

EVERYDAY LIFE

Thursday, September 25, 2008

"If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you." Proverbs 9:12 NIV

"Living wisely is one of the surest ways to experience the best of life's rewards."

My thoughts today are about **"life's rewards."**

Anyone enjoys getting more than they bargained for. You know; you do the right thing and not only do you feel better about yourself, but additionally some unexpected reward comes your way. **One of life's rewards.** Businesses know the benefit to their bottom line to reward their customers - airlines offer frequent flyer miles, retail stores offer added discounts or advance sales for preferred customers, credit cards give points or offer rebates for dollars spent - all as inducements to continued patronage. They want you to feel rewarded for shopping with them. And any reward feels good.

Life has its rewards as well. Wouldn't you think that the generosity of God's heart would make that so? Those rewards do not come to just anyone, but to the one who prizes wisdom. **The more wisely you live in accord with God's Word, the more you experience those rewards** - more than you bargained for.

Wisdom is not about how much you know; that's knowledge. There are people who know a lot about some things, but whose lives do not reflect practical wisdom even in those areas. See 1 Corinthians 3:19-20 NKJV/NLT. The Bible **differentiates between the world's wisdom and God's.** They are far from the same. The first is a poor and arrogant substitute for the latter. See James 3:13-18 NLT.

The **most foolish thing you could do** is to try to live your life apart from the wisdom of God's word, and without regard to God's rightful place in your life. The Bible says plainly, "*The fear/reverence of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom . . . the fool has said in his heart, there is no God.*" That's where **wisdom begins - a proper relationship with a Savior** and your Heavenly Father.

Wisdom is about turning knowledge into understanding, and understanding becoming wisdom. Some people seem never to make that practical progression of spiritual growth and maturity. **Wisdom is evidenced in how well you live,** how successfully in your everyday life you integrate what you know with what you do. See Proverbs 24:23-24.

Living wisely is one of the surest ways to experience the best of life's rewards. The Bible says that "*wisdom is better than strength . . . better than weapons of war . . . better than being rich . . . can save your life . . . brings success . . . nothing you desire can compare with wisdom . . . is a tree of life.* Ecclesiastes 9:16,18, 7:11-12/ Proverbs 3:13-18 NLT.

Reading those very real and practical rewards, don't you wonder why you and I do not prize Godly wisdom more than it often appears we do? The rewards are many, but true wisdom for everyday life is found only in Christ Jesus (See Colossians 3:2-3 TEV) - and only to those who ask. **"If you need wisdom - if you want to know what God wants you to do - ask Him, and He will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking."** James 1:5-8 NLT. What else is so valuable, yet so freely given and so easily obtained? Wisdom itself is one of life's rewards - from God!

My prayer for you is to desire wisdom and enjoy the wealth of its reward.

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