

Faith for the Future

Text: Proverbs 23:17–18

Context - Proverbs is Solomon's collection of wisdom sayings for the people of God. Prov. 22:17-24:32 is a collection of 30 sayings from "the wise."

As you step into 2023...

1. _____ those without Christ (vs. 17a)

- A. The lifestyle of wickedness may seem appealing until seen in the light of God's majesty and the future (24:19–20; Pss. 37; 49; 73). Joel Beeke
- B. How easy it is to envy those who get ahead, unhampered by responsibility to God's laws. For a time they do seem to prosper without paying any attention to what God wants, but they have no future. (Life Application Bible)

2. _____ forward in the fear of the Lord (17b)

- A. "But what is this fear of the Lord? It is that affectionate reverence; by which the child of God bends himself humbly and carefully to his Father's law. His wrath is so bitter, and his love so sweet; that hence springs an earnest desire to please him, and—because of the danger of coming short from his own weakness and temptations—a holy watchfulness and fear, "that he might not sin against him". This enters into every exercise of the mind, every object of life." Charles Spurgeon.
- B. The Fear of the Lord is, "That indefinable mixture of reverence, fear, pleasure, joy and awe which fills our hearts when we realize who God is and what He has done for us." Sinclair Ferguson

3. _____ for God's unfolding plans (vs. 18)

- A. That in the future God will reverse the present situation by punishing the wicked with the loss of everything and rewarding those who fear the Lord with eternal life. will not be cut off. This reinforces that this hope will be realized. D.A. Carson.
- B. The wise have a future, and their hope will not be cut off. The sage offers a helpful strategy for those who are tempted to envy sinners when they see them prospering. Trust the Lord as well as his promise of a future reward. Having an eternal perspective aids in present holiness. David Gunderson.