

A GOOD INVESTMENT

Proverbs 3:16

All of us should be investing in wisdom, for wisdom is an excellent investment.

I. THE REALITY OF WISDOM (13)

A. THE PRODUCT IS EXCELLENT

1. Wisdom: The knowledge of divine truth and its application to life
 - Making right choices in real life situations
2. Understanding: Insight or discretion
 - An aptitude for analyzing things > See I Kings 3:16-17

B. THE EARNINGS ARE SUPERB!

1. The Blessing: “How blessed” > The idea is that of exceedingly blessed
2. The Bestower: Recognized and rewarded by God Himself

C. THE EFFORT IS SUBSTANTIAL

1. You have to work
 - Wisdom does not come through wishful thinking
2. Finding involves seeking
 - a. Action is required: You come upon it ... discover it > It will not come naturally to anyone
 - b. Aptitude is required: You must know what you are looking for and be able to detect it when you see it.
 - c. Acquisition is required: You must actually acquire this and not just know where it is
 - d. Association is required: You will encounter and fall in with others who are seeking this also
3. Gaining is a process
 - a. The concept: Gaining through a process of progressive steps
 - b. The patience: It takes time to see gains
 - c. The discipline: You cannot spend if you hope to gain

D. SUMMARY - Proverbs 4:5-7

1. The person who acquires wisdom and understanding will be protected
2. Wisdom will guard and watch over you (v. 6)

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II. THE VALUE OF WISDOM (14-18)

A. IT TRANSCENDS WEALTH (14-15)

1. Her profit is *better than*
 - a. The profits of silver (14a)
 - b. The gain of fine gold (14b)
 - c. Precious jewels (15a)
 - d. Anything you could desire cannot compare with wisdom! (15b)
 - e. Wisdom is better than wealth - See Ecc. 5:10-11
2. Her proceeds are *better because* ...
 - a. It is available to everyone
 - b. It always satisfies
 - c. It never corrupts the holder
 - d. It cannot be stolen – it is absolutely secure!
 - e. It never loses value (and always pays interest)

B. IT ENHANCES LIFE (16-17)

- Keep in mind that these are principles and not absolute promises

1. With longevity (16a)
2. With satisfaction (16b)
 - a. Riches: Enough to maintain adequate welfare - Due to a lack of wasteful spending
 - b. Honor: A good reputation and the worthy esteem of others - Due to good and godly decisions
3. With comfort or serenity (17)
 - a. The ways of pleasantness - Externals
 - b. The paths of peace (shalom) - Internals
 - c. Note: If we were given a long life without a quality of life, we would despair and be miserable

C. IT PRODUCES HOPE (18)

1. A Fruitful Life > The Tree of Life
 - A life worth living
2. A Blessed Life > The Happy Ones
 - Made blessed - See Gen. 32:24-30

III. YOUR WISDOM PORTFOLIO

- What is in your account?

A. ARE YOU DISTRACTED?

1. Are you pursuing other investment options?
2. Consider I Tim. 6:10 > Some have pierced themselves with many griefs

B. ARE YOU BROKE?

1. Do you find yourself overcome by worry? [A true depression!]
2. Worry and wisdom do not go together > Reread vs. 16-17

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C. ARE YOU OVERCONFIDENT?

1. Do you feel you have enough wisdom to get you through the rest of your years?
2. There is danger in the assumption that we already have all the wisdom and understanding that we need and therefore no longer seek (or find) wisdom or gain (store up) understanding
 - Consider Solomon's demise in I Kings 11:4-8

CONCLUSION

Let us wisely invest in wisdom therein we will find a good and godly return!