**Living Wisely – Pr. 28**

**Wise contrasts & Sacred Similarities**

**Focal Truth: Those who fear God trust God**

**Observations**

1. **The wicked & the righteous – 1 - 5**

The paranoia of the wicked

*The wicked flee when no one gives chase – Aramaic*

“When conscience is roused, guilt is the parent of fear”- Charles Bridges

Gen. 3:9 – 10 – *then the Lord God called to man and said to him, where are you? He said, I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid myself*

*The wicked flee though no one gives chase – Aramaic*

Rebellion in a nation produces many leaders

*But with a man who has understanding and knowledge, stability will last – Aramaic*

*A poor man who withholds what is due to the wretched is like a destructive rain that leaves no food – Aramaic*

*Those who forsake instruction praise the wicked, but those who heed instruction fight them – Aramaic*

*Evil men cannot discern judgment, but those who seek the Lord discern all things – Aramaic*

**Steps to seeking the Lord – 5**

*Those who seek the Lord discern all things - Aramaic*

Matt. 6:33 – *Seek first His kingdom and righteousness*

Heb. 11:6 – *without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him*

Ps. 34:10 – *But they who seek the Lord shall not be in wat of any good thing*

**Seek the Lord in prayer**

**Seek the Lord in reading His word**

**Seek the Lord by following Jesus – living like Jesus**

1. **Obedience & disobedience – 6 -10**

*Better is a poor man who lives blamelessly than a rich man whose ways are crooked – Aramaic*

*An intelligent son heeds instruction – Aramaic*

*He who turns a deaf ear to instruction – his prayer is an abomination – Aramaic*

*He who leads the upright into an evil course will fall into his own pit… - Aramaic*

1. **The blessing of fear of God & the hard hearted who do not fear God – 11 -14**

*Happy is the man who is anxious always…*

**How is happiness found constant fear?**

Pr. 22:3 – *the prudent sees the evil and hides himself*

Is. 66:2 - *to this one I will look, to him who is humble & contrite of spirit, who trembles at My word*

Pr. 16:18 - *it is better to be humble in spirit with the lowly….*

“Faith without fear is self - confidence and self – delusion, No assurance of our faith is balanced by an instant and most needful exercise of fear.” - Charles Bridges

Rom. 11:20 – *they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear*

1. **Injustice & blamelessness – 15 – 18**

A prince who lacks understanding is very oppressive – Aramaic

He who spurns ill – gotten gains will live long – Aramaic

He who lives blamelessly will be delivered, but he who is crooked in his ways will fall all at once – Aramaic

1. **Faithfulness & unfaithfulness – 19 -20**

*He who till his land will have food in plenty, but he who pursues vanities will have poverty in plenty – Aramaic*

*A dependable man will receive many blessings – Aramaic*

Pr. 10:16 -  *the wages of the righteous is life – Aramaic*

1. **Partiality, prejudice & dishonoring parents – 21 – 24**
2. **Trusting God or trusting ourself – 25 -26**

*He who trusts in the Lord shall enjoy prosperity – Aramaic*

Pr. 16:20 – *he who gives attention to the word will find good, and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord*

Ps. 84:12 – *blessed is the man who trusts in You!*

Jer. 17:7 -8 – *blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord. For He will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought not cease to yield fruit*

1. **Generosity & wicked leaders – 27 -28**

*He who gives to the poor will not be in want, but he who shuts his eyes will be roundly cursed – Aramaic*

*When the wicked rise up, men go into hiding, but when they perish the righteous increase – Aramaic*