

What Are We Looking For?

Proverbs 3:13-18

What are we looking for in life? The last 12 verses that we studied dealt with “the good life.” This passage is just a continuation of that, only looking at it in the direction of, “What are we looking to get out of life?”

Here, Wisdom is again personified. Solomon is telling his son to make sure wisdom is the thing that most consumes him. It was no different then than it is today – it’s not wisdom that we’re consumed with, but rather it is what we can get out of life.

The book of Proverbs deals a great deal with money and possessions. It’s not saying their bad, but rather it is putting them in the right perspective – it is giving them their rightful place.

The introduction to this passage is verse 13 where it says, “Happy is the man.” If we’re looking for the right things out of life then we’ll be happy, joyful, blissful - things will be all right.

I. PROFIT (MONEY)? – vs. 14

A. “Merchandise” – profit – wisdom is more important than profit or money.

B. “Gain” – same as profit

Proverbs 8:10-11

¹⁰ Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

¹¹ For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

Proverbs 16:16

¹⁶ How much better is it to get wisdom than gold!
and to get understanding rather to be chosen
than silver!

Psalm 119:72

⁷² The law of thy mouth is better unto me than
thousands of gold and silver.

Matthew 16:26

²⁶ For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the
whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall
a man give in exchange for his soul?

Philippians 3:8–9

⁸ Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss
for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ
Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss
of all things, and do count them but dung, that I
may win Christ,

⁹ And be found in him, not having mine own
righteousness, which is of the law, but that
which is through the faith of Christ, the
righteousness which is of God by faith:

II. POSSESSIONS? – vs. 15

A. ***"More precious" – more valuable than the greatest of possessions***

Matthew 13:44–46

⁴⁴ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto
treasure hid in a field; the which when a man
hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth
and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that
field.

⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a
merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

⁴⁶ Who, when he had found one pearl of great
price, went and sold all that he had, and bought
it.

B. "And all the things thou canst desire" – what a statement! Wisdom is more important a find than the greatest of treasures our minds can fathom.

Psalm 63:3

³ Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

Romans 8:18

¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

III. HEALTH? – VS. 16

A. "Length of days" – again, good days and many of them

Proverbs 3:2

² For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

Proverbs 4:10

¹⁰ Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

B. "Riches and honor" – the health to enjoy them

Proverbs 4:6–9

⁶ Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

⁷ Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

⁸ Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

⁹ She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

1 Kings 3:13

¹³ And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

IV. PEACE? – vs. 17

A. "Pleasantness" – agreeableness – life is worth living, it agrees with us

Psalm 63:3-5

³ Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

⁴ Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

⁵ My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:

Psalm 119:14

¹⁴ I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.

Psalm 119:47

⁴⁷ And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.

Psalm 119:103

¹⁰³ How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Psalm 119:174

¹⁷⁴ I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight.

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ Come unto me, all ye that labour and are

heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

B. "Peace" – prosperity – things are going right when we find wisdom

Psalm 25:10

¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Isaiah 26:3

³ Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Romans 5:1

¹ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Philippians 4:8–9

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

⁹ Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

V. HAPPINESS? – vs. 18

A. "Tree of life" – the life-giving force is in wisdom in two ways – literally, if we get wisdom we will live life right, and, spiritually, if we find the Person of

Wisdom we get everlasting life.

Proverbs 11:30

³⁰ The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

Proverbs 13:12

¹² Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

Revelation 22:2

² In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

B. "Happy is every one that retaineth her" – if we find wisdom, take hold of it, and let it possess us we will be happy, no matter what happens, we'll be content.

Conclusion: What are you looking for out of life?