


### 1. The Locus

- » It is 'the end of the matter' (v13)
- » 'Fear God' – revere, worship, trust, make God the centre of your life
- » Such is the 'beginning of wisdom' (Proverbs 1:7, 2 Corinthians 7:1)

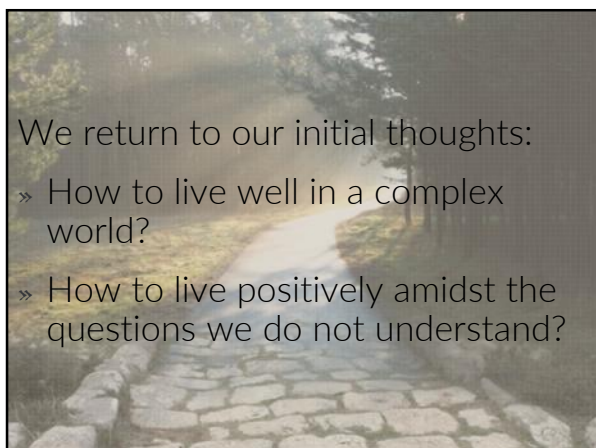


### 2. Keep His Commandments

- » Keeping the commandments follows from fearing (worshipping) God
- » Saying yes to God in our everyday – this is our fundamental duty (v13b)
- » This provides the meta-narrative for our lives



- » We will all stand before God
- » Accountability is part of a moral universe
- » Everyone stands before God (including the Christian) therefore live wisely
- » History and creation have a purpose and meaning



We return to our initial thoughts:

- » How to live well in a complex world?
- » How to live positively amidst the questions we do not understand?



Keep the Divine Family as the centre of your existence.

- » Live out your meaningful life in a meaningful creation

What would it be like, asks the Preacher, if things were utterly different from what you thought? What if this world is not the ultimate one? What if God exists and is a rewarder of those who seek him? What if one of his supreme characteristics is his utter, incredible generosity, his willingness to give and give and give again, his utter acceptance of us just as we are?

Michael A. Eaton

Grant, O Lord, that we may live in thy fear, die in thy favour, rest in thy peace, rise in thy power, reign in thy glory; for thine own beloved Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord.

William Laud