



Wisdom's Radiance On Display



PROVERBS 3:13-26 - MESSAGE

Cling to God's valuable wisdom
as the only way to genuine
happiness

Proverbs 3: Find favor with God and men by attaining wisdom

1-12

- An unreserved relationship with Yahweh is the basis for favor with God and men

13-26

- A life that finds favor with God

27-35

- A life that finds favor with men

God's wisdom: the only way to happiness

- I. Wisdom's value is displayed in its rewards (13-18)
- II. Wisdom's value is displayed in its usefulness to the Creator (19-20)
- III. Wisdom's value is displayed in its benefits to your spiritual life (21-26)

Proverbs 3:13, 18 “bookends”

- **Blessed** – (*esher*) – Happy
- Different word from that for bestowing a blessing (*barak*)
- Happiness in the full, spiritual sense (not the shallow, worldly sense that is dependent on circumstances)
- God intended for us to be happy and this can be the believer’s normal state

Proverbs 3:13-18

“Wisdom makes you a richer man than money ever will”

(DEREK KIDNER, *PROVERBS*, P. 65)

Proverbs 3:17

- **Pleasant** – Kind, beneficial, like honey is (Prov 16:24)
- **Peace** – (*shalom*) contentment and joy, serenity, tranquility

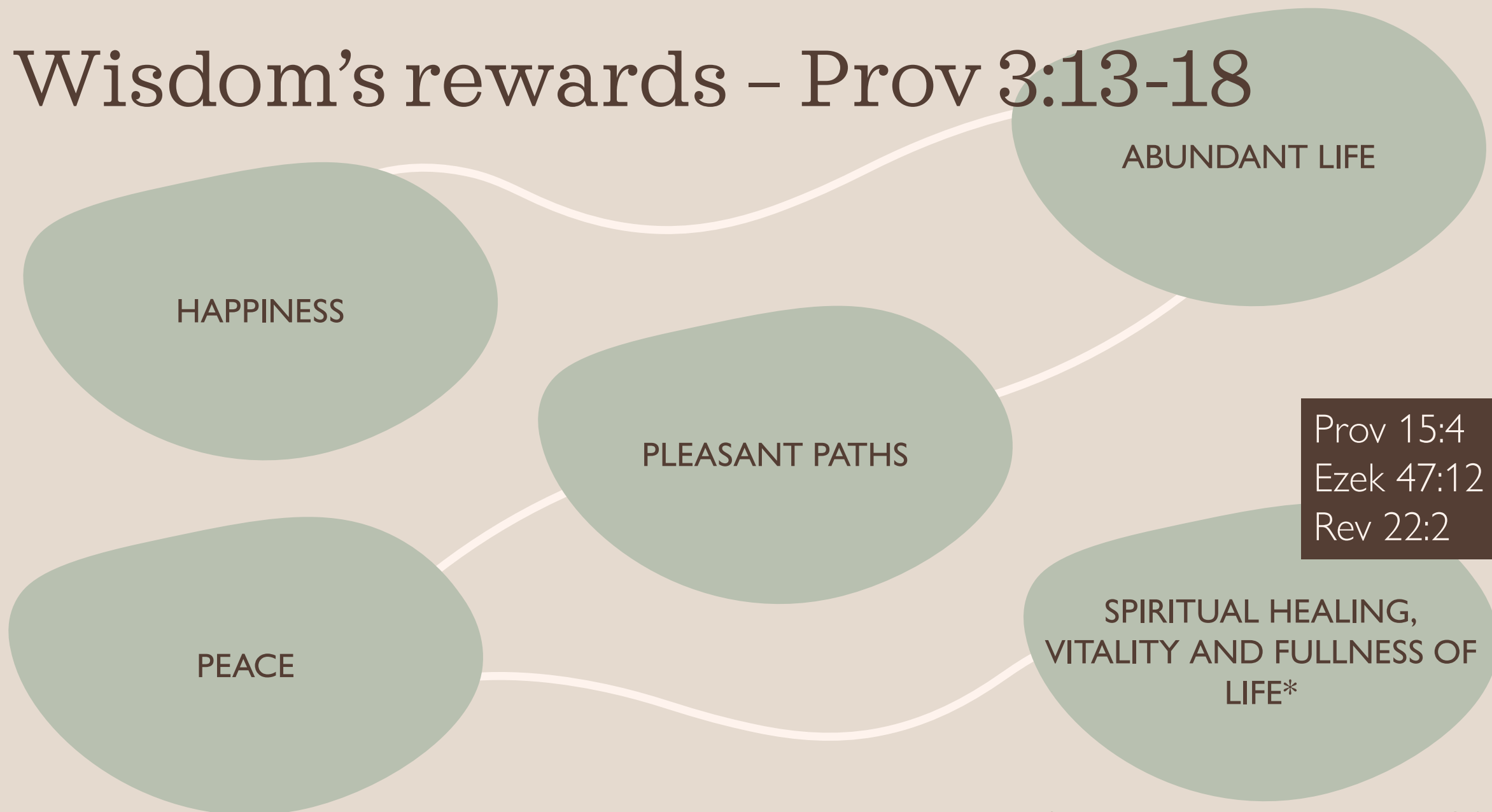
Tree of life – Prov 3:18

The first *adam* (Prov 3:13, “the man”) went to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, wanting any wisdom but God’s

Adam wanted “to formulate his own laws of right and wrong, a right that belongs exclusively to God” (Bruce Waltke, *Proverbs*, 1:260)



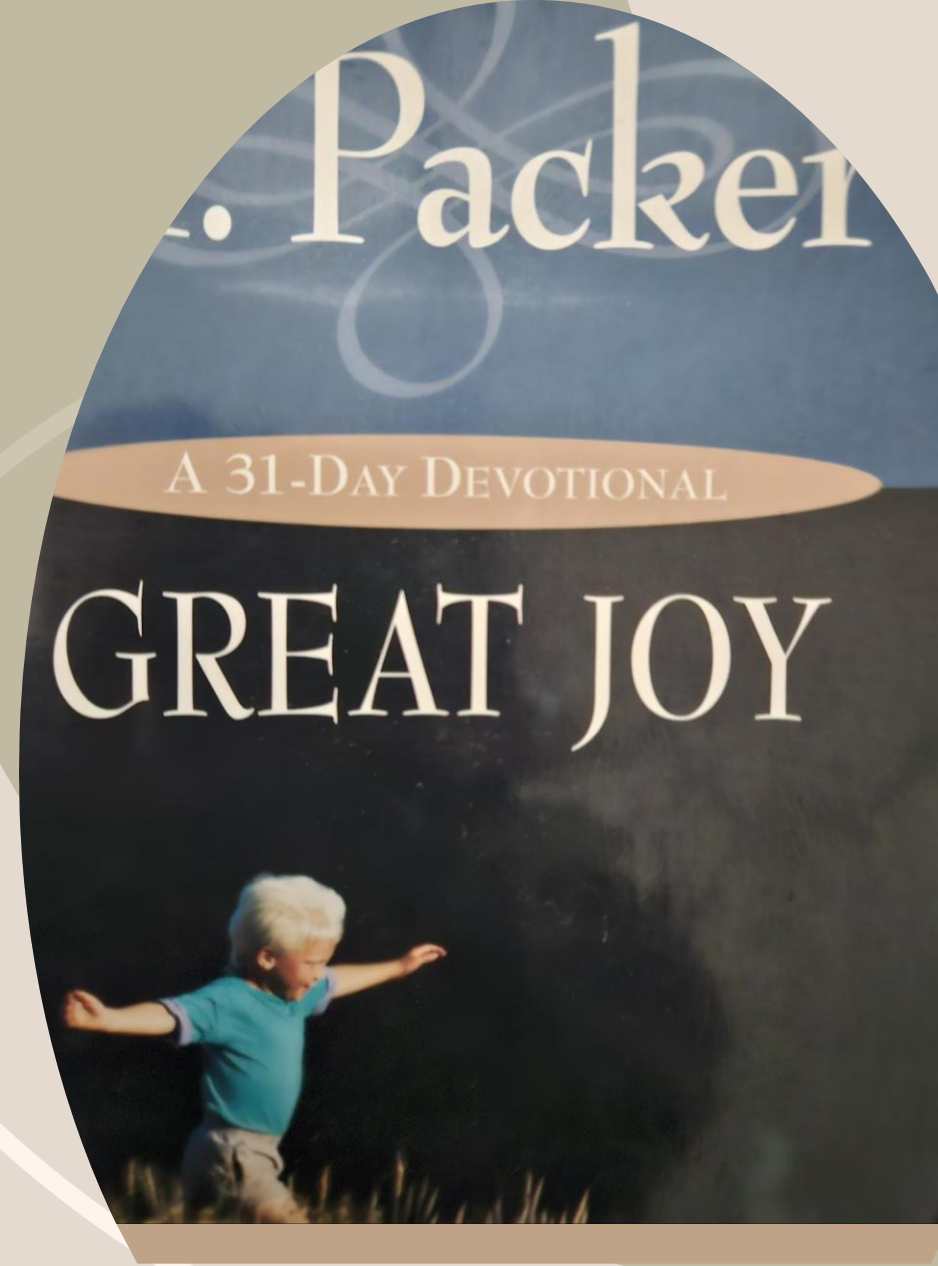
Wisdom's rewards – Prov 3:13-18



*Allen Ross, *Expositor's*, 5:919

Proverbs 3:13-18

Biblical joy is “a happiness of the heart...ranging from the extreme aching of ecstasy to the quiet thrill of contentment”



(J. I. PACKER, *GREAT JOY*, P. 117)

Proverbs 3:13-18

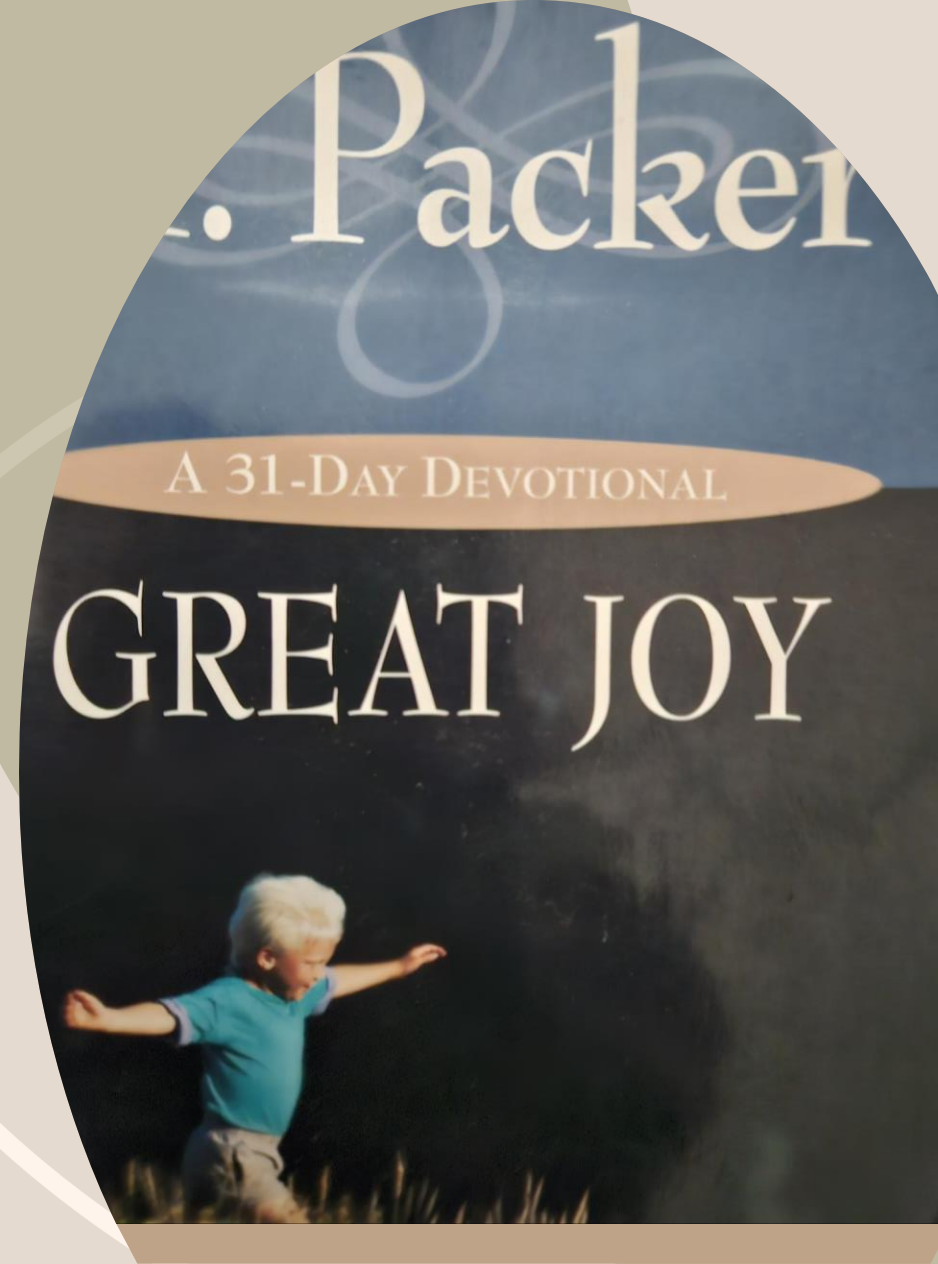
“To fear God is to enter that blessed divine life. You naturally expect that the fear of God would make you morose and stuffy, but quite the opposite. Unlike our sinful fears, which make us twitchy and gloomy, the fear of God has a profoundly uplifting effect: it makes us happy. How can it not when it brings us to know this God?”



(MICHAEL REEVES, *REJOICE AND TREMBLE*, P. 138)

Proverbs 3:13-18 – How to cultivate happiness

Let your “thoughts be drawn up to God, magnet as he is to the regenerate mind, and to meditate—that is, talk to [yourself] and to God, silently or aloud, concerning God’s nature, works, and ways, in a manner that prompts praise and adoration and brings endless delight to the heart”



(J. I. PACKER, *GREAT JOY*, P. 130)

5 benefits of living by wisdom – Prov 3:21-26

Abundant life for your soul (v. 22)



Wisdom will protect you in difficult situations (v. 23)



Really good sleep! (v. 24, Ps 4:8; 91:5; Prov 6:22; 19:23)



Life without being afraid (v. 25)



Confidence that comes from God's presence (v. 26)