

The Book of Proverbs

Chapter 3 The Path of Wisdom

Chapter 2: Wisdom *protects* our paths (*Prov 2:8*).

Chapter 3: Wisdom *directs* our paths (*Prov 3:5-6*).

Chapter 4: Wisdom *perfects* our paths (*Prov 4:18*).

Pro 3:1-10 NASB

- (1) *My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments;*
- (2) *For length of days and years of life And peace they will add to you.*
- (3) *Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart.*
- (4) *So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man.*
- (5) *Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.*
- (6) *In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.*
- (7) *Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.*
- (8) *It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones.*
- (9) *Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce;*
- (10) *So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.*

Wisdom Directs Your Path (Prov. 3)

The key verses in this chapter are **verses 5—6**, a promise God's people have often claimed.

This promise has never failed them — if they have obeyed the conditions God has laid down in **verses 1—12**.

God keeps His promises when we obey His precepts, because our obedience prepares us to receive and enjoy what He has planned for us.

PROVERBS 3:1-8 The Wisdom That Helps Us

The wisdom of Proverbs 2 offered to deliver us from evil. It offered protection.

Proverbs 3 wants to take us to the place where we can be fully alive and live well in every area
-at home, at work, all around.

Proverbs 3:1-8, shows us the way into
God's shalom (v. 2),
“good success” (v. 4), and
“refreshment” (v. 8).

PROVERBS 3:1-8 The Wisdom That Helps Us

Trust in the LORD with all your heart. PROVERBS 3:5

We need more than ethical principles.

We need new hearts.

As we hurry from one complex decision to the next, moment by moment, facing the concrete realities of our daily lives, we need wisdom deep within, at an intuitive level.

Without God's wisdom, many difficulties in life will remain confusing and threatening.

With God's wisdom entering our hearts, we get the hang of how life really works, and we come alive more and more.

PROVERBS 3:

The passage again begins with "My son" in **verse 1**.

God speaking to us as his beloved ones, his adopted children.

He was not stuck with us.

He chose us, because he loves us, and

Now he is coaching us in how we can be fully alive, for his glory.

In Chapter 3, the wise father-figure offers us

- "length of days and years of life" (**v. 2**),
- "favor and good success" (**v. 4**),
- "barns . . . filled with plenty [and] vats ... bursting with wine" (**v. 10**), and
- "riches and honor" (**v. 16**).

PROVERBS 3:

The idea that God is out to make you healthy and rich and comfortable and put you on top of the heap because you are his child, the prosperity gospel is found nowhere in the Bible.

The prosperity gospel is coldhearted materialism in religious disguise.

It chooses Bible verses selectively to fit a name-it-and-claim-it theory.

It does not love God.

It wants to use God for selfish, lustful purposes.

God sends both earthly blessings and earthly sorrows.

The rewards God offers us here in Proverbs 3 are good.

He will give them out to his wise children, as he sees fit.

Every believer's life is complicated. God sometimes sends us pain too, but only for our good in the end.

PROVERBS 3:

The gospel, and true prosperity says in ***Philippians 3:7-11***.

Php 3:7-11 CEV

(7) But Christ has shown me that what I once thought was valuable is worthless.

(8) Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have given up everything else and count it all as garbage. All I want is Christ (9) and to know that I belong to him. I could not make myself acceptable to God by obeying the Law of Moses. God accepted me simply because of my faith in Christ.

(10) All I want is to know Christ and the power that raised him to life. I want to suffer and die as he did, (11) so that somehow I also may be raised to life.

PROVERBS 3:

Verses 11, 12 are clear that God disciplines us.

Jesus both suffered at the cross but prospered in the resurrection.

The resurrection is the prosperity you will want when your health utterly fails, as it will, and very soon.

If your story is limited to the material blessings of the here and now, you are in trouble, because your vats bursting with wine will also run dry.

Your life in this world is only the title page, a down payment, to your eternal story, and as such God gives you some barns and vats for the present.

Be sure you set your heart not on the gift, which will certainly fail you, but on the Giver, who will certainly never fail you.

Mat 16:26 (Mar 8:36) Col 3:2-3 Mat 6:19-20

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PROVERBS 3:

The Father is warning us against a spirit of self-assurance.

It is the opposite of trust in the Lord, and it brings no healing and refreshment.

We glorify the know-it-all who does it his own way.

For me to live life 'my way' is stupid.

***Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes?
There is more hope for a fool than for him" (Pro 26:12)***

A spirit of self-assurance will destroy you and everyone you love.

The universe is not programmed by God to cooperate with our arrogant self-centeredness.

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PROVERBS 3:

The passage is organized around two themes:

the shalom God gives (vv. 1—4) and
the trust God demands (vv. 5—8).

Here is the price we pay to walk 'with God in a way that really helps us:

Be not wise in your own eyes; [I can handle it...]
fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.

[turn away, leave, flee...]

***It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones. (Proverbs 3:7, 8)***

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PROVERBS 3:

Fearing the Lord and turning away from evil — calling sin sin and turning from it — is healing and refreshment.

It's not that you will avoid pain but that you will enjoy the God's positive energy of healing and refreshment.

- The more you fear the Lord, the less you will fear man.
- The more you depend on the Lord the more independent you will be.
- The more you resemble Christ, the more an individual you will be.
- The more you obey him, the freer you will be.

Life will work for you with healing and refreshment

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PROVERBS 3:

Fear the Lord and turn away from evil is a simple thing to say but it is radical.

Here are the priorities God wants at the top of your to do list this week in terms of urgency.

- #1: Fear the Lord.
- #2: Turn away from evil.
- #3: As time permits, take a breath.

That is the urgency of your life, your life priorities for this week.

- It will add greatness to your life.
- It will add life to your life.
- It will save you from a wasted life.

If you want your life to count now and forever for Christ, here is all you need to do.

Fear the Lord. Turn away front evil.
Do that alone, and your life will be magnificent.

PROVERBS 3:

The wise Father links his counsel with incentives all along the way.

For example, in **verses 1, 2**,

Counsel: ***My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments,***

Incentive: ***for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.***

Step by step, the father gives his counsel and then adds an incentive.

He is not saying, "Do this because I say so."

He is saying, "Do this because it will help you."

God treats as his own dear children, guiding us, counseling us, urging us on, blessing us.

Conditions to meet (Prov. 3:1-4)

The first condition for receiving God's guidance is that we learn God's truth (**vv. 1—4**).

The will of God is revealed in the Word of God (**Col. 1:9-10**), and

the only way to know His will is to study His Word and obey it.

By receiving the Word within our hearts, we experience growth in godly character so that mercy and truth ("love and faithfulness," NIV) become beautiful ornaments in our lives (**Prov. 3:3; 1:9**).

It isn't enough for believers to carry the Bible in their hands; they must let the Holy Spirit write it on their hearts (**3:3; 7:3; 2 Cor. 3:1—3**).

PROVERBS 3:1-2 The Shalom God Gives

***My son, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments,
for length of days and years of life
and peace they will add to you. (Proverbs 3:1, 2)***

"Pay attention.

Pay attention to me.

You're going to pay attention to something.

Only my teaching will lead you into shalom, wholeness, peace."

PROVERBS 3:1 Blessings of Trusting God

(Pro 3:1 ISV) ¶ My son, don't forget my instruction, and keep my commandments carefully in mind. [Lit. Let your heart keep my commandments]*

(Pro 3:1 KJV+) My son,^{H1121} forget^{H7911} not^{H408} my law;^{H8451} but let thine heart^{H3820} keep^{H5341} my commandments:^{H4687}

(Pro 3:1 NASB) My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments;

(Pro 3:1 NIV) My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,

PROVERBS 3:1 Blessings of Trusting God

3:1] My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

[keep] Hebrew: **natsar** (OT:5341), to watch or guard.

"keep" means more than "obey";
it means "guard, maintain vigilance."

"Let your heart guard my commandments."

Every day thieves (elsewhere the Bible calls them "idols") are trying to rob you of length of days and years of life and peace.

Your heart is your security system.

If Christ is not the life-giving center, your heart has already been penetrated by a life-robbing idol.

When we forget Christ, we are not released into freedom; we submit to false teachings that fill our lives with disappointment and regret.

PROVERBS 3:1 Blessings of Trusting God

Feel that you will finally "arrive" through your career, your possessions, your investments, your family?

You are literally working for a 'shalom' a peace and rest that will never come and never be secure.

How will you know that you have 'arrived'?

If you attain it, how will you hold onto it?

However you define your shalom, your peace and rest, if it is not Christ, then it is an idol, demanding your all but giving nothing.

If you obey it, it will break its promises.

If you fail to obey it, it will punish you.

Our problem is not just our wandering wills;

Our problem is our false beliefs.

The credit our minds give to lies, the false promises we chase after.

PROVERBS 3:1 Blessings of Trusting God

Our Father is saying,

"Stay alert to what you're believing moment by moment.

My teaching alone can make you lie down in green pastures and beside still waters."

Pay attention to the gospel of the finished work of Christ.

Pay attention to My teaching and commands, My precepts and life principles.

If you'll guard my teaching with your heart, you will experience it as your true shalom.

PROVERBS 3:2

(Pro 3:2 ISV) ¶ For they will add length to your days, years to your life, and abundant peace to you.*

(Pro 3:2 KJV+) For^{H3588} length^{H753} of days,^{H3117} and long^{H8141} life,^{H2416} and peace,^{H7965} shall they add^{H3254} to thee.

(Pro 3:2 NASB) For length of days and years of life And peace they will add to you.

(Pro 3:2 NIV) for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.

Threefold blessing to those who remember and keep the commandments (**Prov 3:1-2**):

1. Length of days (**Prov 3:2,16; 4:10; 9:11**)
2. Long life (**1 Peter 3:10-11; Ps 34:12-16**)
3. Peace (**Isa 26:3**)

Keeping the law and commandments add these things to life. 1c

PROVERBS 3:3-4

***Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you:
bind them around your neck;
write them on the tablet of your heart.
So you will find favor and good success
in the sight of God and man. (Proverbs 3:3, 4)***

The key here is “**steadfast love and faithfulness.**”

Those words describe God himself.

Exo 34:6 Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;

PROVERBS 3:3-4

What is it about God that we depend upon day by day?

What are we counting on about God?

We are staking everything on God's being steadfastly loving and faithful to us forever through Christ, because he promised to be.

You know that's who God is.

He told you so in the Bible.

So, let who God is change you.

Trust Him...Trust what He says...

Get to know Him better and better.

Struggling Christians do not lack faith - it doesn't take much faith to even move a mountain. **Mat 17:20 / Luk 17:6**

Struggling Christians don't know God well enough to trust Him

PROVERBS 3:3-4

Much (Most) of our religion is not about who God is.

Our religion makes us the immovable ones, the center of life around which God orbits.

Our religion is not about us changing and repenting and adjusting to who God is.

It is about God making us feel better about ourselves without our having to change.

God is who he is, so that we can become more like him.

We need to become like Him, a person of steadfast love and faithfulness who can be trusted.

No one has anything to fear from such a person.

You have everything to admire in such a person.

God is in that person and he wants to make you more like himself.

PROVERBS 3:3-4

So many people have been let down by Christians.

They do not believe or seek God anymore because they did not see the reality of God in God's people.

They saw people wearing crosses around their necks but without binding steadfast love and faithfulness around their necks.

The fraudulence of that makes people rightfully angry. Frankly, it makes God angry too.

PROVERBS 3:3-4

The shalom God gives is both
personal (**vv. 1, 2**) and
social (**vv. 3, 4**).

The Father is saying here to his children,

“My steadfast love and faithfulness to sinners—let that be your persona.

Wear that reality in public, because it's who Jesus is. I want you to be like him right out in the open, for other sinners to see and have hope.”

When people see Jesus in us, we find favor and good success.

PROVERBS 3:3

(Pro 3:3 ISV*) ¶ *Do not let gracious love and truth leave you. Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart,*

(Pro 3:3 KJV+) *Let not^{H408} mercy^{H2617} and truth^{H571} forsake^{H5800} thee: bind^{H7194} them about^{H5921} thy neck; ^{H1621} write^{H3789} them upon^{H5921} the table^{H3871} of thine heart.^{H3820}*

(Pro 3:3 NASB) *Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart.*

(Pro 3:3 NIV) *Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.*

[mercy] Lovingkindness or grace.

[bind them about thy neck] Like the phylacteries (**Pro 6:21; 7:3**)

[write them upon the table of thine heart] This is done by the Spirit of the living God (**2 Cor 3:3**).

PROVERBS 3:4

(Pro 3:4 ISV*) ¶ *and find favor and a good reputation [Lit. good judgment or sense] with God and men.*

(Pro 3:4 KJV+) *So shalt thou find^{H4672} favour^{H2580} and good^{H2896} understanding^{H7922} in the sight^{H5869} of God^{H430} and man.^{H120}*

(Pro 3:4 NASB) *So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man.*

(Pro 3:4 NIV) *Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.*

Verse 4 represents the ‘then’ of the ‘if’s’ in verse 3

The three acts of **Prov 3:3** are the secrets of favor with God and man.

We must obey God's will (vv. 5—8)

"He shall direct your paths" (v. 6 NKJV) is the promise, the fulfillment of that promise is predicated on our obedience to the Lord. We must trust Him with all our hearts and obey Him in all our ways.

That means total commitment to Him (**Rom. 12:1—2**).

The word translated "trust" in verse means "to lie helpless, facedown."

It pictures a servant waiting for the master's command in readiness to obey, or a defeated soldier yielding himself to the conquering general.

We must obey God's will (vv. 5—8)

The danger, of course, is that we lean on our own understanding and thereby miss God's will.

This warning cautions us not to depend on our own wisdom and experience or the wisdom and experience of others.

Abraham did this when he went to Egypt (**Gen. 12:10—20**), and so did

Joshua when he attacked the little town of Ai (**Josh. 7**).

When we become "wise in [our] own eyes" (**Prov. 3:7**), then we're heading for trouble.

PROVERBS 3:5-10

Proverbs 3:5-6 is a popular memory passage...and a key challenge and promise!

5] Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6] In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

7] Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. 8] It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

9] Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: 10] So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

The key Hebrew word for discipline is **yasar**, which means to chastise, or to instruct.

It does involve correction, but its goal is to make a positive contribution to a person's training in righteousness.

yasar is exercised in a family setting.

We get it backwards: we discipline criminals and punish our children.

God's Guidance Now What ???

Psa 16:11

Thou wilt shew me the path of life:

God will show me the right path for life...as I walk in it.

in thy presence is fulness of joy;

I will experience full joy as I walk close to God.

at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

At God's right hand – the position of His authority – His commands result in eternal pleasures.

Mat 6:33

**But seek ye first
the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.**

PROVERBS 3:5

(Pro 3:5 ISV*) ¶ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not depend on your own understanding.

(Pro 3:5 KJV+) Trust^{H982} in^{H413} the LORD^{H3068} with all^{H3605} thine heart,^{H3820} and lean^{H8172} not^{H408} unto^{H413} thine own understanding.^{H998}

(Pro 3:5 NASB) Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.

(Pro 3:5 NIV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

[Trust] Hebrew: **batach** (OT:982), to confide in, so as to be secure and without fear. Translated "trust" 103 times.

[understanding] Hebrew: **biynah** (OT:998) (see *Prov 1:2*).

PROVERBS 3:5

Seven examples of heart trust:

1. Abraham (*Gen 24:1-8*)
2. Eleazar (*Gen 24:12-27*)
3. Jephthah (*Judg 11:11*)
4. David (*1 Sam 30:6-8*)
5. Asa (*2 Chron 14:9-15*)
6. Hezekiah (*2 Kings 18:4-7; 19:14-37*)
7. Nehemiah (*Neh 1:4-11; 2:4-8*)

Begin, continue, and end every work, purpose, and plan with God.

Self-sufficiency and self-confidence have been the ruin of mankind ever since the fall.

Man's sin has been to live independently of God.

True religion consists of full acknowledgement of God in all human affairs (*Prov 3:5*).

PROVERBS 3:6

(Pro 3:6 ISV*) ¶ In all your ways acknowledge ^[Or know] him, and he will make your paths straight.

(Pro 3:6 KJV+) In all^{H3605} thy ways^{H1870} acknowledge^{H3045} him, and he^{H1931} shall direct^{H3474} thy paths.^{H734}

(Pro 3:6 NASB) In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

(Pro 3:6 NIV) in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

[direct] Hebrew: **yashar** (OT:3474), rightly divide.

It is the same idea as rightly dividing the word of truth (*2 Tim 2:15*).

'making the right cuts and joinery, assembling the pieces, following the construction plans'

PROVERBS 3:5-6 The Trust God Demands

***Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5, 6)***

These, probably, the most famous verses in Proverbs are saying that our confidence is not some impersonal ethic but the Lord Jesus Christ himself

The kind of trust he deserves and demands is wholehearted trust:

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart.”

This Hebrew verb translated “trust” is cognate with an Arabic verb that means to throw oneself down on one's face, to lie down spread-eagle in complete reliance.

PROVERBS 3:5-6 The Trust God Demands

We stake everything on the gospel promises of God.

If God fails us, we are damned.

If God comes through, we are saved forever.

If we trust God for our future in eternity why is it so difficult to trust Him for tomorrow or right now?

Real trust is that blunt and daring and simple.

What God deserves and demands is your total trust in the love and mercy and wisdom of God in Christ alone.

How can you tell if your trust is wholehearted?

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PROVERBS 3:5-6 3 checkpoints:

1] **Do you let the Bible overrule your own thinking?**

v5, "Do not lean on your own understanding."

Do you merely agree with the Bible or do you obey the Bible?

A cat sometimes agrees with you, but it seldom obeys.

If you merely agree with the Bible, then your response is not obedience but coincidence.

The prejudices you have soaked up from your culture happen to line up with the Bible at that point.

If you are looking in the Bible for excuses to do what you want anyway, you have in fact rejected God.

If you trust the Lord, you will let the Bible challenge your most cherished thoughts and feelings.

The Lord cares about your questions and problems. He wants to speak into your life in ways that will help you.

If you will trust him wholeheartedly, you will let him teach you

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PROVERBS 3:5-6 3 checkpoints:

2] **Do you believe someone somewhere someday somehow will still be acceptable to God and go to Heaven without Jesus?**

Do people really need Jesus to be at peace 'with God or

Is it okay 'with God if they're just sincere, well-meaning people?

If you think so, you are probably not sure about Jesus yourself.

You are not trusting Jesus to save you; you are hoping Jesus will flatter you, make you feel better about yourself as you are...

If you trust the Lord entirely, you will also trust him exclusively, as your only Savior, as anyone's only Savior.

You will be willing to let Him change whatever, whenever, where ever and however and as often as needed.

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PROVERBS 3:5-6 3 checkpoints:

3] **When was the last time you took a risk to obey Christ?**

When was the last time you 'diminished' your future—socially, financially, professionally—for his sake?

When was the last time your life looked obviously different from the life of someone who does not trust Jesus at all?

When was the last time your life surprised an unbeliever?

If you never surprise an unbelieving friend by your sacrifices for Christ,

it is probably because what you are living for is the same earthly payoff he is living for

and you are likely striving to attain it the same way they are.

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PROVERBS 3:5-6 3 checkpoints:

If you trust the Lord entirely, you will also trust him exhaustively, across the whole of life.

You will not be a fragmented person.

You will not think piecemeal.

You will **acknowledge Him**

[verse 6 literally translated is “**know him**”] in all your ways.

Then he promises to direct the course of your life straight on to where you want to go. “**He will make straight your paths**”

If you will let Jesus rule as Lord over the whole of your life, he will work all things together for your good.

Rom 8:28-29

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PROVERBS 3:7

(Pro 3:7 ISV*) ¶ **Do not be wise in your own opinion. Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.**

(Pro 3:7 KJV+) **Be^{H1961} not^{H408} wise^{H2450} in thine own eyes.^{H5869} fear^{H3372} (H853) the LORD,^{H3068} and depart^{H5493} from evil.^{H4480} H7451**

(Pro 3:7 NASB) **Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.**

(Pro 3:7 NIV) **Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.**

We do not have to be smart or skilled.

We may even be incompetent.

If we are wise in our own eyes, that is a problem (v. 7).

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PROVERBS 3:7

(Pro 3:7 NASB) **Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.**

We do have to pay attention to his gospel and its implications— his teaching and his commandments.

In all the noise of our culture, what are you listening to?

Is it working for you?

Or is it leading you on with false promises, always just out of reach?

Whatever you are paying attention to—is it leading you into peace?

If it is not helping you, is it the Father’s teaching you are paying attention to, or are you paying more attention to some popular but defunct theory that cannot possibly work out in the end?

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PROVERBS 3:7

(Pro 3:7 NASB) **Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.**

[Be not wise in thine own eyes] Quoted in **Rom 11:25; 12:16.**

Four men who were wise in their own eyes:

1. Ahab (**1 Kings 22:30-35**)
2. Jeroboam (**1 Kings 12:26-33; 13:33**)
3. Asa (**1 Kings 15:19**)
4. Benhadad (**1 Kings 20:10-11**)

[fear] Hebrew: **yare**^o (OT:3373), to revere (**Prov 24:21; Eccl 3:14; 5:7; 12:13**).

[depart from evil] Shun, avoid, abstain from (**1 Thess 5:22, Matt 6:13**).

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PROVERBS 3:8

(Pro 3:8 ISV) ¶ This will bring healing to your body, and refreshment to your bones.*

(Pro 3:8 KJV+) It shall be^{H1961} health^{H7500} to thy navel,^{H8270} and marrow^{H8250} to thy bones.^{H6106}

(Pro 3:8 NASB) It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones.

(Pro 3:8 NIV) This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

Verse 7 = 'if' Verse 8='then'

[health to thy navel] Just like the umbilical cord (here the "navel") is how the child receives life and nourishment from the mother while it is in the womb, so fearing God and departing from evil gives life to a child of God.

[marrow to thy bones] Bone marrow produces vital red blood cells which sustain life delivering oxygen and nutrients and removing CO₂. Fearing God and departing from evil is just as vital to one's spiritual life as bone marrow is to the physical life.

Share God's blessings (vv. 9—10)

There's no such thing as "spiritual" and "material" in the Christian life, for everything comes from God and belongs to God.

The Old Testament Jews brought the Lord the firstlings of their flocks (*Ex. 13:1—2*) and the firstfruits of their fields (*Lev. 23:9—14*), and in this way acknowledged His goodness and sovereignty.

The New Testament parallel is seen in *Matthew 6:33*.

If we don't faithfully give to the Lord, we don't really trust the Lord.

Tithes and offerings aren't "payment" for His blessings; rather, they're evidence of our faith and obedience.

Giving is heart preparation for what God wants to say to us and do for us. *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Man. 6:21NKJV).*

PROV 3:9-12 Wisdom at the Extremes of Life

Honor the Lord with your wealth. Proverbs 3:9

Do not despise the Lord's discipline. Proverbs 3:11

Here we are at the two opposite extremes of life

— when the good times roll and when hardship strikes.

When life is sweet, trusting God with all our hearts feels unnecessary.

When life is bitter, trusting God with all our hearts feels impossible.

We need wisdom when we are on top and when nothing is going right. God is with us in both, with a wisdom that makes a positive difference.

In *Proverbs 3:5*, God calls us to trust him wholeheartedly.

In *Proverbs 3:9—12*, he leads us to trust him wholeheartedly when we are pushed out into these two opposite edges of our lives—plenty and pain.

PROVERBS 3:9-10

(Pro 3:9 ISV) ¶ Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first [Or best] of all your produce, (10) ¶ so your barns will be filled with abundance, and your vats will burst open with new wine.*

(Pro 3:9 KJV+) Honour^{H3513 (H853)} the LORD^{H3068} with thy substance,^{H4480 H1952} and with the firstfruits^{H4480 H7225} of all^{H3605} thine increase:^{H8393} (10) So shall thy barns^{H618} be filled^{H4390} with plenty,^{H7647} and thy presses^{H3342} shall burst out^{H6555} with new wine.^{H8492}

(Pro 3:9 NASB) Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce; (10) So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.

(Pro 3:9 NIV) Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; (10) then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

This IF/THEN expresses material prosperity.

Wisdom in Plenty

***Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce:
then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine. (Pro 3:9-10)***

The Hebrew verb translated “**honor**” means “to treat the Lord as weighty.”

The root of the verb means “to be heavy,”

Today might say that a person carries social weight or that they are the heavyweights in their field.

Wealth and how it is ‘invested’ and used communicates — prestige, rank, importance.

Whose prestige is my money enhancing?

The sad truth is, many of us honor ourselves with our money and, if he is lucky, the Lord gets what’s left over, if any.

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Wisdom in Plenty

Wisdom changes us. Wisdom is saying,

“Make the Lord famous and prominent by means of your wealth. Use your money to increase his prestige in your world.”

The more we use our money for self-importance the sillier we look.

Self-importance is unsustainable.

The pretense of it, the appearances it creates is temporary at best

yet we often let it define who and whose we are.

The more we heap prestige on Jesus by our money, the more weighty and significant and relevant we become.

We become serious people.

We impact history.

We become the heavyweights, movers and shakers in eternity.

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Wisdom in Plenty

The Hebrew verb for the opposite of honoring means “to make light of, to regard as trifling and frivolous.”

As God looks at your financial priorities, should he consider himself honored or slighted?

Only one somebody gets the honor of first place in your monthly budget.

‘Who is in that first place of honor?’

We often pray for revival

— if God grants revival what will happen is that God will be restored to his place of honor in every area of our lives.

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Wisdom in Plenty

This word in verse 9 translated “honor” is the Old Testament word for glory.

Men have longed to see God glory.

“Show us your glory” (Exodus 33:18)

- The glory of God is why you and I are on the planet.
- The glory of God is why the planet is here.
- The glory of God is why everything is here.

God is displaying his glory in His creation, so that we can thrill over him forever.

The glory of God is the central theme of the Bible.

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Wisdom in Plenty

Everything that is wrong with the world today is traceable to this one mega-sin — trivializing God.

The folly of making God a condiment rather than the main course of our life.

Life cannot work when we shut out the glory of God and treat this imposter called Self as weighty.

It is freeing to throw ourselves into honoring God with all we have, including our money.

Wisdom in Plenty 3 Things

1] Most translations say, “**Honor the LORD with your wealth.**”

The NASB is a more literal translation: “**Honor the LORD from your wealth.**”

What difference does that make?

I might “**honor the Lord**” with my wealth”

That is - how I handle myself financially. I pay my bills ontime. I don't support 'evil' things.

And I could do that without ever giving a dime away.

Prov 3:9 actually says, “**Honor the LORD from your wealth.**”

That is, God actually gets a cut from my wealth.

I part with some of my money for His sake.

I give it away for His kingdom's use and to support His plans and purposes.

Wisdom in Plenty 3 Things

2] The next line of the verse explains how I truly honor the Lord from my wealth: “... **and with the firstfruits of all your produce.**”

The firstfruits were the best of the harvest (**Nu 18:12-13**).

Exo 23:19 “**The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God.**”

We honor the Lord from our wealth by giving away to him our first and our best.

He comes first in our budgets—ahead even of taxes.

Wisdom in Plenty 3 Things

3] I truly honor the Lord from my wealth when I calculate not from the net but from the gross

“**from all your produce,**” that is, all our income.

We can dishonor God not only by not giving him anything but also by giving him the leftovers after we have taken care of ourselves in our monthly budgets.

We are not tipping the Lord.

We honor him by giving to him the first cut from our gross income.

Wisdom in Plenty God's Fiduciary

God our Father is sharing his resources with us to expand the family business — the gospel enterprise.

He is entrusting into our care his own money,

We are investing his funds for his greater glory in the world today.

He has made us his investment brokers.

We are His distributors not His warehouse managers.

God loves to give even more to his children who understand what money is for and handle it wisely:

then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. (Proverbs 3:10)

God's capacity to give far exceeds our capacity to receive

Wisdom in Plenty Breathe

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you" (Luke 6:38).

He does not mean, "Give money to God, and he'll make you rich."

If that were the message, the Lord would not be honored, he would be used.

Jesus is not arousing our greed.

If you invest for his sake, he will give you more to invest for his sake.

If you love Jesus, nothing could make you happier than to do more good for his sake.

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor 8:9)

The Doctrine of Tithing Matthew 23:23

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others."

Tithing Before the Law of Moses:

It was practiced 430 years before the law was ever given (***Gen 14:20; 28:22; Heb 7:1-11***).

Tithing under the Law of Moses

1. He commanded (***Lev 27:30; Mal 3:10***)
2. Five Purposes:
 - (1) For Levites (***Num 18:21-24***)
 - (2) Tithes of tithes for priests (***Num 18:26; Neh 10:37; 12:44***)
 - (3) Tithes of tithes every three years for the poor and the ministers (***Deut 14:27-29; 26:12-14***)
 - (4) To supply God's house (***Mal 3:10***)
 - (5) To honor God (***Prov 3:9-10***)
3. When brought: yearly, along with all other offerings for the feast (***Deu 12:6-7; 14:22-26***)
4. Belonged to God, not the people who paid them (***Lev 27:30-34; Mal 3:8***)
5. Where brought (***2 Chron 31:12; Neh 10:38; 12:44; 13:5,12; Mal 3:8***)
6. If borrowed: 20% interest had to be added when paid (***Lev 27:31***)
7. If exchanged: both it and the exchange must be paid (***Lev 27:33***)

Tithing In the New Testament

1. Christ taught it (**Matt 23:23; Luke 11:42; cp. Matt 5:20 with Luke 18:11-12; see Matt 10:10; Luke 10:7-8**).

This was teaching for the kingdom of heaven (**Mat 11:11-14; Lu 16:16**)

2. Paul Taught It:

- (1) Condemned sacrilege (**Rom 2:22**), or robbing temples (**Mal 3:8-10**) and using holy things (**Lev 27**)
- (2) Teachers to be paid (**Gal 6:6**)
- (3) God ordained support of ministers (**1Cor 9:7-14; 1Tim 6:17-18**)
- (4) Christians to give as God prospers them (**1 Cor 16:2**)
- (5) Melchisedec priesthood is eternal and must be supported by children of Abraham (**Heb 6:20; 7:1-11,17,21**)
- (6) Children of Abraham in faith must walk in his steps (**Ro 4:12; Heb 7**)
- (7) Tithing is proof of obedience and appreciation of God's blessings (**Rom 4:12; Heb 7:6-10; 1 Cor 9:7-14; 1 Tim 6:17-18; cp. Mal 3:8-10; Prov 3:9-10; Gen 14:20; Deut 8:10-20**)

The Doctrine of Tithing (Matthew 23:23)

Examples of Paying Tithes:

1. Abraham (**Gen 14:20; Heb 7:1-11**)
2. Jacob (**Gen 28:22**)
3. Levi in Abraham (**Heb 7:9**)
4. Hezekiah and Israel (**2 Chron 31**)
5. Nehemiah and Israel (**Neh 13**)
6. Hypocrites (**Matt 23:23; Luke 11:42; 18:12**)
7. Christians (**1 Cor 9:7-14; 16:2; 2 Cor 7:11; 8:1-15; Gal 6:6; 1 Tim 5:17-18; Heb 7**)

No scripture even mentions a substitute program for tithing in the New Testament.

Blessings of Tithing

1. Blessings for obedience
2. God's house will not lack (**Mal 3:10**).
3. God's ministers will not lack (**1 Cor 9:7-14; 1 Tim 5:17-18; Neh 13:10; Mal 3:8-10**).
4. Material and spiritual blessings (**Mal 3:8-10; Prov 3:9-10; 2 Chron 31; Neh 13**)

Pro 3:11-20 NASB

- (11) *My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD Or loathe His reproof,*
- (12) *For whom the LORD loves He reproveth, Even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.*
- (13) *How blessed is the man who finds wisdom And the man who gains understanding.*
- (14) *For her profit is better than the profit of silver And her gain better than fine gold.*
- (15) *She is more precious than jewels; And nothing you desire compares with her.*
- (16) *Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor.*
- (17) *Her ways are pleasant ways And all her paths are peace.*
- (18) *She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who hold her fast.*
- (19) *The LORD by wisdom founded the earth, By understanding He established the heavens.*
- (20) *By His knowledge the deeps were broken up And the skies drip with dew.*

PROVERBS 3:11-15

- 11] *My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:*
- 12] *For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.*
- 13] *Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.*
- 14] *For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.*
- 15] *She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.*

**Do you believe it?
What are you doing to prove it?
What are your priorities?**

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PROVERBS 3:11

- (Pro 3:11 ISV*) ¶ *My son, do not reject the LORD's discipline, and do not despise his correction,*
- (Pro 3:11 KJV+) *My son,^{H1121} despise^{H3988} not^{H408} the chastening^{H4148} of the LORD;^{H3068} neither^{H408} be weary^{H6973} of his correction:^{H8433}*
- (Pro 3:11 NASB) *My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD Or loathe His reproof,*
- (Pro 3:11 NIV) *My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke,*

The opening words in verse 11: "**My son ...**" There is the tenderness of a wise father counseling the son he loves in those words.

[despise not] Don't shrink away from it.

Quoted from **Job 5:17** and in **Heb 12:5-6 (cp. Job 34:31-32; Ps 94:12; Rev 3:19)**

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Submit to God's chastening (Prov. 3:11—12).

Chastening is a part of God's plan to help His sons and daughters mature in godly character (**Heb. 12:1—11**).

God chastens us, not as a judge punishes a criminal, but as a parent disciplines and corrects his child.

He acts in love, and His purpose is that we might become "partakers of his holiness" (**Heb. 12:10**).

Sometimes He chastens because we have rebelled and need to repent;

Sometimes He chastens to keep us from sinning and

Sometimes He chastens us to prepare us for His special blessing.

No matter how much the experience hurts us, it will never harm us; God always chastens in love (**Deut. 8:2—5**).

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PROVERBS 3:12

- (Pro 3:12 ISV*) ¶ *because the LORD corrects the person he loves, just as a father corrects [The Heb. lacks corrects] the son he delights in. [So MT; LXX reads loves, and he punishes every son he accepts]*
- (Pro 3:12 KJV+) *For^{H3588} (H853) whom^{H834} the LORD^{H3068} loveth^{H157} he correcteth;^{H3198} even as a father^{H1} (H853) the son^{H1121} in whom he delighteth.^{H7521}*
- (Pro 3:12 NASB) *For whom the LORD loves He reproves, Even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.*
- (Pro 3:12 NIV) *because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.*

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PROVERBS 3:11-12 Wisdom in Pain

*My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
for the Lord reproves him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights. (Pro 3:11-12)*

The bad times and the hard times seem to double up.

When (not if) that happens, honesty forces us to face the fact that either God loves us passionately or God hates our guts. It is one or the other.

We all have moments when it feels like God despises us.

Three illustrations of chastening:

1. David (**2 Sam 15-16; 23:5**)
2. Hezekiah (**Isa 39:5-8**)
3. Israel (**Deut 11:2; 2 Chron 6:24**)

PROVERBS 3:11-12 Wisdom in Pain

When we suffer, it isn't God angrily taking from us: it is God lovingly reinvesting in us.

Suffering feels like anger. It feels like loss. It feels like God has abandoned us.

The heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 suffered. Theirs was no country club religion.

They trusted God with all their hearts, and some were tortured, killed, mistreated.

God was not mad at them. He commended them (**Hebrews 11:6, 39**).

PROVERBS 3:11-12 Wisdom in Pain

"God is not ashamed to be called their God" (Heb 11:16)

God delighted in them. He was proud of them.

When you are suffering, you must remember:

Your sufferings are neither evidence against you, nor against God.

If you are in Christ and you are suffering, your sufferings are proof that God your Father cherishes you.

Hebrews 12:7 "God is treating you as sons."

You are a person of destiny, your greatness has already been won for you by Christ at his cross.

Now God is getting you ready with some finishing touches, each one a masterstroke...

PROVERBS 3:11-12 Wisdom in Pain

Our wise pathway through suffering is to accept it and wait while God fulfills his purpose.

If you are suffering right now, you are probably being tempted in two opposite ways. Both are in verse 11—either to:

- despise the Lord's discipline, which is the active response of anger, or
- to be weary of his reproof, which is the passive response of despair.

Your only path forward is to "**[Be] trained ^{G1128} by it" Heb 12:11**

We get our modern word gymnasium from that Greek word.

By our sufferings, God has us working out.

G1128 γυμνάζω gymnazō

- 1) to exercise naked (in a palaestra or school of athletics)
- 2) to exercise vigorously, in any way, either the body or the mind

PROVERBS 3:11-12 Wisdom in Pain

“Although he [Jesus] was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered” (Hebrews 5:8).

The Bible says that Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses, because he was tempted the same ways we are, but he did not sin.

He neither lashed back at the Father, nor did he go limp (**Hebrews 4:15**).

We have a friend in Jesus who is not only qualified to stand before God on our behalf but who is also sympathetic with us because he knows how it feels.

PROVERBS 3:11-12 Wisdom in Pain

...with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

Here is what to ask for as you kneel there at the throne of grace.

Philippians 3:10 “I want to know Christ, and the power of his resurrection, and I want to share in the fellowship of his sufferings.”

Paul looked at the cross, he saw Jesus shedding his lifeblood for sinners, and Paul's heart said,

“There is the wealth I want. There is the suffering I trust.”

Suffering that refines me, corrects me,
makes me more and more like Christ.

Jesus is your treasure. Jesus is your approval.

Blessings to enjoy (vv. 13—35).

If we trust and obey, our Father will direct our path into the blessings He has planned for us; the first of these blessings is the true wealth that comes from wisdom (**vv. 13—18**).

Some people know the price of everything but the value of nothing; consequently, they make unwise choices and end up with shoddy merchandise.

You take what you want from life, and you pay for it.

It's good to have the things money can buy, provided you don't lose the things money can't buy. **Mar 8:36**

What good is an expensive house if there's no happy home within it?

Happiness, pleasantness, and peace aren't the guaranteed by-products of financial success, but they are guaranteed to the person who lives by God's wisdom.

Wisdom becomes a “tree of life” to the believer who takes hold of her, and this is a foretaste of heaven (**Rev. 22:1—2**).

PROVERBS 3:13-35

Why Wisdom Matters, What Wisdom Creates

Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding. PROVERBS 3:13

The passage divides into these two main sections

- **verses 13 - 26**, wisdom as the open secret of the universe,
- **verses 27 - 35**, wisdom as a culture of life amid a culture of death.

Wisdom matters because wisdom is the open secret of the universe. It is not a private take it or leave it option.

Wisdom is how life works.

We can only disregard wisdom for a little while and get away with it because God built everything so well.

Wisdom enriches everyone who finds it (**vv. 13—18**).

The word “**blessed**” at the beginning of **verse 13** and at the end of **verse 18**, marks these verses off as a paragraph.

PROVERBS 3:13

Wisdom: The Open Secret of the Universe

(Pro 3:13 ISV) ¶ How joyful is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding,*

(Pro 3:13 KJV+) Happy^{H835} is the man^{H120} that findeth^{H4672} wisdom,^{H2451} and the man^{H120} that getteth^{H6329} understanding.^{H8394}

(Pro 3:13 NASB) How blessed is the man who finds wisdom And the man who gains understanding.

(Pro 3:13 NIV) Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding,

(Pro 3:13 RSV) Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding.

[Happy is the man] There are eight beatitudes in Proverbs (*Prov 3:13; 8:32,34; 14:21; 16:20; 20:7; 28:14; 29:18*).

[wisdom] Hebrew: **chokmah** (OT:2451). See *Prov 1:2*.

[understanding] Hebrew: **tabuwn** (OT:8394), from the same root as **biynah** (OT:998) in *Prov 1:2*.

PROVERBS 3:13

Wisdom: The Open Secret of the Universe

All that is required for anyone to benefit from the wisdom of common grace is to get up and find it:

“Blessed is the one, the anyone, who gets up and goes searching for wisdom until he finds it.”

Common grace is still God’s grace.

Wherever you see skill and expertise, you see a gift of God.

When people excel in science, art, business, athletics, and so forth, it is because God made his wisdom available, and they got up and found it.

PROVERBS 3:13

Wisdom: The Open Secret of the Universe

(Pro 3:13 RSV) Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding.

The key in this paragraph is the words **“the one”** in **v 13**

It is the Hebrew **‘adam’**, generic “man,” a human being, because wisdom is available to everyone.

Common grace is the goodness of God that he showers universally on the human race.

“[God] makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Mat 5:45)

PROVERBS 3:14

(Pro 3:14 ISV) ¶ because her profit is better than the profit of silver, and her yield than fine gold.*

(Pro 3:14 KJV+) For^{H3588} the merchandise^{H5504} of it is better^{H2896} than the merchandise^{H4480 H5505} of silver,^{H3701} and the gain^{H8393} thereof than fine gold.^{H4480 H2742}

(Pro 3:14 NASB) For her profit is better than the profit of silver And her gain better than fine gold.

(Pro 3:14 NIV) for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.

PROVERBS 3:14

we think they are about money:

“...for the gain from [wisdom] is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold” (v.14).

The sage is counseling us, “Don’t aim at money.

If you need money, aim at wisdom and you’ll make the money that’s right for you.”

That is why wisdom is **“more precious than jewels” (v.15).**

Wisdom and understanding better than:

1. Silver (**Prov 3:14**)
2. Fine gold
3. Rubies (**Prov 3:15**)
4. Other things

PROVERBS 3:15

(Pro 3:15 ISV*) ¶ She is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire compares with her.

(Pro 3:15 KJV+) She^{H1931} is more precious^{H3368} than rubies:^{H4480 H6443} and all^{H3605} the things thou canst desire^{H2656} are not^{H3808} to be compared^{H7737} unto her.

(Pro 3:15 NASB) She is more precious than jewels; And nothing you desire compares with her.

(Pro 3:15 NIV) She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.

[rubies] Pearls, or precious stones in general.

PROVERBS 3:16

(Pro 3:16 ISV*) ¶ Long life is in her right hand, and in her left are riches and honor.

(Pro 3:16 KJV+) Length^{H753} of days^{H3117} is in her right hand;^{H3225} and in her left hand^{H8040} riches^{H6239} and honour.^{H3519}

(Pro 3:16 NASB) Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor.

(Pro 3:16 NIV) Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

Six blessings of wisdom/knowledge:

1. Length of days (**Prov 3:16**)
2. Riches and honor
3. Pleasantness (**Prov 3:17**)
4. Peace
5. Tree of life (**Prov 3:18**)
6. Happiness

PROVERBS 3:17

(Pro 3:17 ISV*) ¶ Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peaceful.

(Pro 3:17 KJV+) Her ways^{H1870} are ways^{H1870} of pleasantness,^{H5278} and all^{H3605} her paths^{H5410} are peace.^{H7965}

(Pro 3:17 NASB) Her ways are pleasant ways And all her paths are peace.

(Pro 3:17 NIV) Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.

Wisdom is skill at living life well. Money is not.

Money can put food on the table, but wisdom puts laughter around that table.

Money can buy a house, but wisdom makes it a home.

Money can buy a woman jewelry, but wisdom wins her heart.

All the ways of wisdom are “pleasantness” (v.17).

You cannot say that about money.

PROVERBS 3:18

(Pro 3:18 ISV*) ¶ She is a tree of life for those who embrace her, and whoever clutches her tightly will be joyful.

(Pro 3:18 KJV+) She^{H1931} is a tree^{H6086} of life^{H2416} to them that lay hold^{H2388} upon her: and happy^{H833} is every one that retaineth^{H8551} her.

(Pro 3:18 NASB) She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who hold her fast.

(Pro 3:18 NIV) She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed.

[tree of life to them that lay hold upon her] Compare Gen 2:9; 3:22-24; Rev 2:7; 22:2,14.

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PROVERBS 3:18

By obeying wisdom and knowledge one can live long and even enter into eternal life.

We can wreck our lives by settling for the wisdom that only makes us money here and now when God is offering us the wisdom that takes us to “a tree of life” (**v. 18**).

That tree of life feeds our hearts with the special grace of Jesus Christ.

He died on the cross for geniuses who excel in earthly skills but are clueless about real life.

Do not stop short. Do not settle for money.

If you like money and silver and gold and jewels (**vv. 14, 15**), remember that they are mere metaphors for the life-giving special grace of Christ himself.

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Harmony with God’s creation (**Prov. 3:19—20**).

The person who walks according to God’s wisdom can sing, “This is my Father’s world,” and really mean it.

The wisdom of God brought everything into being (**8:22ff.**), including what science calls “the laws of nature.”

Obey these laws and creation will work with you; disobey them and creation will work against you.

Those who live by God’s wisdom will be good stewards of His creation and will use His gifts for His glory, enjoying them in their intended purposes.

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PROVERBS 3:19

(Pro 3:19 ISV*) ¶ By wisdom the LORD laid the earth’s foundations, and by understanding he set the heavens in place.

(Pro 3:19 KJV+) The LORD^{H3068} by wisdom^{H2451} hath founded^{H3245} the earth;^{H776} by understanding^{H8394} hath he established^{H3559} the heavens.^{H8064}

(Pro 3:19 NASB) The LORD by wisdom founded the earth, By understanding He established the heavens.

(Pro 3:19 NIV) By wisdom the LORD laid the earth’s foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place;

[The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth]

the infinite knowledge and skill of God whereby everything in creation has been made and maintained.

The composition and structure of all creation has not been changed.

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PROVERBS 3:20

(Pro 3:20 ISV) ¶ By his knowledge the depths broke open, and the clouds drip with dew.*

(Pro 3:20 KJV+) By his knowledge^{H1847} the depths^{H8415} are broken up,^{H1234} and the clouds^{H7834} drop down^{H7491} the dew.^{H2919}

(Pro 3:20 NASB) By His knowledge the deeps were broken up And the skies drip with dew.

(Pro 3:20 NIV) by his knowledge the deeps were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew.

PROVERBS 3:19-20

Wisdom matters to God, who uses it as his tool in both creation and providence (**vv. 19, 20**):

***The LORD by wisdom founded the earth:
by understanding he established the heavens:
by his knowledge the deeps broke open,
and the clouds drop down the dew.***

God created all things, and the tool he used was his own wisdom, and it was all he needed:

“The LORD by wisdom founded the earth.”

He knew what to do and when to do so all things worked out according to his purposes and plans.

At this very moment, he sustains — note the present tense **“drop down” in verse 20** — he sustains all things, even the dewdrops, by his wisdom.

PROVERBS 3:20 the clouds drop down the dew

Picture yourself as a farmer in the Near East, far from any lake or stream.

A few wells keep the family and animals supplied with water.

But if the crops are to grow and the family is to be fed from month to month, water has to come on the fields from another source - The sky!

Water will have to be carried in the sky from the Mediterranean Sea, over several hundred miles and then be poured out from the sky onto the fields.

How much does it weigh?

If one inch of rain falls on one square mile of farmland during the night, that would be 27,878,400 cubic feet of water, which is 206,300,160 gallons, which is 1,650,501,280 pounds of water.

PROVERBS 3:20 the clouds drop down the dew

How does it get up in the sky and stay up there?

It gets up there by evaporation - the water sort of stops being water for a while so it can go up and not down.

The wind and sun and earth spinning beneath it carry it hundreds and thousands of miles until it falls back down to earth when condensation happens.

When the water vapor condenses it starts becoming water again by gathering around little dust particles between .00001 and .0001 centimeters wide.

But it doesn't just dump it.

If it dumped a billion pounds of water on the farm, the crops would be crushed.

What about the salt?

The Mediterranean Sea is salt water and that would kill the crops. The salt has to be taken out.

PROVERBS 3:20 the clouds drop down the dew

So the sky picks up a billion pounds of salt water from the sea and takes out the salt and then carries it for three hundred miles and then dribbles the billion pounds water down in little drops on the farm as fresh water?

If God by his wisdom can work that wonder in nature, what will he accomplish by his wisdom in us?

We are surrounded and sustained by God's wisdom, though we barely understand it.

Wisdom allows us even now to see the creation for what it is — God's ingenious wisdom.

PROVERBS 3:20 the clouds drop down the dew

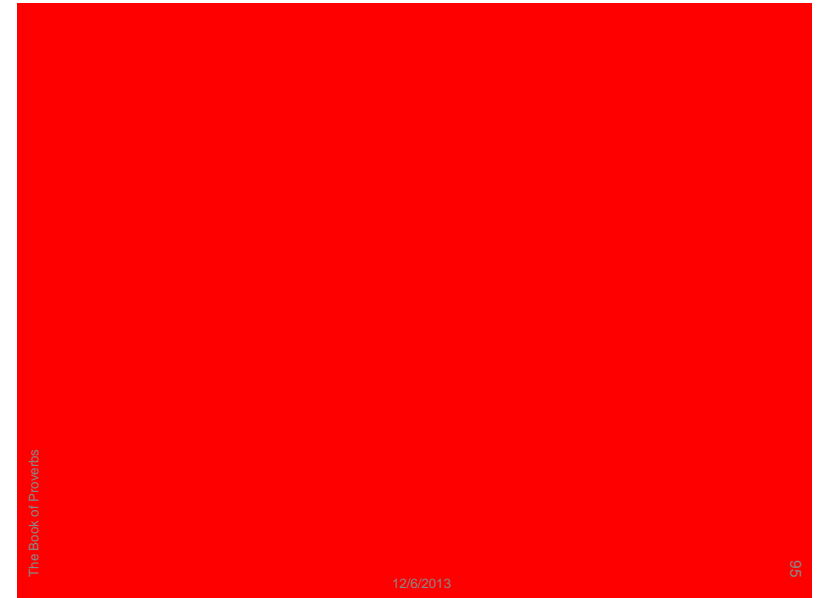
Some of us have lived in a foreign country, and we know how lonely it is to walk the streets of a city unable to read the signs, unable to ask for directions, because we do not know the language.

Many are like that in God's amazing creation.

But God is translating his wisdom for us, supremely in Christ.

That wisdom is the true foundation and meaning of the universe.

He is urging us to take it to heart and to make it our own as outsiders who put our hope in him.



The Father's providential care (3:21—35)

Because God directs our path, He is able to protect our path. The Lord isn't obligated to protect His children when they willfully go their own way.

They're only tempting Him; that's a dangerous thing to do.

"Why doesn't God stop this terrible war?"

"He doesn't stop it because He didn't start it."

It was started by people who rejected God's wisdom and pursued their own selfish plans.

The Father's providential care (3:21—26).

When you surrender yourself to God, every part of your body belongs to Him and will be protected by Him.

He will help you keep:

- Your eyes from wandering (v. 21),
 - Your neck from turning your face away from God's path (v. 22; see **Luke 9:53**),
 - Your feet walking on the right path (**Prov. 3:23, 26**), and
 - Even your backbone safe while you're sleeping (v. 24).
- If something frightening suddenly happens, you won't be afraid (v.25 see **Ps. 112:7; 121:3—6**), because the Lord is protecting you.

How we sleep is sometimes evidence of how much we trust the Lord (**Ps. 4—5**).

Pro 3:21-26 NASB

- (21) *My son, let them not vanish from your sight; Keep sound wisdom and discretion,*
- (22) *So they will be life to your soul And adornment to your neck.*
- (23) *Then you will walk in your way securely And your foot will not stumble.*
- (24) *When you lie down, you will not be afraid; When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.*
- (25) *Do not be afraid of sudden fear Nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes;*
- (26) *For the LORD will be your confidence And will keep your foot from being caught.*

PROVERBS 3:21

(Pro 3:21 ISV*) ¶ *My son, do not let wisdom [The Heb. lacks wisdom] leave your sight. Carefully observe sound judgment and discernment,*

(Pro 3:21 KJV+) *My son,^{H1121} let not^{H408} them depart^{H3868} from thine eyes:^{H4480 H5869} keep^{H5341} sound wisdom^{H8454} and discretion:^{H4209}*

(Pro 3:21 NASB) *My son, let them not vanish from your sight; Keep sound wisdom and discretion,*

(Pro 3:21 NIV) *My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight;*

[them depart from thine eyes] "Them" may refer to mercy and truth (**Prov 3:3**), or to wisdom and understanding (**Prov 3:13**).

PROVERBS 3:22

(Pro 3:22 ISV*) ¶ *and they will be life to you and a graceful ornament [Lit. grace] for your neck.*

(Pro 3:22 KJV+) *So shall they be^{H1961} life^{H2416} unto thy soul,^{H5315} and grace^{H2580} to thy neck.^{H1621}*

(Pro 3:22 NASB) *So they will be life to your soul And adornment to your neck.*

(Pro 3:22 NIV) *they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck.*

[grace to thy neck] Another reference to ornaments around the neck. See note, **Prov 1:9**.

PROVERBS 3:22

Eight Things that will Bring Life (Prov 3:22)

1. Law and commandments (*Prov 3:1-2*)
2. Mercy and truth (*Prov 3:3-4*)
3. Trust in God (*Prov 3:5*)
4. Acknowledgement of God (*Prov 3:6*)
5. Reverence for God (*Prov 3:7-8*)
6. Departure from evil (*Prov 3:7-8*)
7. Wisdom and understanding (*Prov 3:13-18*)
8. Wisdom and discretion (*Prov 3:21-24*)

PROVERBS 3:21-22 Benefits of Wisdom

When the Apostle Paul was suffering, the Lord was at his side:

“At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me” (2Ti 4:16, 17).

The longer you and I live, the more stories we have to tell of the Lord standing at our side strengthening us.

We are not trusting wisdom as an impersonal cosmic force;

We are trusting the living Christ to stay close moment by moment, because he has promised, “I will be at your side.”

PROVERBS 3:21-22 Benefits of Wisdom

***My son, do not lose sight of these—
keep sound ‘wisdom and discretion,
and they will be life for your soul
and adornment for your neck
for the LORD will be your confidence
and will keep your foot from being caught.
(Proverbs 3:21, 22, 26)***

This paragraph is about personal safety.

As we grow in wisdom, God protects us from the land mines that sin has hidden here in his world.

The Lord himself is with us.

When we read, ***“the LORD will be your confidence,”*** it means he will be our companion.

The alternative translation of the Hebrew is, ***“The LORD will be at your side.”***

PROVERBS 3:23

***(Pro 3:23 ISV*) ¶ Then you will travel safely on your way,
and your foot will not stumble.***

***(Pro 3:23 KJV+) Then^{H227} shalt thou walk^{H1980} in thy
way^{H1870} safely,^{H983} and thy foot^{H7272} shall not^{H3808}
stumble.^{H5062}***

***(Pro 3:23 NASB) Then you will walk in your way securely
And your foot will not stumble.***

***(Pro 3:23 NIV) Then you will go on your way in safety,
and your foot will not stumble;***

Here is another conclusion (*Prov 2:5,9; 3:23*).

THEN — when all the conditions of *Prov 3:1-22* have been met — one will not stumble.

One can then live in confidence, security, and safety, and sleep will be sweet (*Prov 3:23-24*).

PROVERBS 3:24

(Pro 3:24 ISV*) ¶ *When you sit* ^[So LXX; MT reads lie] *down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be pleasant.* ^[Or sweet]

(Pro 3:24 KJV+) *When*^{H518} *thou liest down,*^{H7901} *thou shalt not*^{H3808} *be afraid:*^{H6342} *yea, thou shalt lie down,*^{H7901} *and thy sleep*^{H8142} *shall be sweet.*^{H6149}

(Pro 3:24 NASB) *When you lie down, you will not be afraid; When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.*

(Pro 3:24 NIV) *when you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.*

PROVERBS 3:25

(Pro 3:25 ISV*) ¶ *Do not be afraid of sudden disaster,* ^[Lit. terror] *or the devastation that comes to the wicked.*

(Pro 3:25 KJV+) *Be not*^{H408} *afraid*^{H3372} *of sudden*^{H6597} *fear,*^{H4480 H6343} *neither of the desolation*^{H4480 H7722} *of the wicked,*^{H7563} *when*^{H3588} *it cometh.*^{H935}

(Pro 3:25 NASB) *Do not be afraid of sudden fear Nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes;*

(Pro 3:25 NIV) *Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked,*

Four illustrations of not being afraid:

1. Moses (*Ex 14:13-14*)
2. Rahab (*Josh 6:24-25*)
3. Elisha (*2 Kings 6:16-17*)
4. Ebed-melech (*Jer 39:15-18*)

PROVERBS 3:26

(Pro 3:26 ISV*) ¶ *Indeed, the LORD will be your confidence, and he will keep your foot from being caught.*

(Pro 3:26 KJV+) *For*^{H3588} *the LORD*^{H3068} *shall be*^{H1961} *thy confidence,*^{H3689} *and shall keep*^{H8104} *thy foot*^{H7272} *from being taken.*^{H4480 H3921}

(Pro 3:26 NASB) *For the LORD will be your confidence And will keep your foot from being caught.*

(Pro 3:26 NIV) *for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared.*

A positive relationship with others (**Prov. 3:27-35**)

Wise Christians will be generous to their neighbors and live peaceably with them (**vv. 27—30**), doing their best to avoid unnecessary disagreements (**Rom. 12:18**).

If we truly love God, we will love our neighbor as we would want him to love us. (**Mat 7:12; Luk 6:31**)

If the neighbor is a perverse person who scoffs at our faith (**Prov. 3:31—35**), the Lord will guide us in letting our light shine and His love show so that we will influence him but he won't lead us astray. (**Mat 5:13-16**)

Sometimes it takes a great deal of patience, prayer, and wisdom to rightly relate to people who don't want Christians in their lives or neighborhood, but perhaps that's why God put us there.

We are the salt of the earth and the light of the world, and one dedicated Christian in a neighborhood can make a great deal of difference and be a powerful witness for the Lord.

Pro 3:27-35 NASB

- (27) *Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in your power to do it.*
- (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 harm against your neighbor, While he lives securely beside you.*
- (30) *Do not contend with a man without cause, If he has done you no harm.*
- (31) *Do not envy a man of violence And do not choose any of his ways.*
- (32) *For the devious are an abomination to the LORD; But He is intimate with the upright.*
- (33) *The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the dwelling of the righteous.*
- (34) *Though He scoffs at the scoffers, Yet He gives grace to the afflicted.*
- (35) *The wise will inherit honor, But fools display dishonor.*

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PROVERBS 3:27

- (Pro 3:27 ISV*) ¶ *Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.*
- (Pro 3:27 KJV+) *Withhold^{H4513} not^{H408} good^{H2896} from them to whom it is due,^{H4480 H1167} when it is^{H1961} in the power^{H410} of thine hand^{H3027} to do^{H6213} it.*
- (Pro 3:27 NASB) *Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in your power to do it.*
- (Pro 3:27 NIV) *Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.*

Literally, "Do not withhold good from its owners."

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PROVERBS 3:27-35 Wisdom in Action

According to **verses 27—35**, Wisdom also creates something.

Wisdom creates a culture of life amid this culture of death called our world.

Wisdom is a community experience, a shared experience of life in its fullness.

Jesus is pouring out his Spirit to create a new culture of life, called the church.

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PROVERBS 3:27

Four examples of withholding good:

1. Jacob (**Gen 25:29-33**)
2. The Ammonites (**Deut 23:3-4**)
3. Nabal (**1 Sam 25:10-11**)
4. The priests and Levite (**Luke 10:30-35**)

Three examples of not withholding good:

1. Abraham (**Gen 13:9; 14:23**)
2. The widow (**1 Kings 17:9-16**)
3. The good Samaritan (**Luke 10:30-37**)

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PROVERBS 3:28

(Pro 3:28 ISV*) ¶ **Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and come back. I will pay you ^[Lit. it] tomorrow,” when you have cash ^[The Heb. lacks cash] with you.**

(Pro 3:28 KJV+) Say^{H559} not^{H408} unto thy neighbour,^{H7453} Go,^{H1980} and come again,^{H7725} and to morrow^{H4279} I will give,^{H5414} when thou hast^{H3426} it by^{H854} thee.

(Pro 3:28 NASB) **Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give it,” When you have it with you.**

(Pro 3:28 NIV) **Do not say to your neighbor, “Come back later; I’ll give it tomorrow”— when you now have it with you.**

PROVERBS 3:27-28

“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due.”

Note the alternative translation in the ESV margin:

“Do not withhold good from its owners.”

If you have good you can do for somebody, then legally you own it, but morally they own it.

No one has the right to force you to be generous.

No one can walk into your house and start helping themselves to your things saying, “The Bible says I own it.”

What the Bible says to them is, **“You shall not steal” (Exodus 20:15).**

PROVERBS 3:27-28

Wisdom: A Culture of Life amid a Culture of Death

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.

Do not say to your neighbor,

“Go and come again,

tomorrow I will give it”—when you have it with you.

(Proverbs 3:27, 28)

A new culture of life:

- help your needy neighbor.
- protect your innocent neighbor,
- avoid your violent neighbor.

In a culture of life, people help each other as much as they can.

- We cannot do the impossible.
- We cannot give what we do not have.

But, when it is in our power to do it, when we have it with us, wisdom says, “Give it away.”

PROVERBS 3:27-28

The grace of Jesus taught the Apostle Paul to say, **“I am a debtor” (Romans 1:14, NKJV).**

He did not see himself as a demander but a debtor.

Nobody owed him a hearing.

He won a hearing by loving people the way God loved him — graciously. (eg: **Phlm 1:8-9**)

What the Bible says to us is, **“You shall not withhold.”**

We sin against each other not only by the bad things we do but also by the beautiful things we withhold.

Withheld love is a life-depleting sin.

PROVERBS 3:27-28

It is a sin to tell ourselves, "I'm not doing anybody any harm."

The question is:

What good are you withholding that you could provide?

Jesus withheld no good thing from you.

A culture of life is where people love each other openly and eagerly with the love of Jesus.

All around us are opportunities to breathe life into more people.

We cannot do everything. But we can do something, for his sake.

If we have the ability, they have the ownership.

And we owe it today, not tomorrow.

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PROVERBS 3:29

(Pro 3:29 ISV*) ¶ Do not plan to harm your neighbor, when he is living peacefully [Or securely] beside you.

(Pro 3:29 KJV+) Devise^{H2790} not^{H408} evil^{H7451} against^{H5921} thy neighbour,^{H7453} seeing he^{H1931} dwelleth^{H3427} securely^{H983} by^{H854} thee.

(Pro 3:29 NASB) Do not devise harm against your neighbor, While he lives securely beside you.

(Pro 3:29 NIV) Do not plot harm against your neighbor, who lives trustfully near you.

Three examples of plotting evil:

1. Rebekah and Jacob (**Gen 27**)
2. Joseph's brethren (**Gen 37:18-23**)
3. Daniel's enemies (**Dan 6**)

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PROVERBS 3:30

(Pro 3:30 ISV*) ¶ Do not bring a lawsuit against a person for no reason, when he has done you no harm.

(Pro 3:30 KJV+) Strive^{H7378} not^{H408} with^{H5973} a man^{H120} without cause,^{H2600} if^{H1518} he have done^{H1580} thee no^{H3808} harm.^{H7451}

(Pro 3:30 NASB) Do not contend with a man without cause, if he has done you no harm.

(Pro 3:30 NIV) Do not accuse a man for no reason— when he has done you no harm.

H7378 **רִיב / רִיב** to strive, contend
Physically or with words
to conduct a case or suit (legal), sue;
to make complaint; to quarrel; to contend against

Three examples of strife without cause:

1. Saul (**1 Sam 18:8-9**)
2. The Ammonites (**2 Sam 10**)
3. Ahab (**1 Kings 21**)

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PROVERBS 3:29-30

Trust is the glue that holds community together.

The Lord calls us to trust him unreservedly (**v.5**), because trust is the only platform on which a real relationship can happen.

We all know it is extremely painful to trust someone, and then have them turn against us.

Wisdom here says to us (negatively), do not be a faultfinding, critical person, ready to pounce on some well-meaning individual with a "Gotcha!"

That is a culture of death.

Heaven has come down to us through Christ.

He defended us when we deserved the opposite.

When we follow His example, that is wisdom creating a culture of safety in a world of attack.

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PROVERBS 3:31

(Pro 3:31 ISV*) ¶ *Do not envy a violent man, and do not emulate his lifestyle.* [Lit. ways]

(Pro 3:31 KJV+) *Envy*^{H7065} *thou not*^{H408} *the oppressor,*^{H376 H2555} *and choose*^{H977} *none*^{H408 H3605} *of his ways.*^{H1870}

(Pro 3:31 NASB) *Do not envy a man of violence And do not choose any of his ways.*

(Pro 3:31 NIV) *Do not envy a violent man or choose any of his ways,*

Two examples of not envying oppressors:

1. Moses (*Heb 11:25-26*)
2. Elijah (*1 Kings 21:17-24*)

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PROVERBS 3:32

(Pro 3:32 ISV*) ¶ *Indeed, a perverse man is utterly disgusting* [Lit. an abomination] *to the LORD, but he takes the upright into his confidence.* [Lit. but his secret counsel is with the upright]

(Pro 3:32 KJV+) *For*^{H3588} *the froward*^{H3868} *is abomination*^{H8441} *to the LORD;*^{H3068} *but his secret*^{H5475} *is with*^{H854} *the righteous.*^{H3477}

(Pro 3:32 NASB) *For the devious are an abomination to the LORD; But He is intimate with the upright.*

(Pro 3:32 NIV) *for the LORD detests a perverse man but takes the upright into his confidence.*

[Abomination] an act or attitude that is enraging, horrible, defiling, outrageous, forbidden, loathsome, hated, detestable, polluted, abhorrent, repugnant, taboo, disgusting

[his secret is with the righteous] Secret counsel is for the righteous.

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PROVERBS 3:32

Twenty Things That Are an Abomination to God

1. The froward man. Hebrew: **luwz** (OT:3868), Perverse, unacceptable, improper in attitude and behavior; One who turns aside from what is right and correct (**Prov 3:32; 11:20**)
2. A proud look (**Prov 6:16-17**)
3. A lying tongue (**Prov 6:17; 12:22**)
4. Hands that shed innocent blood (**Prov 6:17**)
5. A wicked scheming heart (**Prov 6:18**)
6. Feet quick to sin (**Prov 6:18**)
7. A false witness that speaks lies (**Prov 6:19**)
8. A sower of discord (**Prov 6:19**)
9. Wickedness (**Prov 8:7**)
10. A false balance (scale, **Prov 11:1**)

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PROVERBS 3:32

Twenty Things That Are an Abomination to God

11. Sacrifice of the wicked (**Prov 15:8; 21:27**)
12. The way of the wicked (**Prov 15:9**)
13. The thoughts of the wicked (**Prov 15:26**)
14. The proud of heart (**Prov 16:5**)
15. Justifying the wicked (**Prov 17:15**)
16. Condemning the just (**Prov 17:15**)
17. Diverse weights (**Prov 20:10,23**)
18. Diverse measures (**Prov 20:10**)
19. Refusing to hear the law (**Prov 28:9**)
20. Prayer of the rebel (**Prov 28:9**)

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PROVERBS 3:31-32

In a culture of life the wise keep their distance from the violent:

***Do not envy a man of violence
and do not choose any of his ways,
for the devious person is an abomination to the Lord,
but the upright are in his confidence.
(Proverbs 3:31, 32)***

The way things are now, violent people succeed, and we are tempted to envy them.

People fear and envy the violent.

“This is my neighborhood, this is my office, this is my church, this is my world—not yours.”

God says in **verse 32**, “That’s an abomination.”

In other words, it turns God’s stomach.

PROVERBS 3:31-32

God loves to defend those whom no one else defends.

He is involved in this world.

He is not standing aloof.

He is no bystander or spectator.

Whatever abuse you suffer, no one can take this from you:

“The upright are in his confidence” (v.32).

Being close to Christ is better than being on top of the world.

He has all authority in Heaven and on earth.

If they drive you out, the Lord will take you in.

PROVERBS 3:33

(Pro 3:33 ISV*) ¶ The LORD’s curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous.

(Pro 3:33 KJV+) The curse^{H3994} of the LORD^{H3068} is in the house^{H1004} of the wicked:^{H7563} but he blesseth^{H1288} the habitation^{H5116} of the just.^{H6662}

(Pro 3:33 NASB) The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the dwelling of the righteous.

(Pro 3:33 NIV) The LORD’s curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous.

PROVERBS 3:33

(Pro 3:33 KJV+) The curse^{H3994} of the LORD^{H3068} is in the house^{H1004} of the wicked:^{H7563} but he blesseth^{H1288} the habitation^{H5116} of the just.^{H6662}

It’s possible to have a godly home in the midst of an ungodly neighborhood, for God ***“blesses the home of the righteous” (v. 33 NIV).***

Three examples of a curse on the wicked:

1. Baasha (***1 Kings 16:1-13***)
2. Jehoiakim (***Jer 22:13-19***)
3. Coniah (Jechoniah), (***Jer 22:24-28***)

Three examples of a blessing on the just:

1. Abraham (***Heb 11:12***)
2. Jacob (***Gen 30:27***)
3. Joseph (***Gen 39:2,21***)

PROVERBS 3:34

(Pro 3:34 ISV*) ¶ *Though God* ^[Lit. he] *scoffs at scoffers, he gives grace to the humble.*

(Pro 3:34 KJV+) *Surely*^{H518} *he*^{H1931} *scorneth*^{H3887} *the scorners.*^{H3887} *but he giveth*^{H5414} *grace*^{H2580} *unto the lowly.*^{H6035}

(Pro 3:34 NASB) *Though He scoffs at the scoffers, Yet He gives grace to the afflicted.*

(Pro 3:34 NIV) *He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.*

(Pro 3:34 RSV) *“Toward the scorners he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor” (v.34).*

Humble yourself and trust him with all your heart.

He is wise enough to know how to subvert subversive people and also build you up.

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PROVERBS 3:34-35

1 Cor 1:18

From one point of view, the cross is for losers and failures and weaklings and outsiders.

From the opposite point of view, the cross represents everything to be trusted, admired, embraced.

Here is the future:

the wise in Christ will inherit the honor of Christ.

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PROVERBS 3:34-35

The Septuagint translates **verse 34** in a way you might be familiar with:

“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (quoted in **James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5**).

We can and will do that, depending on how we understand **verse 35**:

“The wise will inherit honor, but fools get disgrace.”

Your everything depends on how you read that verse.

Who are “the wise”? Who are the “fools”?

Who really are the winners and losers in this world?

How you answer that question reveals everything about you, because how you answer that question reveals how you see the cross of Jesus.

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PROVERBS 3:35

(Pro 3:35 ISV*) ¶ *The wise will inherit honor, but he holds fools up for ridicule.*

(Pro 3:35 KJV+) *The wise*^{H2450} *shall inherit*^{H5157} *glory.*^{H3519} *but shame*^{H7036} *shall be the promotion*^{H7311} *of fools.*^{H3684}

(Pro 3:35 NASB) *The wise will inherit honor, But fools display dishonor.*

(Pro 3:35 NIV) *The wise inherit honor, but fools he holds up to shame.*

The 3rd prophecy in Proverbs (**Pro 3:35**, unfulfilled). Next, **Pro 4:18** **[shame shall be the promotion of fools]** Fools pile up disgrace.

"Fools" is the Hebrew: **keciyl** (OT:3684) which means dense or stupid, manifesting itself in impiety - a lack of proper respect for God or sacred things - and irreverence.

Used 49 times in Proverbs (**Prov 1:22,32; 3:35; 8:5; 10:1,18,23; 12:23; 13:16,19-20; 14:7-8,16,24,33; 15:2,7,14,20; 17:10,12,16,21,24-25; 18:2,6-7; 19:1,10,13,29; 21:20; 23:9; 26:1,3-12; 28:26; 29:11,20**). 12/6/2013

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