

Proverbs: The Wisdom of Solomon
Conditions and Blessings of a Covenant Relationship
Proverbs 3:1-12

For decades the American people have pursued what has been labeled the American Dream. We have been rightly taught to work hard, do our best in everything, and learn as much as we can. But we have also been taught that much, if not all, of what we enjoy comes at the work of our hands. And in one sense this is true. We enjoy the wealth that comes from hard work. We enjoy satisfaction that comes from fulfilling a purpose or meeting a need. But the Bible gives us a proper perspective of work and the wealth and satisfaction that comes from it.

1. _____ is applied through a daily obedience to the law.
2. Blessing is found in _____ the covenant.
 - A. We find _____ with God.
 - B. We find _____ with God.
 - C. We find a _____ God.
3. Jesus kept the _____ for us.

The problem with the prosperity gospel is not that it wants us to be physically blessed. God has promised that we will be. The problems with this false gospel are (1) it misunderstands life in a fallen world where the righteous suffer, (2) it bypasses Jesus who is the only one who has fulfilled these obligations, and (3) it doesn't promise enough prosperity. The true gospel says that the faithful Son had his life cut short in the short run, but he was raised to an indestructible life to inherit the cosmos. We share in that inheritance, in that prosperity, but we have to know that it is only available in Christ.

Reflection

Consider a time in your life when you were working towards a particular goal. How was your motivation before you reached the goal, and how did it change after you reached the goal? When Proverbs refers to binding them around your neck and writing them on the "tablet of your heart," what is it referring to and how does it connect with the covenant God made with Israel? Identify the verses that describe an inward piety being reflected in outward obedience to the law. What steps do you need to take to make the most of the covenant relationship freely offered by God through faith in Jesus?