

Message #59**Proverbs 16:16-24**

People who have disciplined their minds for God are the wealthiest people of all. It was Martin Luther who said, “I have had many things in my hands and have lost them all, but whatever I have been able to place in God’s, I still possess.”

WISE PEOPLE WILL CHOOSE TO KNOW AND APPLY THAT MOST VALUABLE THING OF ALL—THE WISDOM OF GOD, AND THAT CHOICE WILL AFFECT SEVERAL AREAS OF A PERSON’S LIFE.

The word “chosen” (v. 16) is one that means to make a selection that is excellent. Wise people will recognize the great superiority, the excellent value of gaining the wisdom of God.

TRUTH #1 – Wise people choose a godly life. **16:17**

The noun “highway” refers to course of life or path of lifestyle. A wise, upright person will make a conscious choice to withdraw himself and to depart from evil. The result of making this choice is in the second part of the verse—he guards, watches and defends his own life.

TRUTH #2 – Wise people will not choose a proud life. **16:18**

This kind of pride is a very self-exalting, arrogant pride. God promises two things to the proud:

- 1) God will destroy the proud. **16:18a**
- 2) God will trip-up the proud. **16:18b**

Notice the preposition “before,” which shows u twice, which means before the destruction and stumbling caused by God, you will see haughty pride.

TRUTH #3 – Wise people choose a humble life. **16:19**

Solomon is saying it is far better to spend your time with those who are lowly than those who are proud.

TRUTH #4 – Wise people will have a blessed life. **16:20**

The word “good” is one that refers to a state of goodness that affects the total welfare of a person. The word “blessed” is one that refers to happiness given by God because one is right with God. Dedication to the Word of God and faith in God will cause God to bless the life.

TRUTH #5 – Wise people will have a reputable life. **16:21**

One who is wise in heart will inherit a reputation as being discerning, which means he will be recognized as one who is discerning and intelligent in the things of God. His speech reflects this and he understands the Word of God, obeys the Word of God and communicates it (Hos. 14:9).

TRUTH #6 – Wise people will have a refreshing life. **16:22**

The word “fountain” means a well or spring that sends forth flowing water. The word “life” is the Hebrew plural “lives,” meaning full life that is refreshing. Notice the contrast with the fool—he has as his instruction his folly.

TRUTH #7 – Wise people will have a growing life. **16:23**

A wise person will take in teaching and instruction so he can accurately communicate what is right, true and Biblical to others. Notice carefully—before instruction can come out of the mouth, it must first be in the heart.

TRUTH #8 – Wise people will have a healthy life. **16:24**

Wise people love to take in sound instruction. They love to apply it to their own lives. They eat as much of it as they can because they know this will make them healthy. There are both spiritual and physical implications to this proverb.