

## The Blessedness of Rest Series: 1

### Blessed Are The Wise

Over the last few months we have been studying the theme of walking in wisdom. As we continue to develop this theme further we are going to spend a few weeks looking at a topic which comes as a direct result of walking in wisdom.

Let us remind ourselves at the start of this series of what wisdom is.

*“Wisdom is the ability to hear, judge accurately and act upon God's principles (the Word of God) for righteous living”*

This total dependency and reliance on the principles of God's Word, and the putting of it into practice leads us on to certain blessings.

Jesus said: *“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”* (Matthew 7.24-25)

A wise man builds his house on rock. What is Jesus saying to us here? If you are going to be wise (not talking about worldly wisdom, that is what the world regards as the wise thing to do) we will build, construct and establish our lives on the the Word of God, that is those things that Jesus said (His sayings). So that when storms, troubles and trials beat hard upon us we will remain strong and standing.

This wisdom gives us security, strength and peace of mind and heart.

### **Proverbs 3.13-26**

This passage in the Proverbs begins *“Happy is the man who finds wisdom...”*

This word 'happy' is the Hebrew word *'esher* and can also be translated as blessed. So we can justifiably translate this verse as *“Blessed is the man who finds wisdom...”*

The Greek word *makarios* in Matthew 5.1 means exactly the same – *happy* or *blessed*, and you will find that the various translations of the Bible interchangeably use either word. In Matthew the AV, NKJV and NIV say *'blessed..'* whereas others like the GNB(TEV) and NCV use *'happy..'*

So in Proverbs 3 we read that the man who finds wisdom is blessed.

The writer says that the *“proceeds (of wisdom) are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold”* (vs14). There are millions who chase after and trust in silver and gold for their security but the Word of God says that to have wisdom is better than all the profit of silver and gold.

He continues (vs15) *“(wisdom) is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her”*

It's no wonder that the writer can say 'blessed is the man who finds wisdom'. Then he goes on to list some of the blessings that come through wisdom.

- length of days (v16) - longevity
- riches - prosperity
- honour – honour and integrity
- pleasant ways (v17) – right way
- paths of peace – right paths
- tree of life (v18) – abundant, eternal life
- happiness – true joy and happiness
- grace (v22) – spiritual ornament, His glory and favour
- walk safely (v23) – safety
- will not stumble – security
- will not be afraid (v24) – fearlessness
- sweet sleep – freedom from worry
- no fear of terror or trouble (v25) – deliverance, with no anxiety or fear
- confidence in God (v26) – faith and an unwavering trust in God
- feet from being caught – divine protection

### **Proverbs 4.10-13**

In the next chapter we read:

“Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many. I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble. Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she *is* your life.” (vs10-13)

Here again we see there are promised blessings to those who hear and receive the Word of God and grasp it and walk in it:

- the years of your life will be many
- your steps will be unhindered – free to walk from distress, press on with large steps
- will not stumble – faint or fall, i.e. to quit or give in

I think that all of these blessings can be wrapped up in just one word – peace. This peace is a type of rest that we enjoy as the people of God.

Over the next few weeks we are going to be looking at this topic related to walking in wisdom – the Blessedness of Rest.

### **Hebrews 3.18-19; Hebrews 4.1-12**

God had promised His people rest. They were slaves in Egypt, held in bondage but God brought them up out of their captivity by mighty miracles. Yet, at the verge of entering into the promised rest they were disqualified because of unbelief.

What was this unbelief? It was a failure to trust God and His word of promise. They failed to walk in wisdom. They didn't accurately judge and act upon God's word. Here was a lost opportunity, a whole generation excluded from the blessing of rest.

There is still a promise of rest – this is ultimately talking about when we enter into heaven to meet our Lord, but there is still a promise of rest for the here and now and we enter it by faith (v3).

The writer to the Hebrews urges us to “[be diligent to enter that rest..](#)” (v11). Diligence requires effort – but what is our labour? It is not through worry (we'll never get rest through worry), it's not through hard toil or works. We enter the rest through faith in the living, active, powerful Word of God (v12).

We have the Word the same as the people of God did in the wilderness. Let us not make the same mistake as they did. They did not mix faith with the word (v2) and thus didn't enter their rest.

We will come back later in the series and dig a little more deeply at this thought.