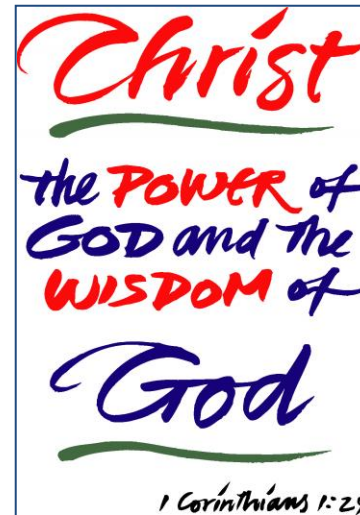


**Proverbs 3:5-6** – *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Notes:



## WISDOM FOR TODAY

LESSON 02: IN GOD WE TRUST – OR DO WE?

*Bible Reading:*  
Proverbs 3:5-6

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The motto “**In God We Trust**” was placed on United States coins largely because of the increased religious sentiment existing during the Civil War. Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase received many appeals from devout persons throughout the country, urging that the United States recognize the Deity on United States coins.

As a result of these letters, Secretary Chase instructed James Pollock, Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, to prepare a motto, in a letter dated November 20, 1861, in which he stated:

*Dear Sir:*

*No nation can be strong except in the strength of God, or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins. You will cause a device to be prepared without unnecessary delay with a motto expressing in the fewest and tersest words possible this national recognition.*

Since 1938, all United States coins bear the inscription. A law passed by the 84th Congress and approved by the President on

July 11, 1955 said that the motto should appear on all United States paper currency and coins.

**Proverbs 3:5-6 (TEV)** – *Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the LORD in everything you do, and he will show you the right way.*

Today, we will look at these verses from the book of Proverbs that teach us when and how to put our trust in God. I can safely say there are three times in life when you and I should trust in God. Doesn't sound like enough? Let's see.

## II. PUT YOUR TRUST IN GOD...

### A. WHEN THINGS HAPPEN THAT YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND (VERSE 5)

Consider Abraham's poor example in Genesis 12.

Things may be happening in your life that you don't understand right now.

Your own sense of understanding will not get you through life; but trusting God when you don't understand will.

### B. WHEN YOU ARE FACED WITH A DECISION (VERSE 6)

We all know it's a good idea to seek God's guidance when we're making a major decision: **changing careers, moving to a new city, or getting married**. But it's not just the big decisions we need to trust God with; we need to turn to him for guidance on any decision we make.

*In all thy ways acknowledge him...*

## C. WHEN THE FUTURE SEEMS UNCERTAIN (VERSE 6)

*...and He shall direct thy paths.*

**PASTORAL NOTE:** This verse isn't saying that he will make your life easy; it means that he will make your life focused. He will give you a direction and a purpose in life—you will know where you are going and what you are doing.

Trusting God means that you don't have to try to make sense of all the areas of your life. He will make them make sense for you. If you're not sure where you are going in life, if you're uncertain about the future, this is the time to trust God.

## III. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO TRUST GOD?

Trust and obedience go hand in hand.

**READ: ISAIAH 64:6; ROMANS 3:23**

Whatever it is you trust today, God says it doesn't measure up. None of them are worth staking your eternity on.

God knew that we did not and could not measure up to His standards, so He provided a substitute to pay the price for our sin, in spite of us.

**READ: ISAIAH 53:6; JOHN 14:6**

**Isaiah 53:6** is talking about Jesus!

When it comes to living your life, as you seek to get it together and keep it together, you can follow one of two strategies. You can either wander around in the dark, trying to figure out on your own how to get there, or you can follow the directions.

You don't have to know all the details about how things are supposed to work, you only have to follow the directions God has given. What are they?