

Proverbs Chapter 3 Week 6, v. 14-18

Review Pr 3: 11-13 **What does it say? What does it mean? How is it applied? Give an example of how this truth worked itself out in your life last week.**

How do things get their value? Who or what determines the price of something?

What is the **most expensive car** in the world? The 1931 Bugatti Royale Kellner Coupe was sold for \$8700000 in 1987.

Most expensive wine: Chateau Lafite 1787 : \$160,000

The most expensive dog ever sold was a "Tibetan mastiff" called Yangtze River Number Two which was sold to a Chinese woman for a whopping 4 million Yuan (About \$609,000).

The most expensive home is in Mumbai, India: \$1 billion. This modern gorgeous structure is called Antilla. It's a 27 floors building with a 40,000 sq ft tower owned by the CEO of Mumbai based Petrochemical Giant Reliance Industries, Mukesh Ambani. The building is 570 ft tall and will have 400,000 square feet of interior space. For the parking alone, the building dedicates 6 stories because Ambani has around 168 cars collection. There are nine elevators with a lounge and personal gym on each floor.

Shoes: Stuart Weitzman's Rita Hayworth Heels – Price tag: \$3,000,000

The most expensive coffee in the world does not hail from Jamaica or Hawaii, but instead from Indonesia. Kopi Luwak the most expensive coffee in the world does exist, and those who drink the expensive coffee insist that it is made from coffee beans eaten, partly digested and then excreted by the Common palm civet, a weasel-like animal. The civet digests the soft outer part of the coffee cherry, but does not digest the inner beans and excretes them. Apparently the internal digestion ends up adds a unique flavor to the beans, removing the bitter flavor, and then beans are then picked up by locals and sold. The most expensive coffee beans can cost up to \$600 a pound, and up to \$50 per cup.

Q: So how much can you charge for chocolate when you are considered the second best chocolatier in the world? A: \$2,600.00 a pound. Chocopologie by Knipschildt, which was founded in 1999 by Fritz Knipschildt, sells the world's most expensive chocolate, a hand made chocolate with 70 percent Valrhona cocoa powder rolled over French Black truffle for a chocolaty \$250.00 each or \$2,600.00/pound.

If you love to pamper your tush then nothing but the world's most expensive toilet paper will do. Don't worry, Renova has you covered with their three-ply luxury toilet paper made of 100% virgin pulp for maximum softness. It comes in a variety of different colours and can be had for about \$3.00 a roll.

The world's most expensive water can be found 2,000 feet down off the coast of Hawaii. The name of this expensive water that is bottled by Hawaii Deep Marine is Kona Nigari. This water is a seawater mineral concentrate that you mix with your regular drinking water. The Japanese are driving the cost up even more as they cannot get enough. At this time, only 2 ounces of Kona Nigari costs \$33.50 USD. If you are thinking about purchasing one gallon then you had better be ready to charge it to get soaked, the price of one gallon is only \$2,144.00 USD.

Think! What happens to a car when it is used? How about wine when it is drunk? Does a dog live forever? How about a home – does it last – what does the Bible say? (Matt 6:19-21) Have you ever had shoes that have worn out? Or maybe you have that pair of shoes that is really, really cute but hurt way too much to wear – what good are they? I enjoy a good cup of coffee but what happens to it after I drink it? If you are a chocolate lover does it last? Do we even need to talk about toilet paper? We all know that drinking water is good for us but doesn't it take the same internal route as coffee? Do you think the value of these things is a bit over-rated? Yet, people are willing to invest in them to extreme measures.

An ounce of silver right now is going for \$35.62. Gold is priced at \$1,433.00/ounce.

So how much is an ounce of wisdom worth? What is it worth to you?

Pr 3:14 For its profit is better than the profit of silver, And its gain than fine gold.

Profit <cachar > profit (from trade): -- merchandise. Profit: excess of income over expenditure; income from an investment or transaction; an advantage or benefit derived from an activity; syn.-reward, gain

Gain <t@buw'ah > income, i.e. produce (literally or figuratively):--fruit, gain, increase, revenue. Gain: acquire something

In Biblical times, things were carried about on camels from town to town and traded for profit. This verse is telling us that wisdom is the best investment we can make. Better than the gain from silver or gold. It is more profitable to us than anything else we can acquire.

Ps 19:9-10 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. *They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold,* sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

Pr 8:10-11 *"Take my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choicest gold."* For wisdom is better than jewels; And all desirable things can not compare with her.

Pr 16:16 How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver.

Ps 119:72 *The law of Thy mouth is better to me Than thousands of gold and silver [pieces].*

Pr 3:15 She is more precious than jewels; And nothing you desire compares with her.

Precious <yaqar> valuable: brightness, clear, costly, excellent. Precious: valued – highly valued, much loved, or considered to be of great importance; not to be wasted – rare or unique and therefore to be used wisely. . .or treated with care;

Job 28:15-19 "Pure gold cannot be given in exchange for it [wisdom], Nor can silver be weighed as its price. "It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, In precious onyx, or sapphire. "Gold or glass cannot equal it, Nor can it be exchanged for articles of fine gold. "Coral and crystal are not to be mentioned; And the acquisition of wisdom is above [that of] pearls. "The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, Nor can it be valued in pure gold.

Pr 20:15 There is gold, and an abundance of jewels; *but the lips of knowledge are a more precious thing.*

Nothing you desire <chephets> pleasure; hence (abstractly) desire; concretely, a valuable thing; hence (by extension) a matter (as something in mind):--acceptable, delight(-some), desire, things desired, matter, pleasant(-ure), purpose, willingly.

Compares <shavah> level, i.e. equalize; figuratively, to resemble; by implication, to adjust (i.e. counterbalance, be suitable, compose, place, yield, etc.):--avail, behave, bring forth, compare, countervail, (be, make) equal, lay, be (make, a-)like, make plain, profit, reckon.

Mt 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field.

Phil 3:7-11 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from [the] Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which [comes] from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

No pleasure or possession we have on earth should be more valuable to us than the pursuit of knowing God.

Ps 63:3 Because *Thy lovingkindness is better than life*, My lips will praise Thee.

Ps 73:25 Whom have I in heaven [but Thee]? *And besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth.*

Anything we might acquire in this world, any glory we may receive, any pleasure we may have, is nothing compared to even a small amount of true wisdom from God – it will bless us here and will last for eternity. **What do you think?**

Read this quote from Warren Wiersbe's *Be Skillful*: "It is good to have the things money can buy, provided you don't lose the things money can't buy. What good is an expensive house if there's no happy home within it? Happiness, pleasantness, and peace aren't the guaranteed by-products of financial success, but they are guaranteed to the person who lives by God's wisdom. Wisdom becomes a 'tree of life' to the believer who takes hold of her, and this is a foretaste of heaven (Rev. 22:1-2)".

Pr 3:16-18 Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, And all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who hold her fast.

The general principle of acquiring wisdom will lead to long life, riches and honor, pleasant ways, peace, a firm foundation now and in the future, and happiness. There is a multitude of blessings bestowed upon us when we diligently seek to know and understand God.

"long life is in her right hand" (refer back to Prov 3:2) This is not a promise for reaching old age here on earth. However, if we follow wisdom in everything, we will not contribute to our own early demise. We can make many poor decisions that will affect our health and potentially shorten our days. The opposite of being wise is being a fool. Both of these character qualities affect our decisions, one for good the other for turmoil.

"riches and honor" Pr 8:17-21 "I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me. *Riches and honor* are with me, *enduring wealth and righteousness*. My fruit is better than gold, even pure gold, and my yield than choicest silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice, to endow those who love me with wealth, that I may fill their treasuries.

"pleasant ways" <no`am >agreeableness, delight

"and all her paths are peace" only God can give us peace in difficult circumstances.

Mt 11:29-30 "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 'For My yoke is easy, and My load is light.'"

Phil 4:6-9 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.** Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. **The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.**

Prov 3:18 "She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her and happy are all who hold her fast."

happy <'ashar> **to be straight** (used in the widest sense, **especially to be level**, right, happy); figuratively, to go forward, be honest, proper:--(call, be) bless(-ed, happy), go, guide, lead, relieve.

The definition from Strong's for happy says to be straight, especially to be level. When we look to God in everything we react with His wisdom and understanding rather than our own.

Have you ever reacted out of your own understanding then looked back and realized a whole lot of time and energy was wasted? Do you know people who are always up and down depending on the circumstances? Do you know people who typically maintain the same countenance no matter the situation? What is the difference? Our lives and the circumstances around us are always changing. When we are fully satisfied in Christ, looking to Him for all our needs, we will remain constant in Him because He does not change. His love does not change, His promises do not change, and His plans will not change.

hold her fast (KJV – retaineth) <tamak> to sustain; by implication, to obtain, keep fast; figuratively, to help, follow close:--(take, up-)hold (up), maintain, retain, stay (up).

What do you hold fast? Do you apply that same thought/emotion to your relationship with Christ?

Worldly success cannot guarantee happiness, pleasantness and peace. When we cling to the wisdom that comes from God we possess the things money cannot buy. Wisdom is a "tree of life" helping us to discern from good and evil. Wisdom is knowledge plus action. When we act upon the gift of salvation God offers to us, we receive everlasting life. The wisdom found in God's word helps us to maintain a straight path.

Pr 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who is wise wins souls.

The blessings which wisdom gives to men, preserve them in life, comfort them through life, cause them to triumph in death, and ensure them a glorious immortality. (Adam Clarke's Commentary)

"Wisdom Divine! Who tells the price
Of Wisdom's costly merchandise?
Wisdom to silver we prefer,
And gold is dross compared to her.
Her hands are fill'd with length of days,
True riches, and immortal praise;-
Riches of Christ, on all bestow'd,
And honour that descends from God.
To purest joys she all invites,
Chaste, holy, spiritual delights;
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
And all her flowery paths are peace.
Happy the man that finds the grace,
The blessing of God's chosen race;
The wisdom coming from above,
The faith that sweetly works by love!"
WESLEY.

Proverbs Chapter 3
Week 6, v.14-18 – Application Questions

Think of where your time, energy and resources have been invested this last week. Be honest, God knows your heart. How many of these things have eternal value?

What gives you pleasure? What do you pursue? What do you desire?

It is okay to have things in this world that you enjoy. But what value do you place on them in comparison to the value of knowing Christ?

Look up Paul's words in Philippians 3: 7-11. Do you have pleasures or possessions that are getting in the way of your pursuit to know God? Do you need to place limitations on areas that tempt you from spending time in the Word and communion with God? Do you find yourself sacrificing time with God and the pursuit of knowing Him for temporal pursuits? Shouldn't it be the other way around?

Prov 3:17 says "Her (wisdom) ways are pleasant ways..." The word pleasant means agreeable. Are you agreeable and friendly towards others? Or are you disagreeable and negative in your conversations and attitude? Remember verse 3 of this chapter? Are you mindful of being kind?

At Home

Take the time to **review** verses 14-18, work on memory verses, and pay close attention to personal **application**.

Look at Prov 3:19-22 for next week's study. As you read/study, jot down what you discover. Memorize the passage. Use any reference tools you have to look up a few main words in the passage. What questions come to mind that will help you to apply what you read?