

– Proverbs 3.5-8, 11-15 –

Words to Teens 1

Finding Happiness

Prov 3.5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones ... 11 My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction; 12 For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights. 13 Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; 14 For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. 15 She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.

* **The whole** book of Proverbs is written to _____.

Along with the maturation of your bodies, there is supposed to be a maturation of mind and spirit, not just in intellectual capacity and knowledge of facts, but of understanding and insight regarding _____ — what it's really about, how it works, and how to make it a thing of _____.

That understanding and insight is what the Bible calls _____, and that's what the book of Proverbs was written to give you.

* **Why is** it easy to miss wisdom's message in the teen years?

* **What do** most of the world's messages boil down to?

* **Many people** think God doesn't really care about _____, and Christians shouldn't either. In truth,

God is very concerned with _____ (vs 13-15).

Psalm 16.11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Heb 12.2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

* **In the** Garden of Eden, Satan on the surface was talking with Eve about eating forbidden fruit, but what he was really talking about was where _____ comes from. Even deeper, the question was whether the fruit had the power _____ to give happiness, or whether happiness only came when the fruit was _____ _____ _____?

* **What was** the crux of Satan's temptation?

* **How did** Satan present the same temptation to Adam?

* **What are** all the various temptations of life telling you?

* **What is** wisdom telling you?

James 1.17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights ...

* **We know** God isn't trying to hold us down, because he made us in his own _____ to be his _____ and _____. He made us to enter into his _____, work, joy, and _____. And to do that, we have to enter into his _____; we have to know him and become _____ _____.

* **How does** this help us understand why God would allow the fall?

Mat 4.2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Eph 3.17 ... that you ... 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

* **This explains** all the trials we must endure in this life. They may be hard, but they all come to us from God's loving hand to make us _____ to our full height and glory as his sons and daughters.

* **What kind** of character do we admire in a book or movie, compared to the kind of life we tend to want to lead?

* **Why is** the testimony of Solomon in Ecclesiastes so relevant and powerful?

* **How does** this help us understand the forbidden fruit in the Garden?

Eccl 12.13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.

1Kings 3.9 "Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil."

* **When you** have God the Giver, you get all his _____, too, and they become conduits of _____. When you don't have the God the Giver, you have _____.

* **God gave** _____ up front and free, but kingly rule requires discerning _____ and _____, and that requires _____ God with all one's heart, not leaning on your own _____, nor being _____ in your own eyes (vs 5-6).

Prov 9.10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

* **How do** these same issues show up in Satan's temptation of Jesus?