

Proverbs 3 – Wisdom’s Warnings & Rewards

I. WHAT WISDOM TELLS US *NOT* TO DO

1. Do Not Forget God’s Instruction (*Verse 1*)

“My son, do not forget my law...”

- Wisdom values **remembrance and obedience**
- Forgetting leads to drifting
- God’s Word must stay in the *heart*, not just the head

2. Do Not Let Go of Mercy and Truth (*Verse 3*)

“Do not let mercy and truth forsake you...”

- Wisdom keeps **character** strong
- Mercy = how we love and treat others
- Truth = how we live before God
- These must be *worn* daily, not occasionally

3. Do Not Lean on Your Own Understanding (*Verse 5*)

“Do not lean on your own understanding...”

- Wisdom rejects **self-reliance**
- Human understanding is limited
- Trusting God requires humility

4. Do Not Be Wise in Your Own Eyes (*Verse 7*)

“Do not be wise in your own eyes...”

- Pride blocks wisdom
- Teachable hearts receive growth
- Self-confidence vs. God-confidence

5. Do Not Withhold Good When You Can Help (*Verse 27*)

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

- Wisdom is **active**, not passive

- God blesses us to bless others
- Delay is disobedience

6. Do Not Say ‘Come Back Tomorrow’ When You Can Help Today (Verse 28)

- Wisdom acts **promptly**
- Procrastination robs opportunity
- Compassion should be immediate

7. Do Not Plan Evil Against Your Neighbor (Verse 29)

- Wisdom protects relationships
- God values trust and peace
- Hidden motives destroy community

8. Do Not Strive Without Cause (Verse 30)

- Wisdom avoids unnecessary conflict
- Peace is strength, not weakness
- Not every battle is yours to fight

9. Do Not Envy Violent or Evil People (Verse 31)

- Wisdom chooses God’s way over shortcuts
- Success without righteousness is failure
- Don’t admire what God rejects

II. WHAT WISDOM Does (Proverbs 3)

1. Wisdom is Trust in the Lord (Verses 5–6)

- Full dependence on God
- Direction comes from surrender

2. Wisdom is the Fear of the Lord (Verse 7)

- Reverence leads to healing
- Respect produces protection

3. Wisdom is Honoring God First (Verses 9–10)

- With our resources
- With our obedience
- With our priorities

4. Wisdom Accepts God's Correction (Verses 11–12)

- Discipline is proof of love
- Correction brings growth

5. Wisdom is More Valuable Than Riches (Verses 13–15)

- Can't be bought
- Produces lasting reward
- Brings true satisfaction

6. Wisdom Brings Peace and Safety (Verses 17, 23–26)

- Peaceful paths
- Secure rest
- Confidence in God's care

III. CONCLUSION: THE PATH OF WISDOM

Wisdom teaches us:

- What to avoid
- Who to trust
- How to live

Conclusion: *What we refuse shapes our future just as much as what we pursue.*

CLOSING APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What “do not” is God emphasizing in my life right now?
2. Am I leaning on myself or trusting the Lord?
3. Where do I need to act in wisdom *today*?