

## Message #89

## Proverbs 22:3-6

Living in a wise way is not the mediocre way, it is the hard, disciplined way; but it is also the rich and rewarding way to live life.

**WISE PEOPLE CHOOSE TO DISCIPLINE THEMSELVES TO THINK, ACT AND LIVE THE WISE WAY REVEALED IN SCRIPTURE, BECAUSE IN THE END IT WILL MAKE THEM RICH.**

**AREA #1** – Wise people avoid evil. **22:3**

Two types of people are described in this proverb: one who is prudent and one who is naïve. The one who is crafty foresees evil and its devastating consequences; but the one who is simple goes right into it and ends up being punished for it.

**AREA #2** – Wise people maintain proper attitudes for eternal wealth. **22:4**

The word “humility” is a word that speaks of a lowly, modest, gentle type of spirit. It is not the typical worldly type of attitude that one would equate with gaining great wealth. What Solomon is saying is that the way to obtain a tremendous level of wealth is by humility and fear of the LORD. Sometimes God does give literal wealth in this life, but generally speaking, the time when great wealth comes will be in eternity. For example, when the Lord spoke of the meek getting their inheritance, He spoke of a kingdom time when they would have it on earth (Matt. 5:5). When Paul spoke of getting his own rewards, he thought in terms of eternity (I Cor. 9:24-27; II Tim. 4:8).

**AREA #3** – Wise people maintain a proper distance from harmful things. **22:5**

The words “thorns” and “snares” are words that describe things that can hinder and hurt and even bring game to destruction and ruin. What this proverb is stating is that a person who is perverse will discover that his life’s path is one that will eventually trap him, ruin and destroy him. The wise person keeps himself far from such a path. There are several things trying to hurt and devour a man’s soul: Satan (I Pet. 5:8); fleshly lusts (I Pet. 2:11) and this world (Rom. 12:2). Wise people spot these things and stay far away from them.

**AREA #4** – Wise people maintain proper training of children. **22:6**

Of the many verses in Proverbs that deal with child-rearing and parenting (13:24; 19:18; 23:13-14; 29:17), this is the most famous in the book of Proverbs. The Hebrew word “train” is a challenge to narrowly instruct a child by giving him a taste and by dedicating him in the way he should go. It is a narrow instruction as opposed to a broad instruction. The narrow focus is a God focus. The real debate of the verse is what is meant by “way.” One interpretation says train the child in the way his character ought to go, and the other says train him according to the bent of his own personality. The point is the parent is to be narrow in feeding the things of God and when he is old, he will not turn away.