

Effects

Proverbs 3:13-16

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A. Wisdom... Required (v. 13):

1. How blessed is the man – A person who seeks wisdom is a person who unequivocally trusts in God’s Word. This causes them to be in a heightened state of happiness because of God’s favor towards them.
2. How blessed is the man – When people without hesitation **apply** God’s Word to their daily life (Colossians 1:9-12), God determinatively executes His favor towards them.
3. Who finds wisdom – When a believer is about to make decisions and determinatively make every effort to apply God’s Word to gain understanding prayerfully (Philippians 1:9-11), their reverence for God’s Word leads to wisdom (James 1:6-8).
 - a) To “find” (αχμ) means also to reach and to possess. Thus one who finds wisdom finds life (Prov 8:35), and one who “finds” a wife (18:22; cf. 31:10) finds a gift from God. [\[1\]](#)
4. The man who gains understanding - When people acquire wisdom, they benefit from a complete knowledge of the matter they desire to comprehend. This leads to a life of excellence (Philippians 1:9-11).
 - a) Most likely the teacher has in mind the spiritual joy and tranquility which result from a life of trusting God. To find wisdom means to learn her ways, to appreciate her worth, and to practice her walk (3:13). [\[2\]](#)

B. Best Results (vs. 15-16):

1. Her profit is better than silver – When the circumstances being addressed are resolved, the person may have some losses, but in the long run, they net more than if they made their decisions on common sense (3:5-6). This person's life experiences are more pleasant with more excellent practical benefits.

2. Her profit is better than silver—When we seek wisdom, the decision may cost us less money, put us in less debt, and help us make wiser investments, which will bless us to be more successful in the long run (Proverbs 24:3-5; Psalm 112:1-3).

3. Her gain is better—Gold is more valuable than silver, and so are God's promises to those who seek wisdom and understanding. These believers are guaranteed greater success. Not using wisdom, for Solomon came to emptiness (Ecclesiastes).

a) The gain arising from trading in wisdom is better than that which arises from trading in silver. *Sakh'rah* is the gain or profit arising from merchandise, *i.e.* from trading. It denotes the act itself of gaining. The root *sakrah*, like the Greek ἐμπορενέσθαι, signifies "to go about for the sake of traffic," *i.e.* to trade.

4. Wisdom is more precious - Wisdom is rare because it only comes from God (James 1:6-8). Since human wisdom is foolishness to God (1 Corinthians 1:21, 25), can be demonic (James 3:13-15; 2 Timothy 3:23-26), and destructive to a person's life, God's wisdom goes beyond the most precious stones or money the world has to offer.

a) Rubies are much rarer and therefore considered that much more precious. The Egyptian sage Ptah-Hotep also compares true wisdom with rare gems (emeralds), adding weight to such analogies. Diamonds were not known in the ancient world.^[3]

5. There is nothing you desire compared to her – There is no strong attraction, no pleasure, nothing we may delight in that can come anywhere close to the spiritual and practical benefits that wisdom can provide.

6. Long life – God sustained the people in the wilderness by testing them to prove to them that "man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the month of the Lord." (Deuteronomy 8:3). When a person fears God and walks in

His ways their life is long in the land (Psalm 128:4-5). This is why 'long life' will be in the place of honor.

a) Length of days is the blessing of blessings, the condition of all prosperity and enjoyment, and hence are placed in the right hand, the chief place, for among the Hebrews and other Oriental nations, as also among the Greeks, the right hand was regarded as the position of highest honor (Ps. 110:1; 1 Kings 2:19)

6. Left hand – riches and honor - Wisdom, humility, fear of God, and righteousness lead to wealth (*‘ōšer*; Prov 3:16; 8:18; 14:24).^[4]

7. Left hand – riches and honor – A person whose hard work is directed by the wisdom of God (Proverbs 10:4), who fears God and lives humbly before God will experience wealth (Proverbs 8:18; 14:24), a positive reputation because of the respect they acquire from a good name (Ecclesiastes 7:1).

C. Path To Peace (vs. 17-18):

1. Her ways are pleasant – 'Her' means wisdom in this context. As described above, wisdom will become the nature (lifestyle) of a believer's life. When wisdom becomes the lifestyle of that believer, their life displays the character, power, and protection that only the Lord can provide through wisdom (Psalm 27:4-5).

2. Her paths are peace—The believer's lifestyle, patterned after the persistence of seeking wisdom, is transformed by the growth of the Holy Spirit in them so that they live more in the Spirit than in the flesh, experiencing the fruit of the Spirit every day (Ephesians 5:15-18). This blesses marriage (Ephesians 5:32) and all relationships (Matthew 22:34-40; 1 John 5:5-7).

a) The character of peace is stamped upon her paths, so we speak of peace in Wisdom's paths. She brings tranquility, serenity, and blessedness. Her paths are accessible from strife and alarm, leading to peace. (On the distinction between "ways" and "paths"—the more open and the more private walks—see ch. 2:15.)

b) Perhaps the idea here is that wisdom restores the life which was lost through Adam's transgression. Those who take hold of wisdom and hold on tenaciously have in their hand the key to true happiness, i.e., spiritual blessing (3:17–18). ^[5]

3. Tree of life – The 'Tree of Life' was found in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:9) and again when the Lord creates the new heavens and the new earth (Revelation 22:2,14). It represents the continual experience of an abundant life that lasts forever.

a) The "tree of life" (3:18; cf. Gen. 2:9; Rev. 2:7) is a metaphor for a "source of life." Wisdom played a dynamic part in the creation of the universe (3:19–20), so it can have a significant part in ordering the affairs of each person's life. ^[6]

b) Wisdom is like those who embrace the "tree of life." In other words, wisdom is the source of life in all its fullness. ^[7]

4. Tree of life – Any believer who willfully chooses to live in the wisdom of God, as described in this passage, becomes a person from whom those around them can experience continual growth and blessings because God is constantly nourishing their convictions through the Holy Spirit.

5. Take hold of her – Anyone who commits to spiritually, mentally, and emotionally establishing a relationship with someone dominated by wisdom, experiences a blessed life.

6. Happy are all those who take hold of her—Generally speaking, any person who is firmly committed to never setting aside wisdom is going to be blessed, become prosperous, and succeed with whatever they decide to do, and grow in their confident trust in God.

a) Because wisdom brings happiness (blessed; cf. v. 18 and see comments on Ps. 1:1) and because wealth often does not bring genuine happiness (Ecc. 5:10–12), wisdom's value far exceeds the worth of precious metals such as silver ... gold, and also rubies (cf. Prov. 8:10–11, 19). The words profitable and yields better returns (lit., "brings a

higher yield”) are the language of a trader or investor. What wisdom returns to her possessor is of greater value than anything gold or silver can purchase.^[8]

b) He declares “Happy is the man” (lit., blessings of the man) who has found wisdom. The plural of excellence is used here. Thus supreme blessing belongs to this person who “has found” (Heb. perfect tense) wisdom. The blessing extends also to the person who continues to derive (imperfect tense) his “understanding” from God.

[1] Murphy, R. E. (1998). [Proverbs](#) (Vol. 22, pp. 21–22). Thomas Nelson.

[2] Smith, J. E. (1996). [The wisdom literature and Psalms](#) (p. 489). College Press Pub. Co.

[3] Matthews, V. H., Chavalas, M. W., & Walton, J. H. (2000). [The IVP Bible background commentary: Old Testament](#) (electronic ed., Pr 3:15). InterVarsity Press.

[4] Park, I. (2014). [Property](#). In D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Lexham Press.

[5] Smith, J. E. (1996). [The wisdom literature and Psalms](#) (pp. 489–490). College Press Pub. Co.

[6] Hughes, R. B., & Laney, J. C. (2001). [Tyndale concise Bible commentary](#) (p. 233). Tyndale House Publishers.

[7] Garrett, D. A. (1993). [Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of songs](#) (Vol. 14, p. 82). Broadman & Holman Publishers.

[8] Buzzell, S. S. (1985). [Proverbs](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 912). Victor Books.