

Hopewell ARP Midweek Sermon
Wednesday, October 2, 2024

Proverbs 3:19–35

¹⁹ The Lord by wisdom founded the earth;
By understanding He established the heavens;
²⁰ By His knowledge the depths were broken up,
And clouds drop down the dew.
²¹ My son, let them not depart from your eyes—
Keep sound wisdom and discretion;
²² So they will be life to your soul
And grace to your neck.
²³ Then you will walk safely in your way,
And your foot will not stumble.
²⁴ When you lie down, you will not be afraid;
Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet.
²⁵ Do not be afraid of sudden terror,
Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes;
²⁶ For the Lord will be your confidence,
And will keep your foot from being caught.
²⁷ Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,
When it is in the power of your hand to do so.
²⁸ Do not say to your neighbor,
“Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it,”
When you have it with you.
²⁹ Do not devise evil against your neighbor,
For he dwells by you for safety’s sake.
³⁰ Do not strive with a man without cause,
If he has done you no harm.
³¹ Do not envy the oppressor,
And choose none of his ways;
³² For the perverse person is an abomination to the Lord,
But His secret counsel is with the upright.
³³ The curse of the Lord is on the house of the wicked,
But He blesses the home of the just.
³⁴ Surely He scorns the scornful,
But gives grace to the humble.
³⁵ The wise shall inherit glory,
But shame shall be the legacy of fools.

The Secret to Safety

Main idea: The secret to safety is to live in the fear and fellowship of the Lord,
Who judges all.

Introduction: Do you feel safe?

1. **The One in Whom all safety is** (v19–20).
 1. He is YHWH, the uncreated Creator
 2. Everything that is created declares Him and His wisdom
2. **The way by which He has given to us to be safe** (v21–22)
 1. When was the last time you looked at a Bible, heard teaching/preaching, or mediated upon the Word (v21a)?
 2. What is the chief/first/primary way that you make choices/decisions (v21b)?
 3. What does this tell you about your nature (dead or alive? v22a)?
 4. What does this tell you about your identity (v22b)?
3. **The greatness of this biblical safety** (v23–26)
 1. Safe all day (v23, cf. Ps 121:6a, 8).
 2. Safe all night (v24, cf. Ps 121:6b).
 3. Safe from all the wicked (v25, cf. Ps 121:7a).
 4. Safe in the Lord Himself (v26, cf. Ps 121:7b)—the Lord Who works all things according to the counsel of His will (cf. Eph 1:11; Rom 8:28, 32)!
4. **The life that safe people live**
 1. The exercise of their righteousness (v27–30)
 1. Taking the ability to do good as an assignment from God (v27).
 2. Taking the moment of opportunity as an assignment to do good (v28).
 3. Taking God's putting people near us as an assignment to do them good (v29).
 2. The example they reject (v31)
 3. The examination they remember (v32–35)

Conclusion: Everything happens in the providence of God. Would you be safe? Find your safety in Him. Live as one who belongs to Him, and you may live in the confidence that you are blessed by Him.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Proverbs 3 verses 19 through 35. These are God's words. Yahweh by wisdom found in the By understanding he established the heavens. By his knowledge, the depths were broken up and clouds, drop down the Dew.

My son. Let them not depart from your eyes. Keep sound. Wisdom and discretion. So they will be life to your soul and Grace to your neck. And you will walk safely in your way and your foot

will not stumble. When you lie down, you will not be afraid. Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet.

Do not be afraid of sudden Terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes. For y'all. I will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught. Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do.

So. Do not say to your neighbor go and come back and tomorrow, I will give it when you have it with you. Do not devise evil against your neighbor. For he, dwells by you for safety's sake. Do not strive with a man without cause If he has done you, no harm.

Do not envy the oppressor and choose none of his ways. For the perverse person is an Abomination to Yahweh. But his secret counsel as with the upright, The curse of Yahweh is upon the house of the wicked. But he blesses, the home of the just Surely he scorns the scornful.

What gives Grace. To the humble. The wise shall inherit glory. But shame. Shelby, the legacy of force. So far the reading of gods inspired and And Aaron twerked. Do you feel safe? It's important to feel safe. Of course, that's not the main question that we ought to start with the main question.

We ought to start with is are you safe? Because there are those who feel safe and are not safe at all. Namely in this passage all those who belong to the category of the oppressor or the wicked. Those who are the scornful, those who are the fools. However, safe they may feel themselves to be.

They're not actually safe. Are they Because all of their wickedness and Folly and scorning, all of their oppressing is done before the face of God. God, who made the heavens and the Earth and God who has made men in His image. And so they despise the God who made all things and they and they abused man who has made in God's image and they do all of this before God's face.

While God watches the whole time and and observes in his Justice and his Holiness, and he will surely respond and adjust, and righteous. Manner, with his, with his judgment, with his Fury. And so it is important that we be saved. And of course, there is no safety except for in God, himself in Christ himself.

If the, if the greatest threat to our safety is God. Then who can make you safe from him. Can you make yourself safe from God? Is there any creature or number of creatures that can make you safe for God any amount of money? That could make you safe from God, any Army.

Any status any position that you might have. None of these things. And so we may feel unsafe in our life from various things, forgetting that God is truly the great danger and that for those who are his, of course, he is. The great safety. Is we're about to come here from Proverbs 3, verse 19, through 35.

But if we do not have God himself as our safety from God, if we do not have him himself in Christ by his word, this of course is what Proverbs has been urging us to do that. We would that we would get wisdom that we would get it at all costs and that this wisdom would be to have God himself by way of his word.

And when we come to his word and discover how it is that we are to have God himself. How can a man who is a sinner against God? How can he have God to be for him? The answer, of course, is in his son. Our Lord, Jesus Christ in faith, in the promised seed, the one who had

crushed the Serpent's head, the seed of the woman, the Seed of Abraham in whom all the nations, Of the Earth would be blessed and so it is God himself, who must be our safety.

And this is what we have been seeing that when you seek wisdom, when you find wisdom, what you find ultimately is the knowing of God, not just knowledge about him but knowing him fellowship with him fellowship with the Living, God our creator. Has and himself from all eternity. That wonderful blessedness, that he now gives to Those whom he redeems from sin, in his son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

And so, safety is It was a great theme of this second half or so of the of Proverbs chapter 3. We have Verse 23, you will walk safely in your way. You won't be afraid, Etc. Verse 26, Yahweh will be your confidence and then we see precisely why as the chapter closes out, and we have all of these contrasts, these four contrasts between the perfect insecurity.

The complete lack of safety for the wicked, but the perfect safety, the complete security of the righteous who have the Lord. And so the passage begins with the one in whom all this safety is Yahweh by wisdom, founded the Earth by understanding, he established the heavens. Who made the heavens and the Earth.

They didn't make themselves. They didn't come from nothing that of course is an impossibility. It is Yahweh. The one who is in himself. The one who has no beginning and no end who is not dependent upon any creature indeed? All Creatures are dependent upon him, who is the creator?

He is the uncreated Creator. And so by his wisdom, by his understanding, he established the heavens verse 20, and taking us, Last day of creation by his knowledge. The depths were broken up and clouds dropped down the Dew. Everything that is created declares to us the Creator. This is wonderful.

This means that if you are a Believer and if you, if you are in fellowship with God, he is yours. And you are his in the Lord, Jesus Christ. Then when a hurricane comes, it is the Lord, who is your Redeemer? The one who belongs to you, that brings the hurricane and, you know, that he does you good by it even if he should take you from this world, he perfectly, then he then perfects your Holiness and he takes you to be with himself.

However, he uses it to sanctify, you, whether he uses it to give you, Perseverance maybe to bring to your attention some way in which you've been sinning or backsliding and he shocks you and, and calls you to repentance by. This word which helps you understand his, his Providence Or he gives you opportunity to serve your neighbor, gives the opportunity to give him praise as you are spared in the midst.

And And you give him. Thanks. And now you are the more freed to lay your yourself down for your brothers and then even for your neighbor whatever it is. That's just one example, whatever it is. There is nothing in all of history. There is no there's nothing that any man or Spirit or Occurrence in nature can do except that the Lord is ruling and overruling in it.

He is the one in whom is all your safety. And so it's good for you to spend time. Observing the greatness of God's power. It's good for you to observe the stars in the sky to Look out on the beautiful Hills, where we live to observe, the passing of the seasons to Learn as much as you can in your science classes children about all the different things that God has built into his creation because it's all his wisdom and his power.

And you can say my God is doing that. There's a man that some say, is perhaps the most intelligent person that, um, that has well, Uh, the most intelligent. American, although it's a little

anachronistic he passed away before we won. Our independence has been a man named Jonathan Edwards, but before he was converted he used to be terrified of thunderstorms.

And then after he was saved, thunderstorms gave him great comfort. Now, what could take something that was once terrified, you? And then turn it into something that gave you great comfort? Well, because it is Yahweh by wisdom who founded the Earth and by understanding who established the heavens by his knowledge.

The depths were broken up and clouds, dropped down the dew and he went from having the Lord, as an enemy, which made him the least safe he could possibly be The Lord as his Redeemer, his own Covenant, God who rules and overrules everything for his good. And so the greater the display of his redeemer's power, the greater he felt his comfort to be So the the passage begins in verses 19 and 20 with the one in whom all the Believers.

Safety is all, the wise men's safety is and then goes on. In verses 21 to 22. To point out to us the way or the instrument, by which he has given us to be safe. That is by laying hold of his own wisdom. Now, God, created everything in his wisdom and he created.

Remember he made the first man out of the dirt and he formed his body out of the dirt and even when his body was fully formed, then the Lord breathed into his nostrils, the breath of life, and the man became a living being. But God, made us in His image, not just by giving us Life by creating man's Soul out of nothing for For every Individual man for which the scripture calls him, the father of our Spirits.

But he has made us in His image in the ability to learn and know, not just about his creation but to learn and know him himself. And for that he's especially given us his word that we would incline our ear to it and apply our heart to it, as we've been thinking about flowing out of the beginning.

Of chapter 2 where we heard that language. And so, he says my son, let them not depart from your eyes, let not the wisdom and understanding and knowledge of God depart from your eyes. Now, this is A great incentive to learn how to read. I hope that those of you who have not yet learned to read, are working hard on learning to read and I hope that those of you who know how to read are, always improving your ability to read and especially to read the Bible.

When he says, let them not depart from your eyes. Yes. He's saying that we can observe the glory of God and something of his goodness and his wisdom, and his power and the creation. But he is especially talking about his word. This is the language that he has been using with, with respect to his word, his instruction throughout the Proverbs And so he says my son, let them not depart from your eyes.

Now, there's also, the hearing of God's word isn't there and especially the sitting under of his word When we come and we hear his word address us and address us, especially from Zion from Jerusalem as Some of you I trust have seen in Amos today or maybe we'll see in Amos when you go home and we're beginning that in the Lord Roars from Zion.

And, Uh, Zion, of course being the place where the temple was Zion being the, the city of David where the sacrifices continued. And even if you were a northern kingdom person, you needed to hear the word of God, come from the place where he had provided atonement, where he was bringing Sinners near to himself through the blood, not of bulls, and goats.

But through faith in Jesus Christ, who would shed his blood once, for all. And so, when our text says my son, let them, let not the wisdom and understanding and knowledge of God. Depart

from your eyes saying, read your Bible. Pay attention to your Bible, meditate upon upon his word and especially come and hear his word.

Preached. When you are able, let them not depart from your eyes. Last time you looked at a Bible and when was the last time? Did you hear teaching or preaching or meditate upon the word? Well I actually don't wonder about that middle one. I know you're hearing preaching right now but you know, it's easy.

To let time pass and you go a day without reading your Bible. And then, And then, Or you miss a few. Prayer meetings or Miss even public worship. And then pretty soon. You get into the habit of that and you're doing something else at those times. Or maybe you used to meditate upon his word with some regularity and even uh in the occasional sort of meditation where you got into the habit of reflecting upon things that happened, or things that you hear or things that you see, according to the word.

But then something else started occupying your thoughts. Errors of this world, maybe the pleasures of this world. Many are obsessed in this world with what they want to enjoy. Others are obsessed with this world with anxiety over what they may suffer and how does Jesus describe those things as thorns that come and choke the word, which ought to have been growing and in Us by way of meditation.

But here, the scripture comes to us this evening and says my son, let them not depart from your eyes. Don't let. Don't let the wisdom and understanding and knowledge of God by which he has created all things by which he is upholding, all things by the word of his power.

Don't let them slip away from you. Don't let them depart from you. Keep sound, wisdom, and discretion keeps and wisdom and discretion. So not just Come to the word frequently, and And don't let The the word slip from your mind but keep sound wisdom and discretion is talking about the pudding of the word into action.

And so let's ask another question of ourselves. What is the chief way? The first way, the primary way you make a choice or you make a decision. You have a choice between two or three or many things. Is the first question that you ask, what does God's word have to say about this?

There may be other factors. God's word will teach you, even what are the factors to consider in every choice and every decision you make, but you want to keep Wisdom and understanding and knowledge as Sound, wisdom and discretion. You want to keep them as that, by which You make your decisions in life, that which shapes the choices that you make in life.

And so, when we ask ourselves these questions, Am I not letting the word depart from my eyes? Am I Am I employing the word to shape my choices and my decisions, then we will be hearing something about whether we are actually spiritually alive. We will be hearing something about whether we actually belong to the Lord by faith.

And this is what we see in verse 22 that if we don't let The wisdom knowledge understanding of God depart from our eyes, but rather keep send wisdom. And discretion, they will be life to our soul. And grace to our neck. There'll be life to our soul and Grace to our neck, they will they will display to us.

That we are actually alive in Jesus Christ that the spirit is actually applying Christ to us and Grace to our neck, identifying Mark. You want to find out who the Believers are? Not like either. Yeah, a street gang might be or ancient nobility, both of which may perhaps. I don't know

anything about street gangs, but both of which may perhaps by a specific Of jewelry that each one of them wears and you could identify by the Insignia that is on the necklace.

Of one to whom he belongs. Well, you don't identify Believers by a cross dangling from their neck. No, you identify them by his word employed in their life. That's the grace on the neck of a Believer and it identifies. Not just Believers to others but it helps identify us to ourselves even as we were considering yesterday if you Section of the psalm.

Uh in Psalm 119 verses 153 to 160 and you saw those three revive me revive me, revive me. And the revive mes were all according to your talking to God reasoning from who God is and what God is like, but then the evidence that he belonged to God was things.

Like I don't forget your statutes. I keep your testimonies Well which is it is it according to what the psalmist was doing keeping God's word or is it according to God's justice and God's faithfulness and God's love Well, the answer is both because it's from God's love that the psalmist's obedience came.

Like we read in Romans 8, verse 28, that all things work together for good. For those who love God. Why is it, is it something they earn by how well they love God. But their loving God, identifies them. It's like it. A Grace to their neck. It identifies them as, as those who have been called, according to God's purpose, And so, as as you seek to stay in the word and to meditate upon his word and have your thoughts shaped and your choices determined, especially by his word.

It's two will be not just life to your soul but Grace to your neck. Spoken from God that he with which he adorns you. So that you may even see his handiwork on yourself not in perfection in this life. But any presence of any goodness at all, must be from him and it will be as Grace to your neck.

The Lord, of course uses this sort of language often on a Wednesday night. We will be thinking from first Timothy 2 about the men in every place. In prayer lifting up. Holy hands, without wrath or doubting. And you remember in that context, the women likewise are to be adorned.

With good works and it is a Grace to their neck to where the fruit of Christ's word work in their lives. That is the beauty of the Christian woman. And here, the keeping of sound wisdom and discretion is that which Identifies the believer. Well. That brings us through the one in whom all safety is and the way by which he has given us to be safe and to know ourselves to be safe, but then we see the greatness.

Of this biblical safety. If we are these ones who have the fellowship have fellowship with the Lord, have the life of the Lord, in our soul are identified as his and works of his grace, by what we do with the Bible in our day-to-day life. If we are those safe ones, then here is the greatness of their safety will be safe all day.

We'll be safe all night. We'll be safe from the wicked. We'll be safe in the Lord himself and there's a parallel in the flow of thought. Here, in verse 23, verse 24, verse 25, verse 26, to one of our family's favorite bedtime songs And it's been, it's been one of our favorite bedtime songs since Our eldest was A newborn.

And that's because of, The focus on our safety at night. He who keeps you will not Slumber. Behold he who keeps Israel shall? Neither slumber nor sleep Yahweh as your keeper. Yahweh is your shade at your right hand. And so the a similar thing to what verse 19 and 20 was doing pointing out to us the greatness of this God who has taken to be his uh taken us to be his, the greatness of this God who has saved you for himself.

And then we read. Yahweh is your keeper. Sorry that's verse five. The son shall not strike you by day nor the Moon by night and that's parallel to verse 24. Or sorry verse 23 and verse 24 verse 23 the son will not strike you by day and in Psalm 121 but now here then you will walk safely in your way and your foot will not stumble.

And of course the The Walking time is the daytime in verse 23. But what about at night verse 24? When you lie down, you will not be afraid. Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet. I wonder if there are any children in here who are afraid of the dark.

Now, there's nothing wrong with having a light on for when you need to move around so you don't stumble into things and bump into things. But why are we afraid of the When the light is on, are we safe? Because we can see what's there or are we safe?

Because God can see what's there. And he is the one who's taking care of us. Now, when we turn the light off, we can't see what's there anymore. But you know what, we're gonna have to sleep eventually and you can't see outside of your your head while you're sleeping.

God can see God takes care of us and we can lie down and not be afraid. Yes, we can lie down and our sleep will be sweet. It's one of our favorite bedtime prayers. It's right out of the Bible Lord, make our sleep tonight to be sweet. Well, if the Lord is your safety, how great is this your safety?

You're safe all day. Wherever you go, you're you're safe all night. And then you're safe from all the wicked. Verse 25. Do not be afraid of sudden Terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes. This too is in the flow of thought and Psalm 121, it goes from the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the Moon by night to Yahweh, shall preserve you from all evil.

Not just from some evil from all of it. So, if If all of the consequences of the fall in this world were to combine themselves into one Army. And then, if all of the hosts of Satan and all the wicked spirits that fell after him and with him and were to combine in a second Army and all of the evil people that there have ever been were to combine themselves into a third Army.

And somehow all of these armies could attack you all together at once. The smallest. Believing child. Is safe enough to withstand all of that attack. Because the Lord. Is your safety? He will preserve you from. All evil. Says Psalm 121. And, He tells us do not be afraid of sudden Terror.

Nor of trouble. From the wicked. When it comes, we're safe all day, safe all night safe from all the wicked because we are safe. Yes. In the Lord himself and that, of course, Uh to finish out Psalm 121. He shall preserve your soul. Yahweh shall preserve your going out and you're coming in from this time forth and even forevermore and here again repeating his name.

Yahweh verse 26 for Yahweh will be your confidence. And will keep your foot from being caught. I was very pleased. Recently to have a conversation with. Um, Relative of mine. Is not. Reform Presbyterian is from the other side of the family. So he's in a Coptic Orthodox and background and you never know what you're going to get.

It just depends a lot on how much The Lord has blessed his word to them over against Uh, the the state of Of their. And he was talking to me about something that could have been disturbing, but he started out. I am relaxed and I hope you are relaxed.

God controls everything he works. All things according to the counsel of his will and That's a good indication of someone. Read or heard Ephesians 1 enough times. And praise God. He

works all things. According to the Council of Israel, even if there are greatly evil people with greatly evil, intentions like Joseph's brothers.

Were there is an infinitely, greater God with infinitely. Good intentions. And he works everything. He works everything. He's not doesn't just react to everything doesn't just overcome everything he works. All things according to the council of his will we are safe in the Lord himself. Well how great then is our safety and that reminds us to live like safe people to live like safe people, not.

In the first place. Uh not in the uh not to imitate the wicked but to live as those who belong to God, who know him to be our creator who know ourselves to be made in His Image who know ourselves to be redeemed by Son. At this time who he had promised and the savior that he had promised now, All the more for us, his son, who came into the world and accomplished our Redemption.

Therefore we want to live like those who belong to him, don't you see? How terrible Disobediences. And being lacks about obeying God's Commandments are for the believer. When you disobey God, when you get into the habit of breaking his Commandments and it doesn't bother your conscience and you don't immediately come and hate your sin, and, and refresh your conscience, wash it again in the blood of the Lord, Jesus, enjoy your forgiveness from him.

If you get into the habit of Of tolerating your sin, you cut off from yourself. That Grace that is on your neck. Those tokens those evidences by which the Lord assures you that you belong to him. And so right in the middle of this passage on safety, he gives us Uh,

I only listed. Uh, three here but he gives us four Four places in our lives, where living by God's wisdom, living by the knowledge of God as the Creator and ourselves in His image and sin as the great evil, and the great danger. Four ways that will show up in our lives first in verse 27, where we take the ability to do good, as an assignment from God, do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand, to do so.

So you have it in the power of your hand. To do them. Good. And there are a couple of ways then that you can find out that they are ones to whom it is due from you. You are not God. You are not able to do good to everyone in all of the world all the time.

Sometimes. Um, We? People talk as if. As if having safety or security, or means is somehow evil because there's someone somewhere, who doesn't While they have not been assigned to us. But if God has given us means and we need to pay attention. Because there are those who are our neighbors and who have needs.

And so we should take the moment of opportunity as an assignment to do good verse 28, do not say to your neighbor go and come back and tomorrow. I will give it when you have it with you. You see sometimes God gives your neighbor. A need gives your brother or sister, especially in the church in need in Galatians 6 10, let us do good to all and especially to the household of faith and he gives you to Discover it or learn about it and you take the fact that they are your neighbor or your brother and sister in your church, or in your sister church.

Or The church of which maybe your deacons have knowledge and they have let you know and you have some ability, that's an assignment from God. Don't ignore that. The one who works all things to the according to the Council of his will, the one who's keeping you safe in everything that he does working all things together for your good.

One of the ways that we live according to his wisdom, is by taking what we know about him. What we know about people being made in His Image, what we know about his church being in Covenant with him and joined to him and redeemed. By the blood of Christ.

And we combine all those things to interpret. The events of Our Lives. And so we take the moment of our opportunity as an assignment. To do good. This is so different, isn't it? Children from going around your house and seeing something on the floor that no one picked up and thinking.

Well, That wasn't mine. Or seeing dishes that need to be done or laundry that needs to be folded and thinking well, So, and so doesn't Enough of their work or mom didn't tell me to do that. No. You see an opportunity to do good you say aha an assignment from God.

God who made me God? Who saved me? God who has put a need right here on the couch in my own living room and I can do it because God has given me to do it. So you live in fellowship with him recognizing and interpreting your life. According to who God is and whom he has made you to be and others being made in His Image and especially Believers being redeemed by Christ and United to him.

And of course, that's a wonderful example because Are the ones who are in our own house and we should take proximity to others. Nearness to others in God's Providence. Also, as having Um placing us under Divine obligation. Do not devise evil against your neighbor for he, dwells by you for safety's sake.

Societies are God's idea. Uh, God does not intend for everyone. To be a monk and go live in a cave or the 21st century Middle Tennessee. Equivalent Live off the grid, make a self-sustaining Homestead cut yourself off from society and just enjoy your tiny little commune Um, not that there's anything wrong with homesteading or living off the grid.

But God designed us to have neighbors. For Mutual help and safety as it says here. And Those whom the Lord has placed in proximity to you. That too is an assignment. To do good and In the last place, of course, recognizing Uh, recognizing that every man is made in the image of God and therefore only for those reasons where we have an obligation, An obligation to strive with a man.

Whether it's Prevent him from sinning against us or a neighbor. Or something like that. He says, do not strive with a man without cause If he has done you, no harm. And so, We must respect the image of God in others note. However, That this also means respecting the image of God in yourself.

Self-Defense is preserved here in verse 30. And so, this is the way that safe people live. Those who are safe with God, live righteously. They cannot live as if they belong to themselves, taking advantage of others or ignoring the needs of others, indulging themselves for the sake of themselves.

And say, well, I'm safe because I belong to God. Well, do you? Is belonging to God. Just something that a man says in his head or feels in his head or is it a reality that makes a difference in his life? His Union with Christ? Just a collection of doctrines that we agree with and uh and it then it doesn't make any difference.

Doesn't make any other change in the person's life? Of course, not. When we ask it that way, we can hear just how nonsensical that is. So, Uh, safe people, live exercising righteousness. But there's not just the exercise of the righteousness, there's the example that they reject, they

do not envy the oppressor, Now, the oppressor may be able to get himself lots of things in this world.

Like that wealthy man, that asaph was envying at the beginning of Psalm 73, But remember, remember what the great danger is remember from whom alone comes real safety. Remember the greatness of the safety that those who have the Lord have in the Lord. And from the Lord, And remember.

That the Lord makes a difference in our lives and then reject the example. Do not Envy the oppressor, it doesn't matter what he has. What possessions he has or power or influence? He has Don't envy him. Don't choose any of his ways, why? Because there's not just the exercise of the righteousness of those who are safe and not just the example that those who are safe.

Reject, there is the examination or the Judgment. That they must remember and that we have in these In these four comparisons, we don't really have. Time to consider them in detail, but listen to each one of these. And remember that the Lord is always Observing men and responding to them.

The perverse person is an Abomination to Yahweh. So, he hates But his secret counsel that is the Lord's secret counsel is with the upright. So they are his friends. Isn't that a wonderful way to think about the wisdom and knowledge and discretion that we get in the word of God, his secret counsel Doesn't that just make you want to steal away for your for private worship?

Secret worship right now to take secret counsel with God. And yet, every believer can can come to God in his word. And have that intimate fellowship and take secret counsel with him, the curse of Yahweh is on the house of the wicked. But He blesses, the home of the just Surely he scorns the scornful.

But gives Grace to the humble. The wise shall inherit Glory. But shame. Shall be the legacy of force. Everything happens in the Providence of God. Everything you do. You do before the Lord and in relationship to him. Therefore, if you would be safe, first and foremost, find your safety in him.

And as one who belongs to him live, like one who belongs to him, And knowing that you have him knowing that he's the one who gave you to live that way. You may then live in the confidence. That you are blessed by him, that you have his secret counsel with you that he gives you Grace.

And that you shall inherit glory. Amen.