

WISE WORDS
THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Lesson 29: A wise tip that leads to happiness
Proverbs 28:14

Everybody wants to be happy. Most of us want the people around us to be happy. “If you’re happy, I’m happy” is a common phrase offered to one another.

Happy is a good Bible word, and believers are marked by a pleasant disposition (Gal 5:22). It should not surprise us that wisdom has something to say about achieving happiness.

ESV: Blessed is the one who fears the LORD always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

Proverbs 1:7
The fear of the Lord
is the beginning of
knowledge, but fools
despise wisdom and
instruction.

1. Review the *fear of the Lord*.
 - Means to recognize God’s character and respond by revering, trusting, worshipping, obeying and serving him. It is a state of mind in which one’s own attitudes, will, feelings, deeds, and goals are exchanged for God’s.
 - The focus is on a person, namely, God.
 - To live this life takes one down the road of happiness.
 - In the Scriptures, to be “happy” or “blessed” one must do something positive like trusting (Ps 2:12; 34:9; 40:5; Prov 16:20; et al) or submitting (Ps 112:1; 119:1; et al) or giving (Prov. 14:21).
 - See also Proverbs 3:13; 8:32, 34; 14:21; 20:7; 29:18).
2. What if one seeks happiness another way?
 - This is not a neutral directive with multiple potential outcomes. He “will fall into calamity.”
 - Calamity is an undesirable condition (Gen 40:7; 41:3-4; 1 Sam 10:19; 2 Kings 22:6, et al).
 - He chooses this direction via stubbornness against the revealed person of God.
3. Think about it: Most of us have tried to find the state of pleasure that is the pursuit of all humanity – happiness. Have you embraced the wisdom necessary to find it?