

Study Guide for July 1st, 2012. Developing Wisdom: Proverbs 15:30-33.

Introduction: Who has helped you gain wisdom? How have you gained wisdom? Summarize some of the lessons you've acquired in a few, concise statements.

I. Wisdom leads to LIFE and JOY: It's wonderful and contagious. (Pr. 15:30)

“A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.”

1. “Cheerful look” translates the literal statement *light of the eyes*.

- a) See Pr. 13:9 – With what is this *light* associated? What is the opposite? (Ps. 38:10)
- b) Who is the source of this *light*? (See Ezra 9:8, Ps. 13:3; & Ps. 19:8 and John 1:4-9)

2. In Proverbs, “good news” is not preaching the gospel, but a verbal report of *life*.

- a) How does the “good news” affect people? (See I Kgs 10:7; Pr. 3:7-8 & 25:25.)
- b) The “good news” here also functions as a metaphor for the teaching that follows.

II. Wisdom is gained by receiving, not ignoring, correction. (Pr. 15:31-32)

“He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise. He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.”

1. “Listens” translates *ear hearing*. This implies application of truth not just cognition.
2. What are the benefits are gained? What does failure to change behavior indicate?
3. Summarize the related warning expressed in the following: Pr. 8:35-36 & 15: 6, 10.
4. Illustrate these complementary truths (listening to correction / ignoring discipline).

III. Wisdom grows from a reverent attitude before God. (Pr. 15:33)

“The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.”

1. Note the context of *the fear of the Lord* in . . . : Job 28:28, Ps. 111:10, Pr. 9:10
2. Why is *the fear of the Lord* so important in developing wisdom?
3. What is the key to achieving *honor*? (See also Pr. 3:16, 8:18 & 11:16)
4. What has God used to help you recognize the importance of *humility* in your life?