

Scripture Text

Proverbs 3

Context

The book of Proverbs gives 21st century Christians wisdom for their lives. It is part of God's plan to redeem man by providing the "skill in the art of godly living". The book of Proverbs is the pinnacle of the bible's wisdom literature. It assumes and builds upon the law and prophets, but goes beyond them in training the reader to live wisely in a very practical 'how to' way. The first 9 chapters of proverbs are ten speeches from a parent to a child for the purpose of training them for a successful life.

Observation and Meaning

Let's read Proverbs 3:1-12

- Who is the author addressing his instructions to? v1
- What are the benefits of obeying the author's commandments? v2
- What are the two things the author tells his son to keep? v3-4
- Can we trust in the Lord when we don't understand his ways? How do we do it? v5-8
- How does God honour those who honour him with their wealth? v9-10
- Why does God's discipline his children? v11-12

Let's read Proverbs 3:13-20

- List the reasons why those who find God's wisdom are called "Blessed" in verses 13-18.
- What role did wisdom, understanding and knowledge play in creation? v19-20

Let's read Proverbs 3:21-26

- What are the benefits of keeping sound wisdom and discretion? v21-23
- Who enables one to sleep peacefully and remain calm in the face of sudden terror and ruin? v24-26

Let's read Proverbs 3:27-32

- What is one commanded to do to his/her neighbour in verses 27-28?
- What is one commanded not to do to his/her neighbour in verses 29-31?
- How does God view the devious person and the upright person? v32

Let's read Proverbs 3:33-35

- What are the promises for the righteous and the wicked? v33
- What does God do to the scorner and the humble? v34
- What will the wise and the fool inherit? v35

Big Idea

God is calling us to trust in him with all our heart and not to lean on our own understanding. If we make every effort to remember his teachings and obey his instructions, we will be rewarded with the blessings of God and he will make straight our paths. The consequence of following the ways of wicked is curse, shame and disgrace.

Connecting to Bible Storyline

The history of salvation generally deals with the overarching story of God's work in calling, preserving, and shaping a people for himself, through whom he will bring blessing to the whole world. Proverbs shows how God's covenant people are to live rightly before him to display the wisdom of God to a watching world.

Getting to Christ

As we read God's instruction to live a godly life in Proverbs 3, our role is to trust in the Lord with all our heart and to obey his commands. God has the power to make our paths straight and he promises the abundant life when we follow him. We receive the abundant life through Christ's perfect obedience to the Father. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus trusted the will of the Father despite the difficulty and uncertainty of the path ahead obeyed to the point of death on the cross. And as God raised Jesus up to have authority over all of creation, we now receive the same eternal life when we follow him.

Sermon Outline

- The Path of Wisdom
 - a) Your control center - the heart (v3-4)
 - b) Your guide - the presence of God (v5-6)
 - c) Your temptations - to trust yourself (v7-8)
 - d) Your possessions - to see all as God's (v9-10)
 - e) Your trials - under God's Fatherly care (v11-12)
- Walking this Path of Wisdom with the Person of Wisdom
 - a) Receive the Grace of Jesus
 - b) Receive the Spirit of Jesus
 - c) Receive the Body of Jesus

Applications

Personal application:

- How does seeing God's wisdom of using Jesus's death to save humanity empower you to trust him even when you don't understand his ways?
- Why is trusting God with all my heart important for my relationship with him?

Community application:

- Share one area in your life where you need prayer to trust in God more.
- What are the heart attitudes that cause you to withhold good from your neighbour? v27-28
- How can you work with the community at RHC to grow together to fear the Lord and turn away from evil as a corporate body? v7-8