with God if I have enough time after all the important things get done.
-
- I am burdened because as a parent, I see how Satan uses busyness, travel, stress, etc. to keep me from spending time in prayer with my family. We get to the end of the day and we feel like we just survived, and I want the children to go to sleep on time so I can have a few moments for myself and with Melanie. So I skip our family devotion and prayer in favor of watching a TV show or something else.
 - I am also worried that many parents as believers are not walking in God's wisdom, so they are not able to pass on a vibrant relationship with Christ to their children.
 - If our faith is so weak and shallow that it is virtually undistinguishable from those who claim no faith. It should not be a surprise when our children have little interest in the faith they observe.
 - If you are burdened by what I am sharing from God's word will you respond in three ways this morning:
 1. **Pray to God to examine the desires you have for your children**
 2. **Plan ahead to pray and study God's word together as a family each week**
 3. **Praise God that it is never too late to invest in the younger generation**
 - Be encouraged that God will use our faithfulness to grow a generation of young people who passionately pursue Jesus.
 - We cannot make our children follow Jesus and we are not guaranteed godliness.
 - But we can pray with hope and confidence that God will take the lessons we have impressed into the lives of young people, and in His timing produce a harvest of godliness.
 - Rejoice in God's work within the students of this church and the young people within your life.
 - Some people see a doomsday coming for Christianity in regards to the youngest generation.
 - But I am equally encouraged and give all glory to God because I see so many young people striving to honor Jesus.