



The May 26, 2020 edition of TruNorth Daily Devotional with Dr Jim Brown:

## **“Practical Wisdom from the Proverbs”**

### **Proverbs 12:2-3**

***“Good people obtain favor from the LORD, but he condemns those who devise wicked schemes. No one can be established through wickedness, but the righteous cannot be uprooted.”***

Solomon, who asked God for wisdom and thus became arguably the wisest man ever, wrote what we call the Book of Proverbs to help his children – and others – live well. It is amazing how timeless is the advice he gives!

We read: ***“Good people obtain FAVOR from the Lord but he condemns those who devise wicked schemes.”***

Throughout Scripture we see TWO types of people discussed. Those who choose to follow God (“good people”) and those who choose NOT to follow God (“the wicked”).

Two questions from these verses might be: “What is the ‘favor of the Lord’?” and “What do you have to do to receive that favor?”

One of the better definitions of “favor” is “demonstrated delight”. The favor of God then can be described as “tangible evidence that a person has the approval of the Lord.”

Have you ever sought the favor of someone? Perhaps a boss or a teacher? Maybe then you received special treatment or recognition from that person. (“Teacher’s pet”? We all like to feel special – don’t we?)

GOD wants you to feel special too... and you ARE to Him! When you receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, you become one of His children with the right to call Him “Abba, Father.”

So that’s step one – becoming a child of God.

But next, we have to choose to LIVE in a way that the Father approves of, and he then demonstrates His delight by showering His favor on us. This favor is not automatic but is a result of living in a way that is pleasing to Him.

Second Chronicles 16:9 says, ***“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong on behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.”***

Let me put it this way... let’s say you have a child. You love that child and want to bless him/her. But at some point, that child decides to be unkind towards you, to disobey and to even steal money from you when you’re not looking. Deep down, you still would love your child, and he would still BE your child, but you’d probably (wisely) NOT show your approval or delight in how he was living or in what he was doing.

God wants to shower you with His favor, BUT you have to live a life of which He approves. Then, beyond salvation, you’ll experience His favor.

***Psalm 5:12 – “For you bless the righteous, O LORD; you cover him with favor as with a shield.”***

Note who receives God’s favor in this verse: the righteous. Such a person can rest assured that he or she will enjoy the favor of God.

***Prayer: Lord help me to live in such a way that you are pleased with me and then I can enjoy your full favor. Amen.***