"The Pursuit of Happiness"
Proverbs 3:13-26

C.I.T.—Wisdom is the road to happiness.
C.I.S.—Wisdom is the road to happiness.
Purpose—I want to encourage our people to consider the benefits of choosing the live with wisdom/Christ.
Introduction—"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

I. ***The Exaltation of Wise Living***--Vs. 13-18
   a. Happy is/Blessed is
      i. This is the ultimate goal in life, to live it in happiness/blessedness.
      ii. This phrase is used through the Old Testament and the New Testament—the Beatitudes—Blessed is…
   b. Finds wisdom/acquires understanding
      i. Both wisdom and understanding refer to the same thing—personified in Christ
      ii. Finding and acquiring are also synonyms
      iii. However, there is a difference between the tense of the verbs.
         1. Perfect tense communicates a finished action—many times in the past.
         2. Imperfect tense communicates an unfinished action—either ongoing or continual action
      iv. Here wisdom is gained in a one time event and activated continuously.
      v. To find and acquire wisdom means that you made an initial decision to apply wisdom to your life in general, but that you flesh that out in your daily life applying wisdom specifically.
   c. Promises Prosperity.
      i. Value of silver and gold.
      ii. Invest in those things, you are able to purchase what you need/want.
      iii. Wisdom provides greater purchasing power than either of those.
      iv. Precious—valuable, rarity
      v. Coral/jewels/rubies
      vi. Anything that you desire pales in comparison to having and living with wisdom.
      vii. Money does not guarantee contentment and fulfillment in life, but wisdom does.
   d. Promises Peace.
      i. Two hands of wisdom are long life and riches and honor.
         1. Not just quantity of life, but quality of life.
         2. Heavy/valuable, and fulfilling.
      ii. Ways are pleasant and peaceful.
         1. This pathway/road of wisdom is one that results in a peaceful transit.

2. This does not mean that the person does not face difficulties in life, but that they can do so with peace.

e. *Promises Permanence*.
   i. Tree of life communicates the source of life.
   ii. Also refers to the promise of eternity.
   iii. The one who has the benefits of the tree of life has eternal life.
f. Illus.—making a decision about what you want to be when you grow up…
g. Application
   i. We all want a prosperous, peaceful, and permanent life.
   ii. We attempt to attain all of these things in different ways: money, fame, athletic success…
   iii. The only way to find fulfillment is through living a life with wisdom.
   iv. This is personified in living a life with Jesus.
   v. We have to make an initial decision to find Jesus, and then follow that up with a continual decision to follow Jesus.
   vi. If this is true, then where should we invest our lives?
   vii. Fathers, where should you invest yourself into your children?

II. ***The Example of Wise Living*** vs. 19-20
a. In wisdom the Lord…
b. Established the earth and the heavens
c. Sustains the earth and the heavens
d. The Lord used wisdom to create the universe, and look at what he did.
e. Illus.—Youtubers/Tik Tok selling snake oil
f. Application
   i. We can see what can be done when someone utilizes wisdom to build a life.
   ii. Someone who builds a great life, will do so through Jesus' wisdom.
   iii. Building a life with wisdom results in a great life.

III. ***The Exhortation to Wise Living*** vs. 21-26
a. Focused on wisdom
   i. Don't let them out of your sight.
      1. Watch/keep wisdom and discretion
      2. If they are this valuable, they need to be the most important asset that you have.
   ii. Sustenance—life for soul/grace/adornment for neck.
   iii. Security—safely
   iv. Stability—not stumble
   v. Serenity—rest and peace
b. Fearless in wisdom
   i. Dread sudden danger—unforeseen problems
   ii. Unexpected attacks
   iii. When you walk with wisdom, you don't have to worry about anything that life throws at you.
c. Illus.—Choose this day whom you will serve

d. Application
    i. It isn't enough that you see the exaltation and the example of the wise life.
    ii. You must choose to follow it.
    iii. This requires that you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.
    iv. It requires you to continue to live a life of humble prayer and obedience to His word.

Conclusion

- If this life is a pursuit of happiness, then the only way to pursue it is through a life of wisdom.
- Will you decide today to trust the wisdom of the Lord for your life?