

III. Making This Operational

A. Prayer

Faith produces prayer; prayer strengthens and builds faith.

- i. 2 Cor 4:13
- ii. Jude 1:20

B. Meditate on these proverbs.

C. Refuse to live with a pragmatic mindset; demand an **ultimate pragmatic** mindset.

- 1 Thessalonians 4:1

D. Urge one another on...to do so more and more.

LIVE THE STORY

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

- What does it mean to have an operational understanding of God's immanence? How will your life be adjusted as your operational understanding of God's immanence increases?
- Why is it important to also have a functional view of God's omnipresence? (And what is that?)
- What does Derek Kidner mean when he writes, "*However much rope God gives us, He remains in control.*"?
- Why is righteousness better than wickedness? Why isn't a short-cut to happiness better?
- What are some of the things God hates? Why is it important, in view of God's immanence and omnipresence, to pay attention to what God hates and what pleases God?
- What are some of the ways we can, both individually and collectively, help each other grow in Wisdom (living with a knowledge of the Holy One Who is active in our daily lives)?

Wisdom's Promise – Folly's Pain
The Father Who is Always There and Always Active
Jerry Cisar — June 20, 2010

Introduction — Don't Forget the Gravy!

Proverbs is fundamentally about God's immanent involvement in the everyday affairs and decisions of life, even when you can't see Him.

Your heavenly Father is present and active every moment of life and brings about results in keeping with His character.

A. What is omnipresence?

B. What is immanence?

- i. To say that God is immanent is to say that God is present and active within his creation. His influence is everywhere. He works through natural processes and supernatural processes. He is not far from each of us. He is a God nearby!
- ii. To say that God is transcendent is to say that God is "other" than us. God is beyond our universe. He is there, but he is not a part of it.

Proverbs gives us an operational understanding of God's immanence.

Wisdom is living with a knowledge of the Holy One Who is active in our daily lives.

I. Why is righteousness better than wickedness?

i. 10:2, 3

Kidner: *“However much rope God gives us, He remains in control.”*

ii. 10:22

iii. 10:4

iv. 10:25

v. 10:27

vi. 10:29

vii. 11:1

There are things God hates.

viii. 8:13

ix. 11:4

x. 11:21

xi. 11:31

xii. 14:14

xiii. 16:4

xiv. 14:27

xv. 15:3

a) 1:17

You cannot escape God in any aspect of life.

xvi. 16:33

II. How much better is it?

A. Better sayings

i. 15:16

a) *The fear of the Lord* is so desirable, that it outweighs great wealth, even if the *fear of the Lord* is combined with a life of *little*.

ii. 16:8

a) Righteousness is so desirable, that it outweighs *much gain*, even if righteousness is combined with a life of little.

b) *Injustice* is so disastrous, so undesirable, that even if it came with *much gain*, you would want to flee it at all costs.

iii. 16:19

B. Not legalism

Charles Bridges: *“We must not flinch from this scriptural statement from fear of legality. Lay the foundation of acceptance deep and clear upon the righteousness of Christ.”*