

Introduction

Nine nails that helps us live according to what is good for our lives as defined by God.

6. Pursue a _____ Approach to Life (15-18)

Shaw (102): Verses 16-17 are a commentator's nightmare.

“perishes in his righteousness” as “in spite of his righteousness”

Kaiser (139): The real clue to this passage, as George R. Castellino demonstrated, is that the second verb in verse 16, "to be wise," must be rendered reflexively (for it is the Hebrew Hithpael form) as "to think oneself to be furnished with wisdom." Furthermore, Castellino observed, even if this valid point about the reflexive nature of the verb is rejected for some reason, "Do not be wise" in verse 16 is to be understood as it is in Proverbs 3:7 "Be not wise in your own eyes" (Esv, emphasis added).

The NET Bible: Rather, the proper fear of God will prevent a person from trusting in righteousness and wisdom alone for his security, and it will also prevent indulgence in wickedness and folly.

7. Use Wisdom to See Ourselves _____: None Righteous (19-22)

True wisdom brings us humbly back to the cross where forgiveness and grace is found.

Shaw (103): For our tendency is to hold others to a much stricter account than we hold ourselves.

8. Recognize that Infinite _____ Is Beyond Our Grasp (23-24)

9. See the Hopelessness of Our Own _____ (25-29)

Verse 26 is a personification of Lady Folly (vs Lady Wisdom) like we see in the book of Proverbs.

This is surely an indictment on his choices as king and on his choice of Lady Folly for many of his years and in many of his wives.

Wise Dealings with Authority (8:1-13)

Solomon's verses here are less about the foundations of obedience to the king but **how to walk circumspectly** with authority in our life.

Five principles for dealing with authority over us in a wise fashion:

1. Maintain a Bright/Strong _____ (1)

Shaw (111): The next line might well be a proverb. 'The wisdom of a man gives light to his face and the strength of his face is changed.' This is the only place that the phrase, 'the strength of his face' occurs....The most common sense of the first word is 'strength' or 'might.' Thus, on reflection, the idea is probably more that of confidence, or certainty, rather than boldness. That is, the benefits of wisdom are comprehension (light) and confidence (strength).

Shaw (111): While wisdom will not solve all riddles, it will solve many, and it is to be valued for that.

2. Keep the Command of the _____ while Keeping the Command of _____ (2-6).

Shaw (112): So read the second half of the verse, 'and because of the matter of the oath of God' (or 'on account of the oath of God.') It isn't good English, but it makes good sense. The man serving the king has taken an oath before God to do so. Therefore, it is incumbent upon him to obey the king, to follow his commands.

Shaw (112): The sense of verses 2-4 is that wisdom tells you to deal carefully and respectfully with kings.

Shaw (113): One must remember that in most of the ancient world, the king's word was law. The king himself was not subject to law. Therefore, whatever the king commanded was to be obeyed.

Shaw (113): Verse 5 directs the wise man to two things. First, he must reflect simple obedience to the law. Here mitzvah (law) is probably an allusion to the Law of Moses.... While it is true that this verse continues in the train of thought set by the preceding verses, it appears to me that Solomon's point is that a wise man keeps the command of God. In doing so, he will avoid evil. To follow the command of God is always a wise path.

Shaw (113-114): The heart of a wise man knows time and judgment. The word 'judgment' is a word that occurs frequently in the law of Moses. It frequently, though not always, refers to what we would call 'case law': if such and such happens, then thus and such should be done. Another way of putting it is to say that the wise man understands the appropriate time as well as the appropriate law for a particular consideration.

3. Recognize the _____ of Authority/Power (7-8)

All human authority lacks ultimate sovereignty

Shaw (114): Verse 7 continues the thought by making the point that even the wise man does not know the outcome of events. He may plan and act toward a certain end, but he does not know if the end at which he aims is the end that will occur. Furthermore, there is no one who can tell him what will happen, or when it will happen. In short, the man who depends on only his own wisdom and insight is a fool, because he cannot know what he needs to know in order to achieve good ends. The wise man follows the commands of God, because God knows the end of a thing from its beginning.

Shaw (115) Oddly enough, one does not usually think of a recognition of inability as a practical use of wisdom. But indeed it is. The man who recognizes his inabilities has a firm grasp on reality, something that Solomon is trying to inculcate to his readers...Man can't control the wind. He can't control the day of his death.

4. See that All Wicked Authority is _____ (9-10)

This is the end of the wicked: the wicked are ultimately buried and forgotten.

5. Evil May Grow and Expand but it Cannot Ultimately _____ Forever (11-13).

Shaw (119): There is no implicit promise here to the man of faith about a long life, but there is an implicit promise of a life that is more than a shadow.

Kaiser (145): "Fear" appears three times in 8:12-13 to denote those who truly and habitually fear and reverence God. There will be a day, as Malachi 3:18 also says, when you will be able to discern the difference between those who feared God and those who refused to fear Him. Then a most exacting justice shall be meted out. The wicked may appear to be getting away with murder ("one hundred times," v. 12), but such sinning with seeming impunity will finally be judged by the Living God.

Conclusion