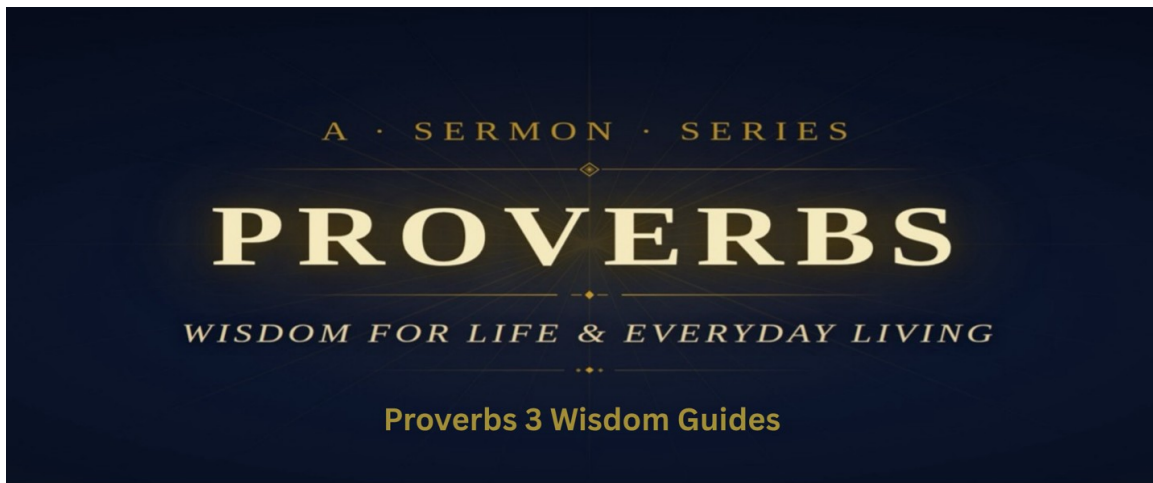




Open in prayer

Brief recap of sermon – “Proverbs 3: Wisdom Guides”

Icebreaker *Share about a time you were going somewhere, and took a wrong turn and got lost.*

Introduction

- *This chapter is “The Guidebook of Wisdom” (see the “guidebook” handout)*

Proverbs 3:1-2 Stop One: Obey God

- *We are instructed to remember God’s law (Torah); although we do not earn salvation or eternal life by obeying the Law, we are still expected to follow it.*
- *Following God’s Law adds: length of days, long life, and peace*

Proverbs 3:3-4 Stop Two: Walk Faithfully

- *Show mercy to others; mercy = lovingkindness*
- *Live according to God’s truth, and be truthful in all that we do at all times*

Proverbs 3:5-6 Stop Three: Trust God

- *We are to trust God with all our heart for everything (do not rely on our own worldly knowledge)*
- *Personally surrender our will to His will for us; if we do, He will make our paths smooth*

Proverbs 3:7-8 Stop Be Humble

- *Don’t be puffed up with pride, but rather humbly have a holy & reverent respect for the Lord, and depart from evil*

Proverbs 3:9-10 Stop Five: Honor God

- *Be good stewards of that which God has entrusted to you; when harvesting and collecting gains, always give back to God of the first and best earnings/proceeds; give expecting nothing in return*

Proverbs 3:11-12 Stop Six: Receive Correction (Discipline)

- *Accept God’s guidance and discipline; He only disciplines His children*

Proverbs 3:13-20 Stop Seven: Find Wisdom

- *Substitute “Christ” for “wisdom”; A truly happy man is one who has a relationship with Almighty God*
- *Wisdom is the direction; knowledge is the application of that wisdom*

Proverbs 3:21-35 Stop Eight: Daily Wisdom

- *applications of wisdom in our daily lives:*
 - **See in Wisdom:** *Keep focused and use discernment/discretion to identify true teaching*
 - **Walk in Wisdom:** *God’s wisdom directs us toward sure footing and the “straight and narrow” path*
 - **Trust in Wisdom:** *Trusting in God’s wisdom keeps us from being caught in a trap or snare*
 - **Give in Wisdom:** *Do not hold back what you owe others; build relationships by honestly dealing with it now*
 - **Love in Wisdom:** *practice “neighborly love”; do not plot against others, but rather protect each other*
 - **Peace in Wisdom:** *Don’t pick fights*
 - **Right in Wisdom:** *Do not envy oppressors, even those who are wealthy; their wealth is temporary, not eternal*
 - **Humility in Wisdom:** *God gives grace to the humble; we are to walk in humility*

Conclusion

- *Proverbs 3 is God’s “guidebook” to walking in Wisdom; we must open it and follow it to find our way and keep our path straight*

Discussion Points –

Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 3:8-12; Heb 13:16; 1 Peter 4:10; Rom 12:6-8

Proverbs 3:9-10 discusses honoring God with the things He has entrusted to us, which, by the way, is everything we have. Do you agree? What are some of the things God has given to you – Money, property, work, something else? What special “gift” has God given to you? Now think about what those verses mean to you. Discuss how you can honor God by giving. Hint – it isn’t always just with finances.

Proverbs 3:11-12; Phil 2:12-18; Hebrews 12:5-11

We have all heard the word “sanctification”. What does it mean? What is our role in the “sanctification” process? That leads into Proverbs 3:11-12 – accepting God’s correction and discipline in our lives. Discuss ways that God disciplines us, and why He does. And what does it mean if God is not chastening you?

Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 37:3-7; Isaiah 55:8-9; James 1:5-8; Romans 12:1-2

We are called to “trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding...” How easy is that for you? Do you think we should completely ignore our own judgment, experience, and common sense, and blindly trust that God will provide and get me out of this situation? Have you ever been in a situation where you really felt God pulling you in one direction, but you really thought you should go in another? Why is it so difficult to surrender our own plans when we believe we know what is best?

Proverbs 3:27-28; Romans 12:17-21; Phil 2:3-4; James 3:17-18; Gal 6:9-10

Proverbs 3:27-28 tells us we should not withhold good when it is due, and when we have the ability to do good. What are some ways we withhold good from others? Do you ever find that it is easier to show kindness and help a stranger than a person you know well? Why do you think that is? Here’s an interesting question. Which is harder for you: a) doing good for someone who doesn’t deserve it (as far as you’re concerned); b) refusing to retaliate when wronged; or c) celebrating someone else’s success when you wish you had it?

Personal Applications

Two key verses in Proverbs 3 are verses 5-6. Read them again slowly and really meditate on what they mean to you. Once you have studied them, think about a situation in your life you are trying to control without God’s input. Have you genuinely asked for God’s direction, or do you believe you can handle it without Him? What would surrendering that situation look like in practical terms? Make a commitment to God to bring that situation to Him on a daily basis this week. Seek His guidance through His Word (the Bible), and if appropriate seek counsel from a Christian you trust before taking any more action on your own.

Group Prayer

Memory verse for the week

⁵“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6