

Bible Recall: POINTS IN PROVERBS

PROVERBS 3 – Trust In The Lord

Proverbs chapter three demonstrates *the fear of the Lord* is connected with practical *trust in the Lord*. “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding” (Prov. 3:5). As an outline for a sermon, Solomon defines *trust in the Lord* as:

1. Regarding the law (3:1, 2).
2. Wearing mercy and truth (3:3, 4).
3. Not devising your own ways but learning His ways (3:5, 6).
4. Possessing Humility and departing from evil (3:7, 8).
5. Honoring the Lord with your prosperity (3:9, 10).
6. Never despising God’s fatherly correction (3:11, 12).

In the last article, we saw how Proverbs teaches by *consequences* as well as *synonymous parallelism*. Chapter three is filled with “consequential teaching” where doing action “a” results in reaping “b.” For example, not forgetting and keeping my law *proverbially* results in the length of days and peace (3:1, 2). Again, wearing mercy and truth around your neck and inscribing these qualities on the tablet of your heart results in finding favor with God and man (3:3, 4).

How important is it to love and be courteous to the Lord and to people in general?

- Notice how Paul employed the wisdom of this proverb in Romans 14:15-19.
- “And be _____ to one another, _____, _____ one another, just as God in Christ forgave you” (Eph. 4:32).

EXERCISES:

A. Find and list more examples of consequential teaching in Proverbs 3. What is commanded and what is the prospective reward?

B. List the Rewards of Wisdom (Prov. 3:13-18).

C. What advice is given regarding the treatment of others (Prov. 3:27-32).

Practical Self Applications:

1. What do I do to acknowledge God in all my ways so that He will direct my steps (Prov. 3:6)?

2. How would pride and an over inflated view of self-worth hamper the relationship we are to have with God and men (Prov. 3:7)? First look in Proverbs 3 for answers.

3. How can I honor the Lord with my prosperity (Prov. 3:9)?

4. What are some ways I could despise the correction of the Lord today (Prov. 3:11, 12)?

5. How might I withhold good from those to whom it is due (Prov. 3:27, 28; cf. Rom. 13:7; Gal. 6:10)? Who makes it my "due" to give good anyway?

Conclusion:

Proverbs chapter three has many practical applications for godly living. Read it carefully and frequently this month.

You could divide the chapter up into two main sections:

1. Do not lean on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:1-12).
2. Wisdom is better than earthly riches to find and promote peace and happiness (Prov. 3:13-35).

—Steven J. Wallace