

INTRODUCTION

- * In our study of the book of Proverbs, we have transitioned into more of a "Topical Approach" in considering the Pearls of Wisdom.
- * "A natural pearl (often called an Oriental pearl) forms when an irritant works its way into a particular species of oyster, mussel, or clam. As a defense mechanism, the mollusk secretes a fluid to coat the irritant. Layer upon layer of this coating is deposited on the irritant until a lustrous pearl is formed." (JThomasJewelers.com) The truth recorded in Proverbs can be like that little irritant. It first rubs against you the wrong way and you may initially want to set up your "defense mechanism" against it. But, eventually, given time the truth will work in you to produce something that is extremely valuable!
- * Jesus likened the Kingdom of Heaven to a Merchant who was searching for costly pearls. When he found one of great value, he sold everything he had in order to purchase it! (cf. Matthew 13:45-46) There are many valuable pearls to be found in the book of Proverbs!
- * We have begun this discovery of the Pearls of Wisdom in Proverbs by using chapter 3 as our springboard. We have considered those truths which have focused upon Life & Health, and Food & Drink. Today, we want to examine the call to embrace mercy and truth.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE D _____ OF THE TERMS****A. The Words**

* KHESED

* EMET

B. The Usage (cf. Genesis 47:29; Joshua 2:12,14; 2 Samuel 2:5-6; 15:19-20; Proverbs 20:28)

II. THE P _____ IN THE ATTRIBUTES OF YHWH**A. Revealed in the Old Testament**

(cf. Gen 24:27, 49; 32:10; Exod 34:5-8; Psalm 25:10-11; 26:2-3; 40:10-11; 57:3,9-10; 108:3-5; 115:1; 138:1-3; 61:6-7; 89; 136)

B. Revealed in the New Testament (cf. Revelation 3:14; 19:11-16; 21:5-7; 22:6)

III. THE A _____ TO BELIEVERS

A. The P _____ of the King (Proverbs 20:28)

B. The A _____ for Sin (Proverbs 16:6; 1 John 2:1-2)

C. The R _____ of Our Contemplations (Proverbs 14:22)

D. The E _____ to Retain Them (Proverbs 3:3-4)

1. THE COMMANDS

2. THE RESULT (cf. Prov 11:17; 21:21; 20:6; Matt 25:14-30)

INTROSPECTION

- * WHEN YOU STAND BEFORE JESUS WHAT WILL YOU HEAR?
- * WHAT IS IT THAT YOU SPEND YOUR TIME THINKING ABOUT?
- * DO YOU DESIRE TO GROW IN CONFORMANCE TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND, THEREFORE, THE WAY YOU ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Based upon Psalm 136, what should be our reaction to the faithful-lovingkindness (khesed) of God? What did the Psalmist do that would be a good practice for us as believers?
- * In what ways can we change the things that we contemplate, and meditate upon?