

## God's Wisdom for Our Lives – Week 15

### Living in Reference to God: The Skill of Living In The Future

#### Warm-Up:

1. In what areas is it important to “live in the future”?
2. What are some common areas where we struggle to do so?
3. What are some of the consequences of failing to “live in the future”?
4. What’s the difference between a godly concern for the future and sinful worry?
5. How can worry actually be the result of not seeing the future in reference to God?

**Prov 21:5** “The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty”

6. What is the diligent one doing in Proverbs 21:5?
  - a. What does it lead to?
    - i. Give some examples of how diligent planning leads to blessing:
7. What does it mean to be hasty?
  - a. What does being hasty lead to?
    - i. Give some examples of how being hasty leads to being in need or somehow in want:

**Proverbs 27:1** “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth”

8. Consider Proverbs 27:1... What’s condemned in this verse?
9. What’s the difference between planning for tomorrow and “boasting about tomorrow”?
10. How is planning for tomorrow and considering the future actually commanded in this verse?
  - a. How is planning for the future actually a product of humility?

**Prov 22:3** “The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, but the naïve go on and are punished for it”

11. What does it mean that the prudent “sees” evil?
12. What does the wise/prudent one do when he sees evil or trouble?
13. In contrast what does the simple/naïve one do?
  - a. According to this verse, what does “going on” when we see trouble or evil lead to?
    - i. Give some examples of the consequences that follow when we go on like that:
14. How can having a biblically informed imagination help you to stay on the path of life?

**Read 1 John 3:2-3**

15. How does John describe our present state in verse 2?
16. How does John describe our future state in verse 2?
17. What are the implications for the believer in verse 3?
18. How should “living in the future” impact and motivate our sanctification as Christians?

**Reflection:**

With humility in hand, the Proverbs teach us to imagine the future. The following questions help us do this...

19. Are you exercising the humility of planning for the future? Or do you tend to live only day-to-day?
20. Are you laboring to build up the church and in future generations of disciples and disciple-makers? Do you believe that God intends for His church to grow and impact the world in the future?
21. What are you doing that you want to remain private? Forecast into the future and imagine your life when the private becomes public, because it will someday become public.
22. What have you learned from the funerals of the wise and funerals of the foolish? Similarly, what have you learned from those who are older than yourself?
23. Have you recently ignored the advice of two godly people who have given you the same advice?
24. How is your future tied to Jesus Christ? Do you expect that He will continue the sanctifying work in you that He started?