

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Yield to Wisdom

Speaker:

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Date:

January 18th, 2026

Scriptures:

Proverbs 13:1–25

Theme: Listen to the Lord or lose your reward.

Introduction: One of the surest signs of growth in life is proper change. Proverbs is a God-given guide for growing in wisdom. No one is born wise; it is an acquired quality. The sinful nature of fallen man stakes everything on his autonomy, and it rejects wisdom by rejecting Jesus, who is Wisdom himself. The fruits of our lives reveal our character and whether wisdom abides in us or not.

There are three pairs of alternatives present in Proverbs 13:

1. Love truth and hate falsehood.

- Verse 1 sets the tone for the chapter: "A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke."
- Every Christian is a son of God, and we are all called to be wise sons who listen to our Father's instruction.
- The call to listen to the Father's instruction is a call to love truth and hate falsehood.
- Verse 5 teaches that hatred is an important category for wisdom.
- Verse 13 explains that those who despise God's Word will be destroyed.

2. Desire righteous gain and despise easy prosperity.

- In his great mercy and kindness, God always links obedience to reward.
- There is a compounding effect to righteousness and to evil (v. 22).
- Verse 11 speaks against wealth gained hastily, and upholds the link between work and reward.
- Disaster pursues the sinner, but the righteous are rewarded (v. 21).

3. Treasure wisdom and reject arrogant independence.

- Verse 10 captures the general theme that the prideful man will not abide being told what to do.
- There is another, more subtle kind of insolent person: the one who seems to take advice but never does.
- In verse 24, treasuring wisdom entails faithful parental discipline.
- Verse 16 upholds prudence as a great virtue to be sought after.

Questions:

1. What would it look like for you to personally:
 - a. Love truth and hate falsehood?
 - b. Desire righteous gain and despise easy prosperity?
 - c. Treasure wisdom and reject arrogant independence?