

Clifford: *One who destroys human relationships will experience the loss of the relationship with God.*

Kidner: *choosing between God's detestation and His intimate friendship.*

#### **IV. The Wise Man Is Honored by God for Eternity (3:33-35)**

A. *When you value true wisdom for its true worth, God will be held in proper esteem in your life, you will care for your fellow-man in proper proportion to their worth before God, and as a result, you God will honor you highly for eternity.*

i. James 4:6

ii. 1 Peter 5:5

B. Build your life in such a way that God matters most, and therefore others matter much, and you will experience both in life and eternity that you matter to God and others.

#### **LIVE THE STORY**

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Can you see evidence in Proverbs 3 that this chapter is appealing to the son's desire to have a life that matters? If so, why is that important? How is he told to do so?
- In what ways does your own understanding fight against trusting in God? How can you trust in the Lord in this and lean not on your own understanding?
- Why must our knowing God be much more than a religious exercise on Sunday morning and affect our way of life?
- How would your giving habits reflect on your estimation of God's worth? Does your giving reflect the priority of Gospel truth in your life?
- How does your giving to the needy reflect God's priority for your fellow-man? What are ways that this text is calling you to care for others?
- How can we build our lives in such a way that it will matter much to God and man now and in eternity?

## **Building a Life that Matters to God and Others**

Jerry Cisar — March 29, 2015

Text: Proverbs 3

### **Introduction: Making Your Life Matter (3:1-4)**

A. Honor vs. Shame

B. *Favor and a good name in the eyes of God and man.*

### **I. The Wise Man Honors God in This Life (3:5-10)**

A. How much does God weigh to you?

i. 1 Samuel 2:29-30

ii. Love and faithfulness to God are expressions of honor to God in our lives.

B. Trust in the Lord and Know Him in Every Part of Your Life.

i. Knowing God is intended to affect all our ways!

➤ Jeremiah 18:4

ii. *“Do not be wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord and shun evil.”*

iii. ...*health to your body and nourishment to your bones.*

iv. *Honor the Lord with your wealth...*

a) Matthew 6:21

b) *“with your wealth and the firstfruits...”*

➤ The firstfruits of all your crops isn't speaking strictly of the firstfruits offering, but is used here representative of the whole system of tithes and firstfruits—which were set up to provide for the priests, Levites, and poor.

➤ 1 Corinthians 9:13-14.

c) God's promise to honor those who honor Him.

## II. The Wise Man Values Wisdom Over Comfort (3:11-20)

A. Though wisdom comes **with** many blessings, it often comes **through** much difficulty. (11-12)

B. The poem of vs. 13-20 responds to any objection the son may have to the Lord's discipline.

i. God is loving to remove comforts or bring difficulties in order to produce that which is better by far! (13-18)

ii. Wisdom will align you with how creation was intended to work. (19-20)

## III. The Wise Man Honors Others in Need (3:21-32)

A. 21-24 tie back into the beginning of the chapter, reminding the son to keep wisdom and discretion around his neck.

B. 25-32 create a *sandwich* with 25-26 serving as the top piece of bread and 31-32 as the bottom.

i. 25-26 the wicked are mentioned and in 31-32 the violent and devious.

ii. 25-26 instruct us not to fear, 31-32 instruct us not to envy.

iii. 25-26 speak of the Lord being at our side and 31-32 say the Lord will take us into His confidence/counsel.

a) Matthew 6:13

b) Psalm 23:4

*Don't envy those who are on a path to inevitable destruction, no matter how attractive the Interstate that takes them there.*

c) Genesis 18:17-19

C. A Mercy Sandwich

i. 27 To whom is good due?

a) LXX *Forbear not to do good to the poor...*

b) *“charity upon which the poor have a claim”* (Clifford)

ii. 28 Don't Delay

iii. 29-30 move from passive evil to active evil.