

Wisdom is trusting in God's all wise goodness over our definition of goodness based on our perspective.

Summary/conclusion: Wisdom is found in an Alien Righteousness

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, that is, to have the Central Character live in us.

- How does this text (Proverbs 3:1-12) locate the source of our authority outside ourselves? Why is that important?
- In what ways do you find yourself wanting to avoid obligations to others? How does the world tell us we are obligated only to ourselves?
- What does it mean to have exclusive trust in Christ?
- What does it mean to have entire trust in God? How can we practically do this?
- In all your ways, do you acknowledge God? What are ways you can increase in this? What areas is Christ currently blocked out of?
- Is it possible to honor the Lord with yourself, but not your money/wealth?
- Why in the middle of temptation, or in the middle of difficulty do we need to trust the Lord's love for us? How do you do in this personally?
- How does Romans 8:31-39 help us properly understand God's love for us in the midst of trials or temptations?

Wisdom's Promise; Folly's Pain **The Gospel According to Wisdom II** Jerry Cisar — April 25, 2010

Text: Proverbs 3

Introduction: Locating the Object of Your Confidence

Wisdom is taking our confidence off ourselves and putting it in God.

A. Wisdom is found in an alien confidence.

- i. Wisdom is found when the object of our trust is alien to us—outside ourselves—for God is not us.

➤ 2 Corinthians 13:5

I. Wisdom is Confidence in an Alien Authority (vs. 1-2)

A. Do not forget my teaching, keep or guard my commands

B. Promise: they will bring you long life and prosperity.

C. How can Wisdom offer such rewards? (3:13-20)

- i. Wisdom has surpassing value.

ii. Wisdom is a Tree of Life

➤ Genesis 3:22-24

iii. Wisdom is above creation.

II. Wisdom is found in Alien Commitments (vs. 3-4)

Charles Bridges: *“Mercy and truth are the glorious perfections of God... While we rest upon them for salvation, let us copy them in our profession.... Let then our Father's image be manifested in us....”*

A. Love (goodness, kindness): **obligation to the community**, loyalty in relation to relatives.

B. Faithfulness (firmness, truth): steadiness, reliability; permanence, continuance, lasting kindness; fidelity.

C. Both words emphasize living out of our commitments to others, rather than living committed only to ourselves.

III. Wisdom is Confidence in an Alien Navigator (5-8)

A. Exclusive Trust:

B. Entire Trust:

C. Pervasive Trust:

IV. Wisdom has an Alien Treasure (9-10)

A. “Honor the Lord with your wealth.”

➤ Matthew 6:24

➤ 1 Kings 3:25

ii. This is an alien treasure: serving God, not money. Laying up treasure in heaven.

B. This alien treasure enables us to walk in Love (21-35)

C. *Is your confidence in the Lord or your wealth?*

V. Wisdom Trusts in an Alien Good (11-12)

➤ Hebrews 12:4-6