

Introduction:

Currently we are considering six resolutions that our heavenly Father desires to implement into our lives in 2017 recorded in Proverbs chapter three.

It the heart of a father speaking to his son
"My son...." (Prov 3:1)

So far God has instructed us to:

- Trust in Him with all of our hearts,
- Not to be wise in our own eyes
- Honor Him from our wealth
- Don't despise the Lord's discipline
- **Today God's resolution is for us to, "Search diligently for wisdom"**

Read: Proverbs 3:13-26

I. Seeking for Wisdom

The Problem of Choice

Alina Tugend - NY Times - "Too Many Choices: A Problem That Can Paralyze"

- Culture: "There is not such thing as too many options."
- Psychologist & Economist conclude that "an overload of options may actually **paralyze** people or push them into decisions that are against their own best interest."
 - "Did I make the right choice, could I have done better."

Every choice is a fork in the road that sets the course of our lives and some choices we can never come back from.

- They shape how we minds
- They decide what we do with our time
- They effect our relationships
- They model our souls
- They define who we are...

Question: How do we navigate in a world that is overloaded with choices?

Answer: Solomon instructs with to "search diligently for wisdom"

Wisdom is the combination of 2 factors:

- Insight- to focus instead of seeing blurry
to see things 1 thing, where others see 20 things
- Foresight- the ability to rightly determine outcomes

Definition: Wisdom is the application of knowledge

Proverbs Point: God made the world and if you choose to live outside of His design you will be:

1. **foolish**: You won't flourish
2. **frustrated**: Self-defeating

Main Point: **God's desire that you will be wise & happy.**

- The two go together, and you can't truly have one without the other.
- That's why Solomon says (Prov 3:13)
"Blessed is the one who finds wisdom and the one who gets understanding"

Solomon precedes to paint a beauty picture of wisdom, by referring to wisdom as a woman:

- 11 Female References verses 14-17)
 - **Application: Listen to your mama.**
- She is: valuable, precious, incomparable, life-giving, wealthy, pleasant, peaceful, flourishes, blesses, gives happiness.
- Is that the life you want? Then seek wisdom

"Blessed is the one who seeks wisdom"

Blessed=Happy from "*asher*"
to go straight, go on, advance

T/S: In a world of infinite choices, wisdom is the guide that sets your path straight.

II. Laying Hold of Wisdom

Malcolm Muggeridge

"Every happening, great and small, is a parable whereby God speaks to us, and the art of life is **to get the message.**"

- **Wisdom is getting the message**

But Many times we just don't get the message:

- We don't trust the Lord (Prov 3:5)
- We lean on our our understanding (Prov 3:5)
- We don't acknowledge that it is God who has made our path straight (Prov 3:6)
- We are wise on our own eyes (Prov 3:7)
- We fear men more then God (Prov 3:7)
- We turn to evil instead of turning to God (Prov 3:7)
- We honor ourself with our wealth (Prov 3:9)
- We despise the Lord's discipline (Prov 3:11)
- **WORST:** When He does discipline us, we accuse Him of not loving us (Prov 3:12)

We simply don't get the message.

- We are foolish. Because we're foolish we become frustrated.
- Foolishness is bound up in my heart (Prov 22:15).

The Number 1 Question Get: "What is the Lord's Will?"

1. Don't be quick to do what you want
 - Christian should have a healthy distrust of self (I'm foolish)
 - Christian's Submit themselves
- Submit Yourself to:
 2. God's Word
 3. Daily Prayer
 - It's ok not to know what to say.
 - The point to is sit **silently** before the Lord and ask him to **search** your heart
 4. Multitude of Godly Counsel
 5. **Do it, trusting Jesus with the outcome.**
 - If all these things line up, then move froward with confidence.
 - Confidence- with faith
 - World- Trust yourself
 - Gospel- Trust in Jesus.

T/S: Wisdom is found in having a healthy distrust of self and a **PROFOUND** trust of Jesus.

III. Wisdom Laying Hold of Us

Why is that? Because Christian understands that wisdom is not merely a set of axioms to put in motion, but a **Person** to be followed.

Jesus told us disciples to "Follow me".

Matthew 12:42.

The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something **greater than Solomon is here.**

- For the Jew, Solomon was the source of wisdom, Jesus is saying He is greater.
 - I am the source of Solomon's wisdom
 - In essence, when Solomon asked for wisdom, he was asking Jesus.

1 Cor 1:24

...**Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

Let's go back to Solomon to make this point clear...

Proverbs 3:18

She is a **tree of life** to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.

Adam & Eve Gen 3:24

He (God) drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way **to guard** the way to the **tree of life**.

Rev 22:14

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the **tree of life** and that they may enter the city by the gates.

Closing Thought

What do we do with our foolishness & frustration?

We have hurt others, ourselves and dishonored God

We go to tree of life, Jesus, to wash our robes.

- **Wisdom is not a merely list of directives & rules be followed, but a Person to be adored**
 - **Jesus who calls you to follow Him.**
- **The beauty of the gospel says life at it's core isn't about you striving to lay hold of wisdom, but that Wisdom of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, has laid hold of you.**
 - **And because You are held secured in His arms, Wisdom's arms, your life can be lived to in His Wisdom and for His glory.**

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Benediction

Rev 22:14

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.