

## CHAPTER 3

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

Just hearing instruction is not enough. There is profit only in the remembering and doing (*Proverbs 3:2*).

To hear and forget is a horrible waste of an opportunity and God will hold us guilty. We squander the precious privilege of hearing wisdom, when we don't remember what we are taught (*Proverbs 1:24-32; 3:3, 21; 4:4-6, 13, 21; 6:21; 7:1; 22:18; Luke 12:48*).

Keeping our hearts is a priority, "...for out of it are the issues of life" (*Proverbs 4:23*). Your heart directs your life (*Luke 6:45*). So we keep wisdom in our heart to guide us (*Proverbs 3:3; 4:21; Psalm 37:31*)!

We are dealing with God and the consequences of forgetting are horrible! Paul warns us, about letting the things we have heard slip away (*Hebrews 2:1-4*).

### **A Man Will Remember What He Considers Important.**

It is not a function of memory: it is a function of priorities. It is not difficult, as much as it requires diligence.

James warns us to be doers of God's Word, not just hearers, deceiving ourselves (*James 1:21-25*).

**The value added benefits of truth, are for those who remember and keep it.** Or we may be like a man, seeing his faults in the mirror of God's Word, who makes no corrections. But those who see the instruction, remember it, and continue, to do it, shall surely be blessed.

The Holy Spirit through Paul, teaches us that the Gospel saves those who accept it (*1Corinthians 15:2*).

Some at Corinth had forgotten the resurrection of the dead. Without this doctrine, he easily showed that those that forget their salvation, are of all men most miserable (*1Corinthians 15:19*).

It is your duty how you hear instruction and bring forth fruit (*Luke 8:18*).

What kind of ground are you? Satan will snatch away any spiritual seed of instruction, unless you take it and keep it in your heart, where it can bear the fruit of righteousness (*Luke 8:12*).

David teaches us to hide God's Word in our hearts, and we do this by memorizing, meditating, and regularly applying the Word of God (*Psalms 119:11*).

Learning verses helps to keep them in your heart, where we can easily meditate on them and readily use them (*Proverbs 22:18; Psalms 1:2; 119:15, 23, 43, 78, 97, 99, 148; Luke 4:4, 8, 12*).

The Holy Spirit through Peter teaches us the importance of repetition. Though his hearers already knew the truth, he was committed to frequent repetition to help them remember (*2Peter 1:12-15*).

Jesus had the law of God in His heart; and so He delighted in keeping God's will, which is revealed in (*Psalms 40:6-8*).

Are you glad Jesus Christ kept the will of God (*Hebrews 10:9-10*)?

***Proverbs 3:2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.***

Life extension is definitely possible. But it cannot be found in a health food store, an exercise program, or new medical research.

Life extension is found only in righteous living, which requires humility and diligence to heed correction and instruction (*Proverbs 3:1*).

Peace, a very precious commodity for a pleasant life, is found the same way, living a righteous life.

### **Wisdom Is The Power Of Right Judgment.**

#### **Wisdom Is Conviction And Knowledge To Live Righteously.**

Solomon, in Proverbs, dedicated to wisdom, offers long life as a blessing of gaining this knowledge (*Proverbs 3:8, 16; 4:4, 10, 22; 9:11*).

He asks elsewhere, "*Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldst thou die before thy time?*" (*Ecclesiastes 7:17*).

There are two blessings offered here that should fascinate every reader, Long Life And Peace.

Everyone wants to live longer, and peace makes life a continual pleasure. What do you think? What else are you looking for? These are two marvelous things, and they are offered here freely! What hinders you from grasping them for yourself?

Ponce de Leon traveled far and wide, looking for the fabled fountain of youth. Billions are spent annually on so-called health food and vitamins, gym memberships and personal trainers, and reading the latest medical research and bizarre remedies for extending life.

If just a portion of this zeal were applied to wisdom, a person could claim long life and peace.

Sinful living ages the body and brings early death. Even pagans know the risks of "hard living." Rock stars, rap artists, actors and actresses, our nation's most degenerate sinners, often live only half as long as others. They die from accidents, disease, drugs, murder, suicide, and exhausted bodies.

Capital punishment also shortens the life of gross sinners.

Wisdom saves us from "hard living. Wise men avoid accidents by prudence; they miss many diseases by monogamy, drugs by abstention, murder, by peaceful living, suicide by hopeful living, and exhausted bodies, by refreshing sleep.

### **All These Means Of Life Are Taught In Proverbs.**

Wisdom brings peace. Sinners lead anguished lives of fear, guilt, shame, and stress. Sinners are depressed, frustrated, lonely, and tired. Sinners cannot find contentment, fulfillment, or satisfaction. Sinners are always looking, running, and wishing for something with lasting good.

#### **Wise Men Find Peace In The Lord, In Marriage, In Work, In Friends, In A Righteous Soul.**

Satan, a murderer, wants you to die! And the world hates right living! And your depraved soul prefers sin! Life and death is before you (*Deuteronomy 30:19-20*).

Reader, Choose wisdom and life today!

***Proverbs 3:3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:***

Mercy and truth mark perfection. It is wonderful when they meet (*Psalms 85:10*). They lead to favor and good understanding with God and men (*Proverbs 3:4*).

By neglect and sin they are lost, so they must be carefully guarded and applied to our lives. See the comments on *Proverbs 16:6*.

We cannot literally bind mercy and truth about the neck. This represents character traits of wisdom and the Holy Spirit and not subject to string, rope, or chains!

The metaphor describes, tight attachment, to a person's outward life. Not literally writing them upon the table of the heart. Another metaphor describes, committing them to our, affection and memory.

Wise men are dedicated to mercy and truth on the inside and outside. Mercy and truth appear to be opposites, but it is their combination that perfects a man.

**Mercy is:** That gentle, forgiving, gracious, and overlooking trait of noble men, who gladly take personal injury, rather than fight or hurt someone in their power.

**Truth is:** A stubborn commitment to whatever is honest and right, regardless of cost.

Together they balance each other gloriously, resulting in, the gentle and honest life of a true saint.

Children should be taught to love mercy. Sibling rivalry, will create daily opportunities for lessons. Father, it is your duty to teach them the glory of forgiving and overlooking personal offences (*Proverbs 19:11; Matthew 5:38-42*).

Kindness and tenderheartedness should be emphasized. You should teach them to love their enemies, as our Lord and Stephen did (*Proverbs 24:17-18; 25:21-22*).

Mercy does not tolerate unjustified anger, envy, hatred, malice, railing, whispering, and similar sins. Teach your children, tender compassion toward all men.

Children should be taught to love truth. Again, it is your duty to teach them the final authority of God's Word, and the glory of perfect honesty and integrity, in all their dealings. Absolute honesty is a wonderful thing (*Proverbs 12:22; 16:11; 17:7; Romans 12:17*).

So, lying in any form should be punished. Truth does not tolerate exaggeration, hypocrisy, lying, slandering, and other related misrepresentations. It keeps all its promises as given.

Mercy and truth are essential components of wisdom. They do not literally forsake men, but our inherent depravity from Adam, causes us to forsake them!

The rule of wisdom here is to love and remember these, two pillars of godly conduct in all situations.

The Lord Jesus had the perfect balance of mercy and truth. No man was more compassionate, even to enemies; no man was stricter about the truth, though it cost Him His life. He forgave easily and quickly, yet He is called Faithful and True (*Revelation 19:11*).

***Proverbs 3:4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.***

What a glorious description! What a noble ambition! Can a man or woman achieve this level of success in life? Yes, indeed! Do you see the blessing here? It is a high privilege to be taught how to obtain this kind of honor and prosperity.

We first, want to find favor in the sight of God and man. And **If** we are also known for good understanding, it is that much better.

The Proverb describes, being blessed and preferred by others and having the reputation for wisdom and discretion. These are great goals, and Proverbs teaches us how we may reach them (*Proverbs 3:1-3*). See the comments on *Proverbs 22:1*.

Samuel and Jesus both grew in favor with God and men (*1 Samuel 2:26; Luke 2:52*).

We should want to follow these holy examples. And **If** we keep the two great commandments, love of God and love of neighbor, we will achieve both of them.

Reader, are these your goals today? Will you behave so that both God and good men are pleased with your words and actions? The opportunity and privilege of earning these two great marks of character and wisdom should grip you! What lofty goals for a life!

Joseph behaved himself so well that Potiphar, his Egyptian slave owner, put all his assets totally under his care (*Genesis 39:1-6*).

When thrown unjustly in jail, Joseph earned the same approval of the jailor (*Genesis 39:21*).

When Pharaoh needed a wise and prudent man to oversee the preservation of his kingdom, he could think only of Joseph (*Genesis 41:38-45*).

David behaved himself so well, all Israel loved him and his name was much set by (*1 Samuel 18:30*).

King Darius intended to promote Daniel over the whole empire for his excellent spirit, and even his enemies could find no fault in him (*Daniel 6:3-4*).

The Christian life is not petty rules and haughty liberty. It is much more, righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

The man who lives this way is accepted by God and approved of men (*Romans 14:16-19*), as were those in the early church (*Acts 2:44-47*).

Mercy and truth, are the immediate context (*Proverbs 3:3*). We often do find them together (*Proverbs 14:22; 16:6; 20:28*). Study them in their place.

Applying and keeping Proverbs' lessons, is how we achieve these goals (*Proverbs 2:1-9; 3:1-2; Joshua 1:7-9; Psalm 111:10*). Lord, help us.

What is your life? Are you merely working, raising a family, and heading to the grave? Or do the lofty ideals of this Proverb attract you?

***Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.***

Here is a very valuable Proverb! It can save your life and your family's life! All seekers of wisdom should memorize it and the next one (*Proverbs 3:6*).

This is the law for gaining the wisdom to please God and live a successful life. Take a few minutes to help yourself!

**Here is the true basis of wisdom!** Rejecting your ideas and trusting God's inspired Word and sovereign providence to save you from the ignorance of the human race. **If** you cherish or hold your opinions against God's, you will suffer for it!

**Trust equals faith.** Trust in the LORD, believes: He exists, and He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (*Hebrews 11:6*).

The LORD has revealed His perfect will for men in the Bible (*Proverbs 22:20-21; Deuteronomy 29:29; 2 Timothy 3:16-17*).

Trusting in the LORD, rejects all human opinions as the vain babblings of ignorant rebels (*Psalms 119:128; Isaiah 8:20; 1 Timothy 6:3-5, 20*).

The foundation for wisdom is trusting God completely! With your whole heart! In all aspects of your life!

Trusting in the LORD, rejects questioning God, rejects reservations about His will, and rejects blending His Word with human ideas.

### **Trust Is Sold Out Humility!**

To live by the proposition, that there is a God, that He has revealed His will, and He rewards the obedient.

Trust in the LORD that leads to wisdom has faith in the Bible and in His sovereign rule of the world. Trust believes every verse of Scripture, as the absolute and only source of truth, regardless of what subject it addresses.

Trust also believes the circumstances of life are carefully orchestrated by an all-wise and all-powerful God demanding our obedience.

Where did your understanding come from? You were born without any. You nursed by instinct like a newborn kitten. You screamed for food every few hours like a

baby bird, and messed all over yourself. You arrived in this world just like a wild ass's colt (*Job 11:12*).

Where did your understanding come from? Why would you ever accept and lean toward it? Did you get your understanding from parents? They arrived just like you did. Following them perpetuates the human ignorance. Did you get it from school? America's schools are bankrupt in discipline, morality, truth, and wisdom.

The most warped people in our society are the most educated. They teach evolution, espouse gay rights, abort babies, protect baby squirrels, call Picasso an artist, worship big government, and hate the Bible.

Did you get your understanding from your peers? They arrived just like you, about the same time. Putting 100 such morons together does not produce wisdom!

Did you get it from the television? Cartoons, comedies, news, soaps, and sports are all the same, devoid of even basic wisdom.

Did you get it from magazines like "People," "Time," "Parade," and "Readers' Digest"? Together they are as misinformed as mud.

Reader, grasp the issue! You have no understanding! What you think you have is dangerous! Because it seduces you away from truth and wisdom and resists any changes toward them!

Your greatest enemy is your own mind and heart! Ignorant from conception, fed misinformation since birth, encouraged to idiocy by peers, deceived by false interpretation of experiences, and inherently arrogant and selfish, you are in deep trouble!

In order to succeed, you must reject your understanding. To progress, beyond the rest of your species, you cannot even lean toward your own understanding. You must flush it!

Any infatuation or protection of your thoughts will take you down with the rest of this foolish race. The rule is simple and strict, do not even lean toward your own thoughts!

Trust God! He has a corner on all the truth in the universe! Trust God! He gave you existence without your permission, and He governs all the minute details of your life. Put your trust totally in Him, and you can be a wonderful success over the dysfunctional around you rushing, to the slaughter of depression, divorce, drugs, and death!

Woman! Trust the Bible when it tells you how to treat your husband, and don't even lean toward your own thoughts, on how it should be done. Trust the LORD with the husband He gave you, and don't even lean toward thoughts of it being easier with a different man!

Trust the Bible when it tells you to submit civil ordinances, pay your taxes, and honor authority. Don't even lean toward your thoughts of protecting your rights. Trust the LORD with the leaders you have, whether you like them or not.

Trust the Bible when it details child foolishness and right training methods. Don't even lean toward your own thoughts or those of speculator Ben Spock or biblical compromisers. Trust the LORD's promises that right training will bring future success!

Trust the Bible, when it consistently describes baptism as a symbol of burial and resurrection down in the water, immersion! Don't even lean toward your heretical notions and false tradition that sprinkling holy chrism on a baby's forehead is a baptism!

Single person! Trust the Bible when it limits sex to marriage, limits marriage to Christians only, and ridicules odious women. Don't even lean toward the foolish desire for sex or someone outside these limitations. Trust God to bless your efforts for a godly spouse.

Worker! Trust the Bible, that giving money away, to God fearing individuals in need and ministries, will bring prosperity, hoarding money will bring poverty. Listening to business schemes will cost you. Reject your arrogant and selfish thoughts. Trust God to keep His promises of promoting diligent men.

You have a choice reader. Trust God and the Bible and reject your thoughts, or trust your thoughts and reject God and the Bible. The choice is yours, the results are certain.

***Proverbs 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.***

You will face questions, difficult questions, every day of your life. The right answers are easy to find, **If** you humble yourself before God and trust Him on every subject.

Men have problems with this simple solution, they are too proud to admit their ignorance; too fearful to go against the crowd; and they believe they can figure out a workable solution.

Our Proverb is positioned between two others to give its right emphasis. The previous verse teaches total trust in the LORD and total rejection of our understanding (*Proverbs 3:5*).

We cannot even lean toward our thoughts on a matter! And the following Proverb warns against any confidence in our own wisdom; we are to fear the LORD (*Proverbs 3:7*).

You can find the right path for life's complications, **If** you acknowledge the LORD in all your ways.

Acknowledging the LORD is admitting He is infinitely wise, He has perfectly addressed every subject, and you should obey Him.

You would have only one path at every decision, **If** you did not create other options by consulting your foolish heart or the foolish hearts of others. Lord, give us single hearts that acknowledge only you!

The Word of God, is God's will for your life, on any subject you will ever face (**Deuteronomy 29:29**).

The Word of God, can make ministers perfect, when they ignore and reject the opinions of men (**2Timothy 3:16-17**).

**If** you cannot find its answers to your questions, it is your fault or your pastor's fault, not the Author's! The answers are there; you just need to find them!

Read these strong Words about the Bible: *"Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way"* (**Psalm 119:128**).

Read them again! Any attitude toward the Bible, short of this confidence of acknowledging God, is heading straight into the abyss of human confusion (**Isaiah 8:20-22; 1Corinthians 1:18-20; 3:18-20**).

Do you acknowledge Him in all your ways? Corporal punishment perfects children, in spite of what Benjamin Spock and other fools imagine (**Proverbs 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15**).

Baptism is by immersion, in spite of what the Pope taught John Calvin (**John 3:23; Romans 6:3-5; 1Peter 3:21**).

Acknowledging God when dealing with an enemy, by forgiveness and praying, is blessed (**Proverbs 19:11; Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:17-21**)!

When facing funeral options, cremation is pagan (**Genesis 23:1-20; Deuteronomy 12:29-32; 21:22-23; 34:5-6**)!

**If** you have offended an authority, a soft response works best (**Proverbs 15:1; Ecclesiastes 10:4**).

Acknowledge the LORD brings direction for your life. He will say to you, *"This is the way, walk ye in it"* (**Isaiah 30:21**). The Bible answers all your ways.

***Proverbs 3:7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.***

Here are three simple steps to guaranteed prosperity and success (**Proverbs 3:8**)! These are the means to grow in favor with God (**Proverbs 3:5-6**).

There is nothing complicated here. **If** a man:

1. Can reject the love of His own opinions,
2. Humble himself before the God, and
3. Hate sin and worldliness in his own life!

This man will be great in the sight of God and men!

These three fundamental steps are connected. You will not fear God until you crush your own pride and despise your own wisdom: a proper view of the Almighty will be of great help!

You will not despise sin and this world until you fear the LORD (**Psalm 4:4**).

Here are the simple, yet precious and true means to a successful life (**Psalms 111:10; 112:1-3; 128:1-6**).

Pride is arrogant and haughty presumption that your thoughts have value and deserve hearing.

Though you were in diapers and nursing like a baby gerbil yesterday, you believe your ideas have merit.

You cannot avoid a common cold, but you pontificate on moral matters. You were born with this curse, it is fed by the devil, who lost his place in heaven for pride.

You know nothing, and the sooner you learn this fact, you are on the road to wisdom (**1Corinthians 3:18-20**).

Apart from God's Word, you do not know: Where you came from, where you are going, what you are, or why you exist, let alone what you should do!

You struggle to keep the grass cut, and yet you question the Word of God? Foolish man, humble yourself!

You are a pitiful, weak, helpless creature. Two fingers squeezing your nose will end your life (**Isaiah 2:22**).

God, Lord of heaven and earth, is the independent and eternal sovereign Creator of the universe. You should tremble before Him and His Word (**Isaiah 66:1-2**).

God can and will deal with you, **If** you persist in rebellion against Him. Think World Wide Flood!

But His mercy and grace are visible to anyone looking (**Matthew 5:44-45; Acts 14:17**). His benevolence is obvious! You are still alive, aren't you?

The Word of God declares, God can and will forgive those who confess and repent, of their pride and rebellion. It is because of this forgiveness we are in

reverent awe of Him and desiring to please Him (*Psalms 130:4*).

When you eliminate pride, and dedicate your life to pleasing God, you will despise and reject sin. Then: You will be perfect and hate evil, like Job (*Job 1:1*).

You will cut off evildoers from your house (*Psalms 101:2-8*). You will love righteousness and hate sin (*Proverbs 8:13*). You will hate wicked men and their profane ambitions (*Psalms 15:4; 139:21-22*).

In which of these areas are you weak? Correct your deficiency today! Find out how in God's Word!

***Proverbs 3:8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.***

**Spiritual Health  
Physical Health  
And Vitality  
Are Up To You!**

All this is based on the choices of the previous Proverb (*Proverbs 3:7*).

You can have God's blessings on body and spirit by rejecting your own ideas, fearing the Lord, and turning from sin.

This important choice is the primary lesson of Proverbs. Obtaining God's best for your life, is by choosing His wisdom.

If you neglect or reject this precious offer, you are committing certain suicide (*Proverbs 8:36*)!

The pronoun "It" refers precisely to what went before (*Proverbs 3:7*). Solomon wrote, "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil."

The combined choice of rejecting self-confidence, reverently trusting and obeying God completely, and hating sin is the condition for these promised blessings.

Each phrase of the condition, contains an imperative verb, indicating clearly that it requires your action. What hinders you?

Navel and bones are synecdoche for your body.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines synecdoche, "A figure by which a more comprehensive term is used for a less comprehensive or vice versa.

Navel and bones, bodily parts, are substituted for the whole body. Consider these phrases, "Count heads," "All hands on deck," or "Nice wheels." All are synecdoche's.

You depended entirely on your navel for nine months, when vital nourishment passed to you from your mother through the umbilical cord. And the vitality of your bones continues to depend on nourishment from your marrow (*Job 21:24*).

These figures of speech describe the blessing and prosperity from fully following the Lord.

A good and happy life, is dependent on submission and obedience to the will of God (*Proverbs 4:22; 14:30*).

An exercise regimen or diet protocol can only marginally help the vitality of your life. A wise man knows that God's blessing on humble obedience exceeds any such natural efforts to extend or improve life (*Proverbs 3:2, 18; 4:10, 22; 7:23; 9:11; 11:19; 12:28; 14:27, 30; 17:22; 19:23*).

Obedience saves men from the natural consequences of sin, (magisterial judgment, and the punishment of God). It further activates God's precious promises (*1 Peter 3:10-12*).

Will you reject your own wisdom (*Proverbs 3:7*)? You were born with none, and you have none by natural education. Truth and wisdom are the property of God. He alone gives them. Self-confidence is the certain route to destruction (*Proverbs 14:12; 26:12; 1 Corinthians 3:18-20*).

Will you fear the Lord (*Proverbs 3:7*)? Fearing God, is prerequisite to knowledge and wisdom (*Proverbs 1:7; 9:10*).

Fearing God, is the whole duty of man (*Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*).

Reverent awe and submission to God, is the basis, for the blessings of God, upon all you have and do (*Psalms 112:1-3; 128:1-6*).

Will you depart from evil (*Proverbs 3:7*)?

The true fear of God is to hate and depart from sin (*Proverbs 8:13; 16:6; Job 1:1; 28:28*).

Do you esteem all His precepts concerning all things to be right, and do you hate every false way (*Psalms 119:128*)?

Neglect this Proverb to your own peril! Arrogance and sin, will dry you up from the inside out (*Proverbs 1:31; 5:11; 12:4; 15:13; 17:22; 18:14; 27:4*).

Your only life and light in this sin-cursed world is the fear of the Lord. Humble yourself! Reject your foolish thoughts! Call upon Him for mercy! Turn from all your sins! Perhaps, He will lengthen your tranquility, which arrogant Nebuchadnezzar missed (*Daniel 4:27*)!

***Proverbs 3:9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:***

How important is God to you? Can you improve your finances? This Proverb answers both questions!

**You Can Honor God  
With Your Mouth,  
But Talk Is Cheap.**

You should put your money where your mouth is to show true honor. Solomon promised, "*So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine*" (***Proverbs 3:10***).

Success requires giving some of your substance, and the first part of any increase, to the LORD.

Giving Him leftovers, whether great or small, is not honor; and it does not fulfill the Proverb.

The Holy Spirit gave a financial secret, "firstfruits" giving to honor God. Giving money away is how to get ahead (***Proverbs 11:24***). Are you poor? You cannot afford not to give!

**First Fruits Giving  
Pays God Off The Top.**

**Fruit Is Return On Investment Or Labor.**

First is paying God before anyone else, including you. Many violate this rule by giving a few bits of all they make. Is this honor?

Many others violate it by giving from what is left after expenses. Is this honor? Is this first fruits?

Many give only a percentage of take home pay, though they always quote their salary in terms of gross pay. Is this first-fruits?

The tithe is not taught directly in the New Testament. It was taught in the Law of Moses. The Israelites gave 23 1/3 % with two annual tithes and a triennial tithe (***Numbers 18:20-32; Deuteronomy 14:22-29***). Plus they gave special vows and freewill offerings (***Deuteronomy 12:6***)!

How did Abraham and Jacob know about tithing before the Law of Moses (***Genesis 14:20; 28:22***)?

It is a general rule of godly giving, which New Testament saints should use as a bare minimum for the far greater blessings they enjoy (***Luke 12:48; Hebrews 8:6***).

God dares His people to test how much He can bless them (***Malachi 3:8-12***).

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were financially blessed, because they knew how to give (***Genesis 14:20; 28:22***).

God made David rich, but David loved to give (***1Chronicles 29:18; 21:24; 22:1-16***).

**If** you give liberally, the Lord will reward you liberally (***Proverbs 11:25; Luke 6:38***).

A Christian businessman, R.G. LeTourneau, grasped the concept of honoring God and giving - he gave 90% and kept 10% for himself, no matter his financial situation! He became one of America's great industrialists. "The question" he said, "is not how much of my money I give to God, but rather how much of God's money I keep for myself."

**How You Give  
Counts More With God  
Than How Much You Give!**

The Lord loves a cheerful giver (***2Corinthians 8:12; 9:7***). Giving should be your favorite financial activity!

Our Lord took note of a widow woman giving just two mites (***Luke 21:1-4***).

***Proverbs 3:10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.***

Barns filled with plenty? Presses bursting with wine?

**Descriptive Phrases  
Of Financial Blessing  
And Economic Prosperity.**

Are you interested? They are easy to obtain! The Holy Spirit is presenting God's promised reward, to those who honor Him with their assets, and the first portion of their income (***Proverbs 3:9***).

True honor to God is not just singing about how you love Jesus; rather it is giving Him of your possessions and cash flow.

The previous verse teaches the duty of giving, and this Proverb describes His great reward. In an agricultural society, the barn was where your assets were stored, and the presses were where you converted grapes into valuable wine.

These two figures describe a prospering farmer, he has accumulated much, and he has great current cash flow.

This law of financial reward is as true as gravity; it is as true as ***Genesis 1:1***. Believe it!

**If** you honor God by giving Him His portion, He will bless you financially, guaranteed! Of course, this is a

certain promise, and it allows God, to apply different laws in your life at times.

Still doubting? Your lack of faith is why you don't receive (*Hebrews 11:6; James 1:6-7*).

Bold giving in faith is an act of worship, and God will reward it. (*Philippians 4:18*)

An important man once doubted God, and believers trampled him to death on the way to the bank (*2Kings 7:16-20*)! And the Lord killed many Israelites who doubted His ability (*Psalms 78:17-31*).

What kind of return can God give? Isaac's portfolio grew 10,000% in one year (*Genesis 26:12*).

Jacob went from nothing to great substance in 20 years (*Genesis 32:10*).

Solomon's returns were so great that silver was as common as stones (*1Kings 10:27*).

It shamed Solomon to drink from silver vessels, so they were all of pure gold (*1Kings 10:21*)!

The Lord can open heaven's windows and pour *out* a financial blessing more than you can believe (*Malachi 3:10*).

God dares you to test Him (*Malachi 3:8-12*)!

The Lord knows a full measure and how to pack it down, shake it down, and send it over the top (*Luke 6:38*)!

**If** you are suffering financially, you probably have sinned in this area of your life (*Jeremiah 5:25*): you have not been giving liberally (*2Corinthians 9:6*), or you have not done it cheerfully (*2Corinthians 9:7*).

The Lord has put holes in your pockets, and your hard work and wages are falling out and being lost (*Haggai 1:2-11*).

A man will say, "But I gave, and nothing happened." God is not a candy dispenser waiting for you to give an offering and push the button for your favorite treat. He will laugh and judge such a profane attitude. He wants a commitment to giving (*Genesis 28:22*).

He wants to see our sacrifice, which is much more than a little token gift (*2Corinthians 8:1-4*).

Another man will say, "I cannot afford to give." That is the height of folly, you cannot afford not to give! Will you dig yourself out of your financial hole by cheating the Lord? Hah!

These are unbelievers. They think they will protect their income to get ahead! Hah! Protection and blessings are from the Lord.

**If** you hold back to help your cash flow, you are headed to poverty.

**If** you give to God what you need to keep; He will bless because He knows it (*Proverbs 11:24-25*).

**If** you wait until giving is no sacrifice, it means nothing to the Lord. The Lord rewarded the widow woman who gave two mites, for it was all she had (*Luke 21:1-4*).

The reward of our Proverb is obtained by obeying the Proverb (*Proverbs 3:9*).

Putting a few bucks in the offering is not honoring God; giving what is left over after your expenses is not first fruits giving; promising to give if God will bless you is not honoring God; giving of your after-tax income is not first fruits giving either. So examine your heart!

The LORD our God owns the cattle on a thousand hills and everything else beside (*Psalms 50:10-12*).

The LORD is able to supply all your needs according to His riches in glory (*Philippians 4:19*).

**If** you think giving a few dollars is hard, then think upon the sacrifice our Lord Jesus made for you. Was He rewarded? He was given great honor, fullness of joy, and pleasures forevermore at God's right hand (*Philippians 2:5-11; Psalm 16:9-11*)!

***Proverbs 3:11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:***

Affliction comes to every saint. Adversity, difficulty, pain, and trouble are the tools of God to correct your faults and perfect you.

Instead of resenting His chastening or tiring of the setbacks, God sends your way, you should rejoice that He loves you and wants to perfect you.

**If** He leaves you alone, then you are a bastard, and not a true son (*Hebrews 12:7-8*)!

No one likes affliction, difficulties, or trouble. These are things we try to avoid as much as possible in life. But the Lord sends them in love, for He is able to use them to teach us more than peace and prosperity could ever teach you. Good times feel great, but they never made anyone better.

Hard times feel bad, but they make you stronger and wiser. It is easy to fret against the Lord, to say, "Lord, why did you send this into my life?" It is easy to say God is not fair, you do not deserve such trouble. It is easy to get discouraged and think of quitting your Christian race.



Job fell for these thoughts. But he learned he was wrong, God was right, and Job could end the painful lessons by humbling himself.

There are four reasons bad things happen to a Christian.

1. He is being chastened for sin in his life;
2. He is suffering consequences of his foolishness
3. He is being tested to build his faith; or
4. God is simply manifesting His glory in his life.

The purpose of self-examination is to analyze your circumstances, to find God's lesson in them. Once a man knows the matter, is an act of God, he should humbly submit to it and rejoice in it.

The first and ultimate reason for cheerfully accepting God's chastening in your life is the proof it gives of His love for you (*Proverbs 3:12; Hebrews 12:5-6; Revelation 3:19*).

### **God Only Afflicts His Children Out Of Faithfulness And Desire For Them.**

David said, *"I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me"* (*Psalms 119:75*).

The second reason for cheerfully accepting God's chastening in your life is that it holds you back from sinning more (*Job 34:31-32; Psalm 119:67; Jeremiah 31:18-19; 1Corinthians 11:32*).

Since that is often, the only way you can learn not to do something wrong that is appealing, you should be thankful for His mercy in teaching you His law and ways (*Job 5:17; Psalm 94:12*).

The third reason for cheerfully accepting God's chastening is the loving reason for it, to make you perfect (*Romans 5:3-5; Hebrews 12:10-12; James 1:2-4*).

Learning to patiently deal with adversity is a great measure of maturity (*Proverbs 24:10; 1Peter 5:10*).

Affliction builds faith in God; prosperity does not cause you to trust Him more (*Proverbs 30:8-9*).

Paul got excited about the opportunity to grow in the grace of God through adversity in his life (*2Corinthians 12:7-10*).

This Proverb, like the rest, teaches wisdom. By seeing adversity as His tool of perfection. To be forewarned, is to be forearmed to handle adversity wisely (*Ecclesiastes 7:14*).

The quicker you learn the lesson, the sooner the trouble will be lifted; **If** you despise and resent it, It will come with greater intensity (*Job 36:15-18*).

There is no reason to faint, for they that endure shall obtain the promises (*2Corinthians 4:16-18; Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 6:10-12; 12:1-6; James 5:11*).

***Proverbs 3:12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.***

Adversity from God is proof of His love for you!

Just as loving fathers discipline their favorite sons! God chastens every child of His to make him or her better. Having adopted them by the blood of Jesus Christ at Calvary, and birthed them by His Spirit, God lovingly corrects them during their lives.

Solomon had exhorted his son, not to despise the LORD's chastening or get weary from His correction (*Proverbs 3:11*).

Adversity from heaven should not discourage you, because it is proof of God's love for you (*Deuteronomy 8:5*)!

Wise men will appreciate their loving Father and see the end of His corrective chastening, their perfection in righteousness (*Hebrews 12:5-13*).

Without chastening adversity in your life, you have no evidence you are a child of God. The Holy Scriptures declare you are a bastard, **If** you do not have this loving punishment in your life (*Hebrews 12:8*).

For what kind of a son, would a father ignore and neglect in this important aspect of parenting, a pretender!

Chastening from God, is temporal punishment, He brings to correct you from sin and turn you back into the way of righteousness. It is very different from eternal judgment in hell for the final condemnation of your sins.

Chastening is fatherly affection, to perfect you as His child, as evidence He will never send you to hell for your sins (*1Corinthians 11:27-32*).

Chastening proves love. **If** you have a bad event in your life, and it causes you to reflect, on your soul with a desire, to submit and serve God more perfectly. You should thank the Lord for this personal gesture of love toward you (*Jeremiah 31:18-20*).

God does not owe you this gracious correction; He could leave you floundering in confusion and sin. Do you not recognize that correction brought more carefulness, prayerfulness, and sobriety to your existence?

David was thankful for adversity: he saw its profit. He said, *"Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word" (Psalm 119:67).*

*"It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes" (Psalm 119:71).*

*"I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me" (Psalm 119:75).*

Affliction, or negative events, happen to God's children for four reasons:

1. To show loving correction from God,
2. To display His glory in their lives,
3. To perfect their faith, and
4. To let foolish decisions have an impact.

God can accomplish, one or all of these purposes, in the individual events of your life. Since all the reasons are fair and good, there is no reason to complain. There is mercy, and it is nearby, for those who humble themselves and submit.

It is your duty to examine yourself (*Psalms 19:12-14; 26:2; 139:23-24; 1Corinthians 11:28, 31; 2Corinthians 13:5*).

God will never chasten you for a sin you cannot identify by self-examination. What efforts have you put forth in sober contrition before Him (*Psalm 51:17; Isaiah 57:15-16*)?

It is your duty to carefully heed all preaching, for the same Spirit that brought your correction also directs your pastor's thoughts (*Ecclesiastes 12:11*).

And the same Spirit, can use the Word of God, He wrote to provoke you to repentance from any passage you read (*Psalm 19:7-9*).

The proper attitude toward chastening is to remember it proves God's love: *Deuteronomy 8:5 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.*

How is it with you son? Are you thankful for His loving chastening? Are you ready to flee to Him in the name of Jesus for the comfort and peace of loving tranquility?

***Proverbs 3:13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.***

Daily goals for your life must include seeking wisdom and understanding. They will do more for your life than any other possession. They will bring you true happiness and many other blessings.

## **What Is Your Chief Ambition In Life? Are You Chasing Vanity?**

The Holy Spirit through Solomon exhorted his son to search for wisdom (*Proverbs 2:1-9*).

Wisdom would save him from much trouble (*Proverbs 2:10-21*).

To further excite his son, and us, in our pursuit of it, he describes great blessings wisdom will bring. Together, they would make any man very happy. (*Proverbs 3:14-18*)

Economically, obtaining wisdom and understanding is better than a prosperous business in gold and silver (*Proverbs 3:14*).

Obtaining wisdom and understanding is of greater value than rubies (*Proverbs 3:15*).

In fact, wisdom and understanding are more important than anything you could possibly seek in your life (*Proverbs 3:15*).

Financial gain does not give lasting happiness, for any man, and it brings enormous worries and problems with it (*Proverbs 23:4-5; Ecclesiastes 5:10-17; 1Timothy 6:9-10*).

Wisdom and understanding will give you a long life, riches, and honor (*Proverbs 3:16*).

Wisdom and understanding will bring you pleasantness and peace (*Proverbs 3:17*).

Wisdom and understanding will be the source of a wonderful life; and **If** you keep them, you will be very happy (*Proverbs 3:18*).

There is nothing this world has to offer that can even compare to wisdom and understanding. Why will you waste any more effort chasing something else?

**If** this fabulous description, of the benefits of wisdom and understanding, was only half true, we should still make getting them a priority! Nothing else you are working for, even comes close.

But Solomon, knew what God had him write. Having tried every sort of project and pleasure to find profit and happiness in this life, he concluded that wisdom and understanding are the greatest goals (*Proverbs 8:32-36*). See the comments on *Proverbs 25:1*.

### **Wisdom And Understanding: Is To Know The Basis And Purpose For Life How To Deal Rightly With Each Situation Of Life.**

Instead of the hopeless confusion of not knowing what man is here for and how to handle life's problems, those with wisdom and understanding, find life a pleasant and peaceful experience, including much happiness. They

are successful and rich, as measured by every noble standard; and they are honored among good men.

Wisdom and understanding are built on the foundation of fearing the Lord (*Proverbs 1:7; 9:10*).

Wisdom and understanding are increased by rejecting your own ideas and trusting the Lord's instruction (*Proverbs 3:5-7*), which is found in His Word (*2Timothy 3:16-17*), especially Proverbs.

God raised up Solomon and inspired these select Proverbs, to teach young men, and every reader, wisdom and understanding (*Proverbs 1:1-4*). Learning them should be a daily goal.

Every day must include begging God for wisdom (*James 1:5*), repudiating your own folly (*Job 33:27*), searching the Word of God for wisdom (*Acts 17:11*), and applying and doing what you learn (*James 1:22*).

With that effort applied, you will find wisdom and get understanding (*Proverbs 2:5,8; 8:17*). Sacrifice whatever, to make this a priority. See the comments on *Proverbs 18:1*.

Ultimate and infinite wisdom and understanding are in the Lord Jesus Christ (*Colossians 2:3*).

Jesus Christ came to give His children the abundant life, as they believe His Word and obey His commandments more and more perfectly (*John 10:10*).

In Him is full and unspeakable joy (*1Peter 1:8; 1John 1:4*)!

***Proverbs 3:14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.***

Wisdom and understanding are better than silver and gold. Solomon gave an inspired priority for your life.

The business and pursuit of wisdom and understanding are superior, to the business and pursuit of silver and gold.

Does your life reflect this divine order of things? Or have you bought the world's lie that financial prosperity is more important?

Wisdom and understanding are still under consideration in this Proverb (*Proverbs 3:13*).

Wisdom is more important than wealth, as it is more precious than rubies and superior to anything else you can desire (*Proverbs 3:15*).

**What is merchandising?** It is the business of buying and selling for profit, which creates an economic and financial comparison with wisdom and understanding.

Wisdom is right judgment, knowing what action pleases God, in any situation.

Understanding is right discernment, the grasping of circumstances and their implications and consequences.

By single and plural pronouns, God indicated wisdom and understanding can be synonyms (*Proverbs 3:13-14; 4:5, 7-8; 7:4-5; 8:1-2; 17:28*).

Wisdom includes understanding (*Proverbs 8:14*), and an understanding man has wisdom (*Proverbs 10:23; 14:33; 17:24*).

Wisdom and understanding are easy for any man! They begin with a sincere and reverent fear of God (*Proverbs 1:5; 9:10*).

Wisdom and understanding is developed by humble submission, to the written and preached Word of God (*Psalms 19:7; 119:98-100; Colossians 1:28*).

And the Lord will give it liberally to those who ask (*Psalms 119:18; James 1:5*).

What hinders you from being wise? The love of money?

Compare the pursuits of money and wisdom. America no longer pays silver and gold, though promising to do so in the Constitution (Article I:10).

Therefore, simple paper money must suffice. What did Paul warn? The love of money is the root of all evil, a temptation and a snare, the cause of foolish and hurtful lusts, and the source of many sorrows, which drown men in destruction and perdition (*1Timothy 6:6-10*).

#### **Money Keeps Men From Wisdom!**

Are you more joyful at getting a raise or finding a jewel in God's Word? You spend many hours in a profession, but do you spend many minutes searching Scripture?

Are you as punctual and energetic about studying the Bible as you are in your job? You talk to others about your work, how about Scripture?

You tell friends when you see a good opportunity for employment or business, but do you also tell them about a great verse you found?

*"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7).*

*"Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23).*

What will you do this very day to rearrange your priorities?

***Proverbs 3:15 She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.***

What woman is more precious than rubies? The virtuous woman (*Proverbs 31:10*)?

Yes, but not in this context! Is there any woman incomparably more valuable than all the things you could desire? No!

Here is one of the most extreme and superlative statements in the Word of God. A personification of success, health, happiness, wealth, family, a college degree, a vacation home? This is Lady Wisdom (*Proverbs 3:13-15*)!

Here is something personified as a woman, that exceeds the rare and precious character of rubies. And this surpasses anything else, you could dream about as being desirable or necessary, to your success and happiness. Wisdom and understanding are that important (*Proverbs 3:13-15*)!

#### **Why is wisdom so exceeding important?**

Because it brings long life, riches, and honor (*Proverbs 3:16*).

Because it brings pleasantness and peace (*Proverbs 3:17*).

Because it brings life and happiness (*Proverbs 3:18*)!

You cannot even dream of anything that can provide all these blessings! And yet these are the certain advantages and rewards given to those that find wisdom (*Proverbs 3:13-18*)!

No wonder David told Solomon, "Get wisdom, get understanding. . . . . Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding" (*Proverbs 4:5-7*).

If David, the man after God's own heart, told his son that wisdom was that important, it should be most important to you as well. What an exhortation! Get wisdom!

What is wisdom? The power of right judgment, the ability to please God and men in all situations!

Wisdom is based on a deep and abiding fear of the LORD God, a hatred for all sin and evil, active faith That God Is! And there are rewards with wisdom. And with knowledge of the details of His precious Word (*Proverbs 1:7; 8:13; 9:10; 22:17-21; Job 28:28; Psalm 119:128; Hebrews 11:6*).

#### **How Do You Get Wisdom?**

By fearing God as the First Cause and Last End of all things in the universe (*Proverbs 16:4; Psalm 14:1*)!

By trembling in humility and repentance before God and the Bible (*Isaiah 66:1-2; 2Timothy 3:16-17*)!

By rejecting any opinion of any man that contradicts the Bible (*Psalm 119:98-100; Isaiah 8:20; 1Timothy 6:3-5, 20*)!

By soberly listening to the man of God when he preaches God's truth to you (*Luke 8:11-18; James 1:21-25*). Wisdom then is easy!

Forget education or worldly wisdom (*1Corinthians 1:19-20; 2:6-9; 3:19-20*)!

Forget wealth or professional success (*Proverbs 3:14; 23:4-5; Psalm 39:6; 1Timothy 6:6-10*)!

Forget physical strength or recreation (*Psalm 90:10-12; Ecclesiastes 10:10; 12:1-7; 1Timothy 4:8*)!

These things are vanity and vexation of spirit, they get you nowhere with God or man, they are empty and painful! Rejoice in knowing God, and His character (*Jeremiah 9:23-24*)! That is wisdom and a great pleasure!

***Proverbs 3:16 Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.***

A beautiful woman is approaching you today! She calls to you (*Proverbs 1:20-23*)! She is full of desire for you (*Proverbs 8:1-4*)! She wants to be your companion for life (*Proverbs 9:1-5*)! Will you embrace her (*Proverbs 4:8*)?

If you love her, she will love you back (*Proverbs 8:17*)! She is beautiful and offers a feast at her house; but she also offers long life, riches, and honor.

How can you resist, such a fantastic invitation and situation? Most reject it! What about you? (*Proverbs 3:13-18*)

Here is Solomon's personification of wisdom, the representation of an abstract concept, like wisdom as a beautiful woman.

Personification is a powerful tool of language, as you can see by considering Uncle Sam, Lady Liberty, and Father Time. Solomon painted the literary picture of Lady Wisdom for his son and all men. The image is delightful, the offer sincere, and the simple condition easy. Will you love this woman?

Lady Wisdom offers three things, long life, riches, and honor (*Proverbs 22:4*).

Is there a better combination? Every man desires these things, but few obtain them. With these three, what else do you need? With these three, you can achieve total success.

How do you get them? Embrace Lady Wisdom! How? Love the wisdom of Proverbs and the Word of God!

Length of days is long life. It is God's reward for obedience (*Proverbs 10:2; 11:4; Deuteronomy 4:40; 5:16; 6:2*).

The Holy Spirit connected long life with wisdom (*Proverbs 3:2; 4:10; 9:11; 10:27; 13:14*).

How can wisdom extend your life?

- It can save you from whores (*Proverbs 2:16-18*),
- It can save you from the judgment of God (*Proverbs 3:4; 26:10*),
- It can save you from revenge (*Proverbs 6:34*),
- It can save you from disease (*Proverbs 15:13; 17:22*),
- It can save you from the executioner (*Proverbs 16:14*),
- It can save you from a dangerous lifestyle (*Proverbs 1:15-19*),
- It can save you from accidents (*Proverbs 22:3*),
- It can save you from an odious woman (*Proverbs 30:21-23; Ecclesiastes 7:26*), and
- It can save you from drunkenness (*Proverbs 23:29-35*).

**If You Reject Lady Wisdom,  
You Must Love Death  
(*Proverbs 8:36*)!**

"Riches" are financial and professional success. Solomon taught economic wisdom in Proverbs.

The Holy Spirit taught:

- The value of diligence (*Proverbs 10:4*),
- The value of faithfulness (*Proverbs 27:18*),
- The value of savings (*Proverbs 6:6-8*),
- The value of giving (*Proverbs 11:24-25*),
- The value of career planning (*Proverbs 24:27*),
- The value of capital investment (*Proverbs 14:4*).

The Holy Spirit warned against:

- Debt (*Proverbs 22:7*),
- Spending (*Proverbs 21:20*),
- Squeezing the poor (*Proverbs 28:8*),
- Waste (*Proverbs 12:27*),

- Risk (*Proverbs 22:3*),
- Contingent liabilities (*Proverbs 6:1-5*),
- Sleep (*Proverbs 20:13*),
- Get-rich-quick schemes (*Proverbs 14:23; 28:19*),
- Fear (*Proverbs 22:13*),
- Cornering a market (*Proverbs 11:26*), and
- Evil negotiating (*Proverbs 20:14*).

Honor is personal respect from others. Wisdom leads to honor (*Proverbs 3:35; 4:8; 8:18*).

Wisdom secures a good name and favor with others (*Proverbs 3:4; 22:1*).

Rules For Developing Honor In Your Life:

- A gracious spirit (*Proverbs 11:16; 22:11*),
- End strife (*Proverbs 20:3; 2 Timothy 2:24-26*),
- Search out controversies (*Proverbs 25:2*),
- Have humility (*Proverbs 29:23*),
- Use fewer words (*Proverbs 17:27-28*),
- Seek hearty counsel (*Proverbs 27:9*),
- Handle matters wisely (*Proverbs 16:20*),
- Marry a great woman (*Proverbs 31:23*).

But there are even better rewards in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The wisdom of the Gospel leads to eternal life, spiritual riches, and the honor of being an adopted son of God!

What are you doing to pursue these superior things? Paul charged the financially rich to give up their money to be spiritually rich (*1 Timothy 6:17-19*)!

Moses dumped the treasures of Egypt for the reproach of Christ, seeing a better reward (*Hebrews 11:24-26*).

Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to death and destruction, and most men are fools and travel that suicidal road.

Strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life and limitless blessings, but only a few choose to travel there (*Matthew 7:13-14*).

What road are you pursuing today? Lady Wisdom (*Proverbs 9:1-12*)? or Lady Folly (*Proverbs 9:13-18*)?

Embrace Lady Wisdom. Embrace her in love today! Humble yourself before the wisdom of God's precious Word and say with Paul, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (*Acts 9:6*).

***Proverbs 3:17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.***

This woman, Lady Wisdom, offers you pleasantness and peace.

**If** you follow her, your life can be happy and quiet, joyful and comfortable, delightful and secure. What more could you want? She offers the good life to you,

**If** you will but learn wisdom from her.

Wisdom and understanding are very valuable things to obtain, far superior to silver and fine gold (*Proverbs 3:13-14*).

Wisdom is personified as a woman, who is more valuable than rubies or anything else you can compare to her (*Proverbs 3:15*). She brings long life, riches, and honor (*Proverbs 3:16*). She is a tree of life and brings happiness to those who have her (*Proverbs 3:18*).

The fear of the LORD and keeping His Word is the foundation of wisdom (*Proverbs 1:7; 9:10*).

The man who fears the Lord will enjoy a life of pleasantness and peace. An axiom of Scripture is that God shows great favor to those who fear Him (*Psalms 128:1-6*).

**If** you consider this Proverb naturally, in light of the rest of the Book, you find it perfectly true. Wisdom saves men:

- From the pain and trouble of whorish women,
- From excessive financial obligations,
- From unruly children,
- From bad investments,
- From the anger of rulers,
- From odious wives,
- From drunkenness,
- From lack of friends,
- From spoiled reputations,
- From speech problems,
- From gluttony,
- From fear of the unknown,
- From guilty consciences,
- From wicked friends,
- From poverty, and
- From many other snares.

**If** you consider this Proverb spiritually, you find it perfectly true. The man who wisely walks with God, has pleasure and peace, in his soul that others cannot comprehend. God is His refuge, and the joy and peace of the Holy Spirit in his heart far exceeds any and all other possible pleasures and security in life.

There is no lasting or solid joy to the fool or hypocrite. Solomon experimented with man's toys and dreams to a degree that all other men can only fantasize about (*Ecclesiastes 2:1-10*).

And what did he find? *"All was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun"* (*Ecclesiastes 2:11*). What a foolish, empty, and painful pursuit!

There is no peace to the fool or hypocrite, for the LORD will deal adversely with him (*Proverbs 10:24; 13:15*). And when he cries for help in his great calamity, heaven will shake with the laughter (*Proverbs 1:26-28*). Do not mock Lady Wisdom!

The pleasure and peace of wisdom do not depend on health, circumstances, or friends. They can be as great in poverty, as in wealth. They cannot be stolen in this life, and they lead to everlasting bliss in the next.

What more could you want? With Jesus Christ at the right hand of God, there are pleasures forever and incredible peace (*Psalms 16:11; Philippians 4:7*).

***Proverbs 3:18 She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.***

Lady Wisdom offers you a good life and happiness. All men want both, but most look for them in the wrong places. The world of unbelievers cannot provide these.

The ways of the world destroys life and happiness. Through the world's entertainment, recreation, sexual indulgence, leisurely lifestyle, education, business success, material possessions, the so-called perfect spouse, a fit body, none will give you a prosperous and happy life.

Only the Wisdom of God can give you these things.

Solomon personified wisdom as a desirable woman in several early sections of Proverbs (*Proverbs 1:20-33; 2:4; 3:15-18; 4:5-13; 8:1-36; 9:1-12*).

In this section, he has taught that wisdom is more precious than rubies and incomparable to everything else in life (*Proverbs 3:15*).

Lady Wisdom will bring long life with riches and honor, and her ways are pleasant and full of peace (*Proverbs 3:16-17*).

There was a tree of life in Eden, which was denied, to our rebellious first parents, by the Cherubim's flaming swords (*Genesis 3:24*).

And there is a tree of life in heaven, which bears a unique fruit each month of the year, and which has leaves for the healing of the nations (*Revelation 2:7; 22:2, 14*). Therefore, the metaphor of a tree of life is powerful indeed.

Here tree of life depicts the source of a prosperous and successful life. By learning wisdom and obtaining understanding, a man has the basis for a good and happy life with this possession. A tree of life bears fruit for a wonderful life.

**Every Man That Seeks And Obtains Wisdom  
Has Found The Tree Of Life.  
He May Freely Take Its Fruit  
And Live The Good Life.**

What is wisdom? It is fearing the Lord and keeping His commandments. The God of the Bible is: The Source and End of all things, and God offers perfect knowledge and understanding for those who will believe and obey His inspired Scriptures.

**Wisdom  
Is The Power Of Right Judgment For Life's  
Decisions, And Trusting God And His Word.**

The blessings for such a man are great in two ways:

1. He makes right choices in life,
2. God supernaturally blesses him for his obedience.

From beginning to end, the Bible speaks of the abundant life of such a man (**Deuteronomy 32:46-47; Joshua 1:7-9; Psalms 1:1-3; 112:1-3; 128:1-6; 144:11-15; John 10:10; Hebrews 11:6; James 1:25**).

David wrote, and Peter copied, "*Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.*" (**Psalm 34:11-16; 1Peter 3:10-12**).

Wisdom is not only the means for success and happiness in this life, but in the next as well. The man who lays hold of wisdom and retains her, obtains assurance and evidence of eternal life, for his soul (**Matthew 7:21-23; Acts 10:34-35; 2Peter 1:5-11**).

The greatest life and happiness is reserved in heaven for those who obey the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader, a tree of life is before you. Will you pick its fruit and live in success and happiness, now and forever? The choice is yours.

Your future begins today. Take the inspired and preserved Word of God, and humble yourself before its every Word.

Fall before the Lord Jesus Christ, of Whom it testifies throughout, and lay hold of eternal life (**1Timothy**

**6:12**). Begin prospering today (**Proverbs 8:1-21; 9:1-12**)!

**The LORD God Bless You!**

**Proverbs 3:19 The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.**

*Let God be true, but every man a liar (Romans 3:4)*!

Our ignorant nation believes the earth and heavens are the result of a cosmic explosion, a big bang. They believe the incredible order, beauty, design, life, intelligence, consciousness, sexes, animal spirits, and human souls, among trillions of other aspects of the universe, are the result of combustion of gases in space!

Chaos brought all this into existence by chance! Now that theory takes enormous faith! And great confidence in man's imagination with no supporting evidence. And the more education a person has, the more confident they are, of this ridiculous speculation. So much for higher education.

Children know better. For, "*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*" (**Genesis 1:1**).

For, "*Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear*" (**Hebrews 11:3**).

The worlds educated elite are as dumb as a rock. They reason from pure speculation out of hatred and rebellion against their Creator. We reason by faith from the visible creation and an obviously inspired revelation.

Our position is sure, but only a man with faith can see it and hold it. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of faith.

The LORD, through Solomon wants you to learn wisdom and understanding, for the benefits of having it are numerous and glorious (**Proverbs 3:13, 21; 3:14-18, 22-26**).

But where did it come from, and how grand is it truly? We have this Proverb, and its conclusion to provoke great interest in wisdom, consider its Source and use. **Proverbs 3:20**.

Wisdom and understanding are from the LORD, Who has both in infinite measure; and He used them to found the earth and establish the heavens!

Wisdom and understanding are what guided our Creator God in the design of the universe! Now are you interested in acquiring it? Now are you willing to listen, as He teaches you the fear of the Lord?

He founded the earth on a 23.5 degree angle, so we have seasons and varying amounts of light and night.

He gave us 24-hour periods called days, which are just the right amount of time to work, play, and sleep before the next one. A list like this could go on indefinitely.

He established the moon to keep track of months, and the stars guide sailors on the seas. They hold in patterns we call constellations, and the sun gives just the right amount of heat within a narrow range for life to prosper on earth. Our list could go on indefinitely.

**If** other descriptions of wisdom have not moved you, does the use of wisdom by God in creating the universe impress you?

You can have the wisdom of God, **If you will?** The book of Proverbs was written to help you get it, so get it (*Proverbs 4:7*).

And remember that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in the Lord Jesus, our soon appearing Redeemer, Who created all things Himself, and by Whom all things consist (*Colossians 1:16-17; 2:3*).

***Proverbs 3:20 By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.***

Mother Nature is a profane hallucination of God-haters, just like Santa Claus and the tooth fairy. God meticulously governs all oceans, springs, and the water cycle, and His infinite wisdom, understanding, and knowledge are clearly displayed in them.

By this illustration of how the LORD created and rules the earth, Solomon emphasized the importance of three things, wisdom, understanding, and knowledge (*Proverbs 3:19-20*).

For the value of these things in creation and God's providence should enhance them for us. Just observing the water cycle exalts the glory of God and the importance of true knowledge.

In the beginning of earth, approximately 6000 years ago, God created hydrogen and oxygen, their proportions that form water, the properties of the three forms, the temperatures at which water change forms, and the amount and location of water in its three forms throughout the universe. It was nothing for Him (*Genesis 1:1-2, 6-10, 16*)!

Charlie Darwin could not be found! He would not be ordered to appear in life by the sovereign Judge of all for about 5855 years. But he now knows, all his fantasies were idiotic, for he has met God, Creator of heaven and earth. Charlie wishes he had never been

conceived; he screams for a little water on Lazarus's finger (*Luke 16:22-24*)! Charlie despises his profane and vain babblings, for he knows they are not science at all (*1Timothy 6:20-21*)!

The LORD sent a mist from the ground to water Eden (*Genesis 2:6*).

In about 2400 B.C., He broke up the fountains of the deep and opened the windows of heaven to flood the earth (*Genesis 7:11-12*).

A year later, He ordained the refraction of light in water to cause rainbows, so Noah and others can be reminded there will not be another flood (*Genesis 9:12-17*).

The water cycle is Gods (*Ecclesiastes 1:7*).

Solomon, 964-904 B.C., knew about it in detail from the LORD.

Elihu, who never took a course in meteorology from a Darwin disciple, knew much about water. He wrote about clouds holding water vapor and distilling it in rain upon the earth (*Job 36:26-33*). He wrote about thunder, lightning, snow, tornadoes, ice, and many other aspects of water and weather (*Job 37:1-24*).

Only God fully knows the springs of the seas, the direction of lightning, and other mysteries (*Job 38:1-41*).

Just a one-inch rainfall, which occurs often, will bring 10-15 billion gallons of water on a typical county! How do puffy white clouds, through which our planes pass easily, hold these billions of tons of water? The Lord balances them by His knowledge (*Job 37:16*)!

God numbers the clouds and holds the water in bottles (*Job 38:27*)!

The Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, upholds these and all things by the Word of His power (*Hebrews 1:3*).

The molecules of the universe consist, are held together, by His great power (*Colossians 1:17*).

For in Him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (*Colossians 2:3*).

You shall soon face Him as the Judge of the universe (*Acts 17:30-31*).

Humble yourself before your Creator and pursue the wisdom and knowledge of His Word with all your heart.

There is no other source of light or understanding anywhere else (*Psalms 119:128; Isaiah 8:20; 1Timothy 6:3-5; 2Timothy 3:16-17*).

**The Thoughts Of Man Are Vain!**



***Proverbs 3:21 My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:***

Most young men have a short attention span and a short memory. It is easy for them to forget instruction and warnings, when they are in the heat of a difficult controversy or a strong temptation.

Solomon taught his son to keep wisdom, understanding, and discretion, for it is only by retention that instruction has any value (*Proverbs 3:18*).

**If** the truth is told, honest readers, will admit, they are hardly better than memory-impaired young men!

What good is a sermon you hap-hazardly or lazily listen to and forget as soon as the preacher says, "Amen"? Jesus said the teaching is immediately taken away from such a hearer by the devil (*Matthew 13:19; Mark 4:15; Luke 8:12*).

It is the common experience of all men to have difficulty remembering what was preached just a few days or weeks before. What a shame!

Instruction for success in any endeavor is only as profitable as the hearer's ability to remember and apply the knowledge to the specified task.

Warnings about danger in any situation are only as valuable as the hearer's ability to remember and apply the advice when facing the threat. A great hindrance to success for many is a poor memory!

God knew this danger. After giving wonderful laws, precepts, and statutes to Israel through Moses, He warned them not to forget what He had taught them (*Deuteronomy 4:9, 23; 3Kings 17:37-38*).

God knew that prosperity, was a curse to memory, for luxury induces laxity and impairs the conscience (*Deuteronomy 6:10-12; 8:7-20*).

To counter this problem, God commanded fathers, to diligently teach, His laws to their children when in the house, when traveling, when preparing for sleep, and when getting up (*Deuteronomy 6:6-9*).

He required diligence comparable to tying signs, to hands, putting frontlets on eyes, and writing His laws on the posts of their houses (*Deuteronomy 6:8-9*!).

**Forgetting God Inspired Teaching Is Dangerous!**

The church at Corinth, forgot the resurrection of the dead, that Paul had taught them, which stole the hope and joy of the Gospel from them (*1Corinthians 15:2, 19*).

The Gospel must be kept in memory. The world assaults, your senses every moment you are awake, with their enticements, which are entirely opposed to the truth of God.

What are you doing, to defend yourself, from this assault and retain His wisdom? Do you know your weak memory? Do you understand prosperity and activity dull it further?

What are you doing to review, remember, and retain what you have been taught? Do you have any mechanism in place to review sermons, remember lessons, or retain advice?

**If** you speak to another about applying wisdom, then two would remember!

***Proverbs 3:22 So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.***

Here is a prince, crowned with life and adorned with grace.

Here is a successful man or woman, living the good life with a glorious reputation. Here is prosperity, saved from painful living and public shame.

The man who keeps sound wisdom and discretion will have a wonderful life and a great name. What hinders you from being a prince?

The Proverb concludes the sentence, which states, "*My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion*" (*Proverbs 3:21*).

The plural pronoun "*them*" refers to wisdom, understanding, and knowledge in the context (*Proverbs 3:13-20*).

Life for your soul and grace for your neck, are based on consistently, following sound wisdom and discretion.

**What Is Sound Wisdom?  
It Is Real Wisdom,  
True Wisdom,  
The Wisdom Of God.**

The wisdom of this world produces, abortion, divorce, evolution, fornication, labor unions, rap, sodomy and is foolishness.

The wise men of this world, Darwin, Einstein, Marx, Sagan, Spock, are fools (*Isaiah 8:20; 1Corinthians 1:20; 2:6; 3:19*).

Sound wisdom comes only from God and the Bible (*Proverbs 2:7; 8:14; 1Timothy 1:10*).

What is discretion? It knows what words or actions are best for any occasion. Knowing what, when, where, and how to do anything.

What is discretion? is the reservation that holds a person back from foolishness.

What is discretion? is discipline and self-denial to not speak the first words you think or not do the first thing that comes to mind.

What is discretion? is discerning and discriminating judgment to know the best approach and response to any situation.

What is "life unto thy soul"? True wisdom and discretion that gives you a happy and successful life rather than failure and death. Wisdom and discretion, keep you from making fatal mistakes, and they will increase and extend a good life.

Solomon had already given a great description of the good life in the context (*Proverbs 3:13-18*).

**Depressed,  
Dysfunctional,  
Destructive Living  
Is Like Death.**

What is "grace to thy neck"? Ornamentation or jewelry is often put around a person's neck to declare glory, honor, or reward. Consider the neck chains Pharaoh gave Joseph and Belshazzar gave Daniel (*Genesis 41:42; Daniel 5:29*).

Wisdom and discretion enhance and exalt a man's reputation, as if he had been awarded a gold chain by a great king (*Proverbs 1:9*).

Living a happy life and having a great reputation require godly wisdom and discretion (*Proverbs 4:5-13; Psalm 34:12-15*). This is the lesson of the Proverb.

The Lord will teach wisdom and discretion to any man: Who will despise his own thoughts, repent of his sins, and will follow the teaching of the Word of God.

The purpose of the Word of God, especially Proverbs, is to teach wisdom and discretion for a successful life (*Proverbs 1:1-6; Psalms 1:1-3; 19:7-14*).

***Proverbs 3:23 Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.***

A carefree and smooth life is possible! You can be secure from trouble and move through life without falling into dysfunctional problems.

Solomon had observed such lives, and God inspired him to write about them. The conditions are in the

context, do not forget wisdom and understanding; keep sound wisdom and discretion (*Proverbs 3:19-22*).

**Value Of Wisdom:  
Helps You Live Your Life  
Without Pain And Trouble.**

One of the great encouragements to learn wisdom is to consider its benefits. Look at the preceding list of benefits (*Proverbs 3:13-18*)!

This Proverb is in the middle of another list (*Proverbs 3:19-26*)!

Wisdom can both adorn and protect you (*Proverbs 3:22-23; 2:11; 4:6; 11:16; 22:11*).

Where is wisdom found? It is found in the inspired Words of the Bible and it is found in the obedience to Jesus Christ. It is not found anywhere else.

The Bible is able to make you wise in ways that the world cannot grasp, and you will be saved from their troubles (*Psalms 19:7-11*).

The Word of God is a divine light and lamp for the paths and choices of life (*Psalms 119:105*).

The financial and professional wisdom of Proverbs can keep you:

- From discrimination (*Proverbs 17:2; 27:18*),
- From foolish pleasures (*Proverbs 21:17, 20*),
- From get-rich schemes (*Proverbs 14:23; 28:19*),
- From risk (*Proverbs 6:1-5; 22:26-27*),
- From sleep (*Proverbs 20:13*),
- From sloth (*Proverbs 6:6-11; 12:24*),
- From waste (*Proverbs 13:23; 18:9*).

The rules for success in business or employment are throughout the book. Those who take heed to the instruction will walk safely and not trip economically. The choice is yours.

The marital wisdom, of Proverbs warns you, about odious women, who destroy men (*Proverbs 12:4; 19:13; 21:9,19; 30:21-23*).

Instead of her, you are shown the virtuous woman, who will enhance your entire life (*Proverbs 5:15-19; 11:16; 12:4; 19:14; 31:10-31*).

And you are graphically warned about strange women and their traps (*Proverbs 5:1-23; 6:23-35; 7:1-27; 22:14; 23:26-28*).

The wisdom in Proverbs, teaches you the nature of children and the necessity of their training (*Proverbs 17:25; 22:6; 29:17*).

Though the world may be confused, there are methods to correct and discipline children that work (*Proverbs 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15*).

The book deals with authority (*Proverbs 15:1; 25:15*), abuse of wine (*Proverbs 23:29-35*), how to save (*Proverbs 30:25*), the folly of modern welfare (*Proverbs 20:4*), the importance of reputation (*Proverbs 22:1*), the nature of true friends (*Proverbs 17:17*), treatment of fools (*Proverbs 26:1-5*), treatment of scorners (*Proverbs 9:7-9*), etc., etc.

Dysfunction and misery are common in the world. Your safety is in biblical Christianity, which will save you from their fears and troubles and will prosper you (*Psalms 1:1-6; 34:11-16*).

***Proverbs 3:24 When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.***

Not all sleep problems are due to insomnia, sleep apnea, or other physical ailments. Some sleep difficulties are spiritual problems.

Solomon told his son, to keep sound wisdom and discretion, knowing the many benefits they give to men (*Proverbs 3:21-23*).

Sweet and peaceful sleep, free from fear and guilt, is a wonderful gift to those who fear the Lord (*Proverbs 3:25-26*).

#### **Wisdom has many benefits!**

Wisdom will give you an abundant life of joy and peace (*Proverbs 3:22*).

Wisdom will adorn your character and reputation like a gold necklace graces a neck (*Proverbs 3:22*).

Wisdom will keep you from stumbling or falling over things in life that destroy others (*Proverbs 3:23*).

Wisdom is a precious asset during the daytime, but it is also one during the night (*Proverbs 3:24; 6:20-23*)!

#### **What Causes Sleep Problems? Guilt!**

The fear of getting caught or the shame of having been caught is a source of fear that can chase you day and night, but especially at night. Your mind is free at night to imagine all sort of debilitating scenarios, usually worse than reality (*Proverbs 28:1*).

Wisdom, the knowledge and choice to do what is right, can save you from guilt, by keeping you from sinning against God. You can sleep peacefully!

**Fear!** If you have been foolish, and done something stupid, you know there are painful consequences (*Proverbs 6:1-5*).

No matter how creative you get, you know there will be punishment.

**If** you have committed adultery, there is fear of an angry spouse, theirs or yours!

**If** you have invested in a possible scam, there is fear of losing your money.

Wisdom, saving you from such stupid choices, can give you confident sleep. Fear of God's judgment!

**If** you have sinned, you know that God is angry and could chasten you for your folly (*Psalms 32:3-5*).

The dread of His judgment is enhanced at night, because you imagine unseen danger, is lurking on every side. A chance storm with thunder and lightning further contributes to a terrifying fear of God.

#### **Wisdom Keeps You Godly And Righteous, And There Is No Fear Of God's Judgment.**

Fear of disasters! Many tremble about everything from bird flu to tsunamis, from identity theft, from economic depression to war; but the child of God sleeps on peacefully.

The child of God, knows his God never sleeps, his God keeps every sparrow, and his God directs every bolt of lightning (*Leviticus 26:6; Job 37:3; 38:35; Psalms 29:7; 121:4-7; Matthew 10:29-31*).

#### **Wisdom Is Great Value To Help You Sleep At Night!**

With the Lord on your side, you can sleep anytime, anywhere (*Psalms 3:5; 4:8; Isaiah 26:3-4*)!

**If** the angel of the Lord is camping with you, there is no reason for nightmares or fear in the night (*Psalms 34:7*)!

Peter was hard to wake up the night before his planned execution (*Acts 12:1-7*)!

Paul and Silas sang at midnight in Philippi's dungeon (*Acts 16:19-25*)!

Paul cheerfully ate in a terrible storm that blocked out the sun (*Acts 27:12-37*)!

But it gets even better! With the Lord on your side, you can limit yourself to reasonable effort, no matter how daunting the task or intimidating the situation, and go to bed! He will do the rest!

The Lord wants you to sleep on it! Getting up early, staying up late, or worrying will not help. He will take

care of the matter, **If** you will do your reasonable best and trust Him for the rest.

It is The Lord's promise (*Psalm 127:1-2; Philipians 4:6-7; 1Peter 5:7*)!

Consider how Jesus experienced, this benefit of wisdom, in a storm at sea (*Mark 4:36-41*).

A great storm of wind arose, and the waves beat into the ship, so the ship was full of water, where was He? Peacefully asleep!

His disciples had to wake Him up! What was His advice to the terrified disciples? "*Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?*"

**The Proverb's lesson!**  
**Get wisdom!**  
**Go to bed!**  
**Sleep well!**

***Proverbs 3:25 Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.***

Fear is one of life's most painful experiences. A dreaded event may be imagined, or it may be real; but both are very painful. Terrifying news or grave danger, can suddenly cause great fear and consternation.

Or you may know God, is going to severely judge the wicked around you. But in both cases, wise men will be happy and peaceful, because God will be their confidence from the one, and He will deliver them from the other (*Proverbs 3:26*).

The larger context describes the many benefits of wisdom (*Proverbs 3:1-22*).

The smaller context teaches that peace from fear and safety from danger are some of these benefits (*Proverbs 3:23-24*).

This Proverb declares wisdom's value, in delivering men from surprise disasters and trouble and from God's judgment, of sinners. Because wisdom includes the fear of God, and obedience to Him, He will save all such men and women from both dangers.

A child of God, should not fear anything, for his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord (*Psalm 112:7-8*). Even if an army were to come against him, he can be confident, because the Lord is on his side (*Psalm 27:1-6*).

Even if the surface of the earth were violently overthrown, there is no cause for fear at all (*Psalm 46:1-7*). Here is a benefit of wisdom, faith in God will save you from all fears (*Psalm 34:1-7*)!

Consider sudden fear. A doctor says you have cancer! Your spouse of many years leaves you! You are fired unexpectedly! You are in the middle of a bank during a robbery! Your son is killed in an accident! Your auto quits, and you have no money for repairs! A powerful nation declares war against yours! Your retirement plan is cancelled entirely!

Those who fear God and love wisdom have complete confidence in the face of fear.

Naaman contracted incurable leprosy, but he boldly sought Elisha for its complete cure.

Hezekiah had a fatal disease, but he prayed for a couple minutes and was given 15 more years.

Jesus Christ went to the cruel death of the cross with total confidence in His Father.

Paul and Silas could sing praises in a Roman dungeon in Philippi, Macedonia.

Consider the desolation of the wicked. The influenza epidemic of 1918 killed 40 million! World War II took 72 million more!

Deranged moon worshippers destroyed the World Trade Center! A tsunami wiped out the lives and homes of many from ten nations!

Those who fear God and love wisdom are kept from God's judgment of the wicked. God drowned all men by a worldwide flood 4500 years ago, but Noah and his family were dry in the Ark.

God took Lot out of Sodom before burning it up. Jacob and his family were fed in the best part of Egypt during a terrible famine. Many saints were saved out of Jerusalem, when God sent the Roman armies to destroy His Son's murderers.

**What Is Wisdom?**  
**It Is Reverently Fearing The LORD**  
**And Keeping His Commandments.**

God, blesses, delivers, and helps such men, so they need not fear in this world or the next. They can respond confidently, to any news of trouble, for they will be protected.

**If** God is on your side, then there is nothing man or natural disasters can do to you (*Proverbs 3:26; Psalm 118:6; Matthew 10:28-31; Hebrews 13:5-6*).

***Proverbs 3:26 For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.***

**Self-Confidence Is Great,**

## **Confidence In The LORD Is Greater!**

What will you do when self is tired, weak, discouraged, dying, or facing impossible adversity? Some think self-defense is good, but the LORD's defense is much better. The bravest and securest men in human history were those who put their trust in the LORD.

The context declared the LORD's use of wisdom, understanding, and knowledge, and the benefits men obtain by having them as well (**Proverbs 3:19-22**).

Then the Holy Spirit through Solomon teaches the security and peace that these things bring to those retaining them (**Proverbs 3:23-25**).

In spite of what is happening in the world, those who put their trust in the LORD will be safe and saved. In fact, they can sleep when others are panicking and in trouble.

Walking in the fear of the LORD with wisdom, understanding, and knowledge gives a man total confidence and safety (**Proverbs 14:26**).

He fears nothing! *"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident"* (**Psalms 27:1-3**).

David thought the men of Israel should have lined up for a chance to fight Goliath (**1Samuel 17:29**).

Three Hebrew men had no regard for the fury or threats of Nebuchadnezzar (**Daniel 3:16-18**).

Peter and John boldly testified against the same Jews who crucified their Lord (**Acts 4:13**).

Paul stood alone to give answer before the Emperor, Nero (**2Timothy 4:16-18**).

*The horse is prepared and trained for battle, but safety is of the LORD* (**Proverbs 21:31**).

A wise man makes only a reasonable effort, for he knows that success is from the LORD (**Psalms 127:1**).

A wise man does not fret or overextend himself, and he goes to bed on time (**Psalms 127:2**).

A wise man puts his trust in the name of the LORD, his strong tower. See the comments on **Proverbs 18:10**.

What about the unseen pestilence or disease frightening others? *"Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the*

*destruction that wasteth at noontide. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked"* (**Psalms 91:5-8**).

What about economic disaster? *"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation"* (**Habakkuk 3:17-18**).

No matter what difficulty or threat is facing you, be confident the LORD, will deliver and save you. Do not faint, but believe! Go forward in faith! Do what you need to do, then go to bed!

*"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD"* (**Psalms 27:13-14**).

Our Lord slept during a terrible storm (**Mark 4:37-38**).

Our Lord could enjoy supper and serving others just hours before his betrayal and crucifixion (**John 13:1-5**).

This same Jesus promised, *"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee"* (**Hebrews 13:5**).

What is the result? *"So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me"* (**Hebrews 13:6**).

True Saints go to sleep by saying, *"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety"* (**Psalms 4:8**).

***Proverbs 3:27 Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.***

You are in debt! Maybe, even some debts you may not know about! Here is a rule of wisdom to please God and men. You must give good things to those that need them, when you are able to do so.

Your debt may be a civil obligation, employment obligation, or financial obligation; or it may be the very spiritual matters of mercy and charity.

This rule is also taught clearly in the New Testament (**1John 3:17**). Are you fully aware of your debts, and are you paying them?

The context is minimal, but helpful. The next verse says, *"Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again,*

and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee" (*Proverbs 3:28*).

Noble and virtuous men, will not delay in providing the needs of their neighbors, when they are in the position to help them.

Noble and virtuous men, will not put neighbors off with promises of future kindness or performance. God is teaching you true mercy and charity.

The debts you know well are rent payments, shared expenses, wages for services, returning borrowed items, repairing damaged property, refunding overpayments, replacing stolen things, returning unused deposits, and so forth.

The duty to pay these debts, on a timely basis comes from God's laws, and the civil rules of men (*Romans 13:7-8*).

Consider how God demanded prompt pay for laborers (*Leviticus 19:13; Deuteronomy 24:14-15*)!

There are other debts, which are created by the mercy and charity requirements of God. The LORD made both rich and poor men (*Proverbs 22:2*).

Rich men did not get wealthy by their own abilities (*Psalms 75:6-7; Ecclesiastes 9:11; 1 Corinthians 4:7*).

And God expects them to share some of their abundance with those that have less (*Psalms 112:9; 1 Timothy 6:17-19*).

Since God expects the rich to consider the poor, the mere need of the poor creates an obligation.

When God brings a person into your life with legitimate needs, and you have the ability to help them, then your help is due!

Godliness and wisdom create the debt! God is expecting payment to them, and He will hold you guilty, if you choose to not pay.

For example, it is an obligation for you to help widows and orphans in need, that God brings your way (*Job 29:12-13; 31:16-23; Isaiah 1:17; 58:6-7; James 1:27*).

Legitimate needs are food, clothing, and shelter (*Job 31:19; Isaiah 58:7; Ezekiel 18:7; James 2:15-16*).

And only those working hard and not wasting assets deserve charity.

**If** a man will not work, he should starve (*Proverbs 20:4; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12*).

**If** he is financially foolish, he should be treated the same (*Proverbs 18:9; 12:27; 19:10; 30:22*).

Godly welfare was gleaned, which required very hard work collecting scraps from fields or vineyards (*Leviticus 19:10; 23:22*).

Christianity is not communism, from each according to his ability, to each according to his need, until all are reduced to poverty.

**If** the rich gave all away, they could not fund their wonderful enterprises that employ the poor, and the poor would be destroyed. Communism is folly: look at Russia's experiment!

The rich may enjoy the good life, if they are ready and willing to give to those in need (*1 Timothy 6:17-19; Ecclesiastes 5:18-19; 9:7-10*).

Most charity should be done through your local church, where a pastor or deacons, can identify legitimate needs, and protect both givers and receivers from abuse or partiality (*Acts 4:34-37; 6:1-3; 1 Timothy 5:1-16*).

Such public giving, does not violate the Lord's rule for secrecy, since He was opposing Pharisees seeking the praise of men (*Matthew 6:1-4*).

The Bible mentions persons and churches by name that were generous givers (*John 12:3; Acts 4:36-37; Romans 15:26; 1 Corinthians 16:15; 2 Corinthians 9:1-2; Philippians 4:10-19; Philemon 1:4-7*).

The Bible does not teach you, to seek out the poor in other places or feel a debt toward them. God defines debts of mercy and charity, not social do-gooders or televangelists.

First, godly men have a debt to the household of faith, where they are to provide for poor saints, in their own local church and then in other places (*Matthew 10:42; 25:40; Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-35; 11:29; Romans 15:26; 1 Corinthians 16:1; 2 Corinthians 8:4; Galatians 6:10; Philemon 1:5; 1 Peter 4:9*).

Secondly, your next line of obligation is your neighbor, even if an unbeliever. Who is your neighbor? You asked a good question, which others have done, trying to limit their debts to their friends and companions only.

The question, has a good answer from Jesus Christ. Your neighbor is anyone with a legitimate need that God, in His providence, brings across your ordinary path in life (*Luke 10:25-37; Galatians 6:10*).

Learn from the Good Samaritan (*Luke 10:25-37*).

The Samaritan and Jew did not live near each other. They even disliked each other (*John 4:9; 8:48*).

The Jew was in true need (not the lacking a television) (*Luke 10:30*).

The Samaritan chanced upon the Jew; he was not looking for wounded Jews (*Luke 10:33*).

The Samaritan did not subsidize the Jew; he only rescued him from his need. This is the Lord's definition of loving your neighbor.

Neither testament of Scripture teaches a debt to the poor of the world. Israel was to be generous to their own poor (*Exodus 23:11; Deuteronomy 15:7-11*).

If they had tried to feed the Egyptians and the Arabians, there would not have been any resources left for the poor in their own nation!

Paul took gifts across the Mediterranean for poor saints in Judea, though he ignored the brothels and jails in the cities of Asia where he raised the money!

Social do-gooders suggest giving to every poor person in every corner of the earth to earn the praise of men, and televangelists suggest the same to build their television audiences and funding.

If you followed either consistently, you would have nothing left for the two obligations God has given you, poor saints and neighbors by providence.

The Bible is pure wisdom. Gifts to many countries simply, subsidize and endorse governmental and personal folly, much like the sluggard or waster condemned above.

People choosing to live in the desert and reproduce wildly, where food and water have always been in short supply, should rethink their governmental and personal habits.

God does not require the rich to dump their wealth for the poor of the world: they are merely to be ready to give it to God's two objects of charity (*1 Timothy 6:17-19; Galatians 6:10*).

Do you pay your debts? Do you tell poor saints in your church that you are praying for them? You are cruel! *"If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" (James 2:15-16).*

And *"But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" (1 John 3:17).*

Do you aggressively take care of your parents? If not, you are behind on your debts! You are denying the Christian faith, if you do not repay your parents for what they did for you (*1 Timothy 5:4, 8*).

It was the perverted Jewish religion that rejected parental support by offsetting offerings of assets in order to deny parents (*Matthew 15:4-6*).

Are you going out tonight for a nice meal? Why not take a poor couple from your church or neighborhood?

Listen to Jesus Christ: *"But when thou makest a feast, call the poor; the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just" (Luke 14:13-14).*

God did not withhold the good of salvation from His own, even when they did not deserve anything but eternal condemnation and punishment (*Romans 5:6-10*).

God freely gave His only begotten Son and every other blessing as well (*Romans 8:32*).

Are you able to follow His example even a little? Then pay your debts! Even today! There are blessings in giving, that only those who trust the Bible and Jesus Christ, can experience (*Proverbs 11:24-25; Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 2 Corinthians 9:12-14*)!

***Proverbs 3:28 Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.***

#### **Delay Turns Charity Into Cruelty And Debt Into Theft!**

If you can help a person today, do not wait even one day! Help him today! Do not promise to help or pay in the future. Love will help now!

If you owe any one today and can pay, do not wait until tomorrow! Clear the obligation! Pay the debt!

The previous Proverb condemned refusing to pay; this Proverb condemns delaying to pay. Godly men pay in full, and they pay promptly!

God's rules for wisdom and success, extend even to cash flow, and the prompt payment of obligations, and charitable gifts. There are good reasons for paying today rather than tomorrow.

You may never live to see tomorrow (*Proverbs 27:1*).

You may lose the cash or assets you presently have (*Proverbs 23:5*).

You cause a poor man or creditor to live another day of grief (*James 2:15-16; 5:1-5*).

#### **A Little When Needed Is Better Than More Later!**

This godly rule applies to bills, debts, dues, wages, taxes, charity, family support, giving, and any similar obligations.

**If** you owe anyone or could help anyone, and you have the money, you should aggressively pay today. The Law of Moses required that day laborers be paid their wages every day and that the poor have security deposits returned to them at night (*Leviticus 19:13; Deuteronomy 24:12-15*).

God cares about details. The due date on a bill or loan payment is when it is due. Get it? The grace period is the days a creditor will let you steal before seeking to put you in jail! You do not have a right to the grace period! Pay your bills before the due date!

When you employ anyone for wages, whether to cut your grass, repair your car, or watch your children, pay them that day! God will be honored, your reputation enhanced, and the party thrilled.

God cares for the poor. He expects you to care for them, when they have a real need, and you can help. Talk is cheap and does no good (*James 2:15-16; 1John 3:17-18*). Performance counts (*2Corinthians 8:11*).

Giving to the poor is lending to the Lord (*Proverbs 19:17*). It proves eternal life; and it ought to be done as soon as a need is detected. (*1John 3:11-24*)

Jesus Christ expects the rich to be ready to give, and He greatly rewards them for it (*1Timothy 6:17-19*).

A good rule for life is to pay bills and obligations as soon as they are incurred, or when they arrive in the mail. This creates financial freedom, and you are always ahead for the unexpected emergency. Living from check to check, from bill to bill, is folly.

When a neighbor needs something, get it for him as soon as possible. You can put joy in his heart by a fast response. It has been said, "He gives twice who gives speedily." Do it!

***Proverbs 3:29 Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.***

Those closest to you deserve the most from you. Yet men often treat family or friends more harshly than strangers. The more people trust you, the more you owe. The more vulnerable a person becomes to you, the greater obligation you have to honor and protect.

You know more about your neighbors than others in your life, but this privilege brings the duty, to protect rather than an opportunity to defraud.

Who is your neighbor? While lawyers quibble about words and wish to reduce this, noun, to a few friends, Jesus Christ expanded it to anyone God places in your life (*Luke 10:25-29-37*).

It includes your parents or a spouse to colleagues at work or a stranger you happen to sit beside on an airplane or bus. Of course, it also includes those who live next door, but it includes many more as well.

It is easy to discover, the assets, faults, habits, and weaknesses, of those closest to you. Your proximity, to their activities and their trust in you, combine to make them vulnerable, to any lustful actions on your part.

God, knowing this reality of relationships, warns against any wicked ambitions or defrauding by this advantage. Godly men are scrupulously honest with neighbors, and they are exceptionally protective of them.

Cain slew his trusting brother. Jacob's sons deceived and murdered Shechem, and then they sold Joseph into slavery. King Saul tried to murder David as he played for him. Joab slew the trusting Abner and Amasa.

Judas knew the Lord's habits, and he used them to earn a few coins by betraying Him to a murderous mob.

The sin of this Proverb, is the cruelest form of personal malice (*Psalms 41:9; 55:12-15; Matthew 26:46-50; John 13:21*).

Do you exploit or protect knowledge, of colleagues at work? Does the nearness of your neighbor's wife make him more or less vulnerable to you? Do you exploit or protect gullible classmates? Can any sitting near you anywhere trust you with their belongings?

The evil crime can even be found at home. Abuse or neglect of spouses is treachery, for marriage exposes all to another (*Malachi 2:10-16*).

Never compare your wife to another woman!

Never defraud or demean the man in your bed!

Never divulge the private issues of family members for they assume they are secure at home.

Do church members, know they can trust you, with the most intimate details of their lives? Or do they know, your vile heart, would be tempted to exploit their weakness for your own advantage or to share it with others? Let this Proverb admonish you! Learn godliness today!

***Proverbs 3:30 Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.***



You better have a good reason to debate, fight, or sue someone. God allows you to defend yourself, when legitimate harm has been done. But He will not tolerate a petty, hypocritical, or vengeful response to others.

There had better be definite and significant injury involved, or you are messing with a matter that will come back to bite you.

How serious, are the consequences of debating or fighting, for no good cause? God hates such contrary, froward, obnoxious, and wicked behavior (*Proverbs 3:32*).

God curses the men, that will not get along with others, and that like to stir up trouble (*Proverbs 3:33*).

God will scorn the scorners and promote fools to shame (*Proverbs 3:34-35*).

Of course, contentious men always have a reason for contending with others. In their depraved sense of justice, they are righteous in arguing, fighting, or suing someone for damages. But God knows the hearts of all men, and He despises their petty, personal, hypocritical, or vengeful thoughts.

God will be froward to froward men (*Psalms 18:25-26*).

Wisdom includes knowledge and ability to get along with others. Wise men do good, because: they know, they should, defer anger and ignore minor offences (*Proverbs 19:11*).

They know, that **If** they are unmerciful, in holding men accountable, for their small trespasses, then God Himself will not forgive them their trespasses (*Matthew 6:14-15*).

What causes some men to be contentious? Pride! Only pride (*Proverbs 13:10*)!

It is not, an innate sense of justice or righteousness, that causes them to criticize, debate, fight, or oppose others. It is the pride of their wicked hearts that refuses to be merciful, refuses to overlook small offences, and refuses to forgive others fully and easily.

### **Pride Is Damning!**

How about women that nag? Same thing! Their pride finds pleasure in correcting their husbands. Resenting their role, they show their selfishness by contending and brawling! No wonder Solomon warned against such women (*Proverbs 19:13; 21:9, 19; 25:24; 27:15*)!

Peace and unity, these are godly goals, of wise men. These qualities depend on overlooking the minor faults or offences of others.

### **Only When Life Or Home Is Threatened**

### **Is There Cause For Fighting.**

Jesus Christ said that even anger in your heart without a cause is murder (*Matthew 5:21-22*)!

Responding with force to minor offences is of the same character (*Matthew 5:38-42*).

A contentious spirit is from hell, but a gentle and peaceful spirit is from heaven (*James 3:14-18*).

What a great difference! What a glorious opportunity! What a precious privilege! What will you do today? Fight over anything? Or forgive everything? Be a peacemaker!

### ***Proverbs 3:31 Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.***

Do not be jealous of those, who appear to get ahead by taking advantage of others, for they shall soon be brought down (*Proverbs 3:32-35*).

Do not use any of their manners or methods, for they are the tools of fools. Froward men, unreasonable and wicked men, are an abomination to God.

God will bless and favor good and righteous men (*Proverbs 3:32-35*).

Overbearing and presumptuous men, may prosper for a while, until God and men, turn on them and take back what they accumulated by their oppressive ways.

Foolish men are easily seduced, by the strong-arm tactics and apparent financial success of tyrants.

Foolish men are deceived, into thinking such methods are manly and efficient, the way for the strong, to survive and get ahead. But God inspired this rule, do not envy such men (*Proverbs 24:1*).

Neither should you adopt their manners or methods. It is not enough to despise froward men; you must also reject any of their habits or practices.

Sin will deceive you, by justifying some of their ways, thinking, as long as you reject other of their ways. God knows this temptation, so He also condemned choosing any of their devices or tactics.

What are the ways of an oppressor? They love to drive a hard bargain, they love paying less than they should, but they love charging more than they should (*Proverbs 11:26; 20:14*).

A righteous man pays a fair price and charges a fair price, especially when the helpless or poor are involved.

When it comes to charity, the oppressor neglects the poor and only gives a little grudgingly, but a good man gives generously and is rewarded for it (*Proverbs 11:24-25; 29:7*).

What are the ways of an oppressor? They are harsh and hard on animals, employees, and themselves. But noble and virtuous men are kind and merciful to all three (*Proverbs 11:17; 12:10; 18:23; 29:21*).

The oppressor speaks sharply, critically, and wounding his hearers; but the wise man speaks his few words graciously, gives wisdom by his speech, and wins even the king's heart (*Proverbs 10:21; 12:18; 15:2, 28; 17:9; 22:11; Colossians 4:6*).

The oppressor creates strife, divides and conquers, looks out for number one, and sows discord (*Proverbs 6:14, 19; 15:18; 16:28; 26:20-22*).

But godly men crave peace, work to keep it, and honors others (*Proverbs 15:1; 19:11; Ephesians 4:3; Philippians 2:1-5*).

The oppressor walks over a starving Lazarus going to a sumptuous table, but he ends up in hell (*Luke 16:19-23*)!

A Diotrepes may cast men out of the church, but he will pay (*3John 1:9-11*).

What wisdom can you learn here? Rather than envying oppressors of the world: choose to envy the righteous, with whom God shares His secret (*Proverbs 3:32*).

Choose the ways of the godly and earn the favor of God and men (*Psalms 37:37; 1Corinthians 4:16; 11:1; Philippians 3:17; 4:9*).

***Proverbs 3:32 For the froward is abomination to the LORD: but his secret is with the righteous.***

Good guys finish first! Measure their end, not their beginning, for there are no exceptions to the rule.

God will fight against every wicked person. But He will personally bless the righteous with His presence and goodness.

Do not be misled by the world, which exalts the wicked and despises the righteous. It is their last arrogant gasp at self-delusion before their final destruction!

Because the world, glamorizes wicked men, in their rebellion against God and truth, men often envy oppressors (*Proverbs 3:31; 23:17; 24:1, 19; Psalm 37:1,7*).

For a time it may seem that deceitful and violent men can get ahead without consequences. But of this inspired warning take heed, (*Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways,*) is based on the rule here (*Proverbs 3:31*).

The apparent success is a temporary illusion. Hell will be paid! God guarantees it!

What is a froward man? This older word means a man who goes counter to what is right; he is unreasonable, perverse, difficult to deal with, hard to please, stubborn, and ungovernable.

He is obnoxious and wicked. He is the oppressor from the previous Proverb, who uses any means he can to harm others and take advantage of them.

**The Warning Is Clear  
Do Not Choose His Ways  
Or Choose To Be With Him  
His Life Will Spiral Down And Out!**

You have seen this man before. Have you envied him? He is brash and confident. He breaks the rules and seems to never get caught. In fact, he is often honored and rewarded, as if his cheating were the profitable thing to do.

He has no regard for others, and he uses them for whatever he can get from them. He may become powerful and successful, and you wonder if there is any reward for living a holy and righteous life (*Psalms 73:1-14*).

But God considers this, the abomination of wicked living. God hates wickedness with perfect hatred, and He will judge the wicked, in this world and the next with holy justice.

In Scripture, when it says "God hates," it means God has no, or little respect, for someone.

*"The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity" (Psalm 5:5).*

*"The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth" (Psalm 11:5).*

Pharaoh greatly oppressed the Hebrews, so God drowned him in the Red Sea for his frowardness (*Exodus 14:17; Romans 9:15-18*).

What is God's secret, which He gives to the righteous? It is His personal presence and favors, which He grants to good men in ways the world cannot recognize. God will also, open up His Word, to those desiring to truly understand it better.

As men share intimate plans and rewards with their best friends, so the Lord shares His glory and blessings with holy men. He tells them, through His Spirit, of His love

for them and of the unspeakable rewards He has waiting for them in heaven (*Psalm 25:14; 1Corinthians 2:9; Galatians 4:6-7*).

***Proverbs 3:33 The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just.***

Something is hanging over your home and house! There are only two possibilities! Either the curse of the LORD is hanging there and it is ready to fall; or the blessing of the LORD is there!

The difference in outcomes is incredible; the conditions are simple. You do not want to play around with the one; and you do not want to miss the other.

When the LORD curses, no man or group of men can bless! When the LORD blesses, no man or confederacy of men can curse! Balak hired Balaam to curse Israel, in order to save Moab; but God blessed Israel, and cursed Moab (*Numbers 22:1 - 24:25*)!

These are the facts of life, and you are not going to alter them. *"There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD" (Proverbs 21:30).*

Prudence and safety says to flee His curse by any means! Wisdom and prosperity says, to seek His blessing by any means!

The LORD said to Israel, *"Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse" (Deuteronomy 11:26)*! And this Proverb sets before each reader a blessing or a curse.

What will you do with this choice? How seriously do you even read His Words today?

**If** you continue in your wicked ways, the curse is coming.

**If** you repent and do justly, blessing is coming.

**If** you do not think it matters, read the details of His blessings and curses (*Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28*).

A wicked man and his family are going to suffer, because the sword of divine justice hangs over them.

A righteous man and his family are going to prosper, because God smiles upon them.

Here is simple wisdom, to bless your home and family or to guarantee its ruin. What will you do? *"The righteous man wisely considereth the house of the wicked: but God overthroweth the wicked for their wickedness" (Proverbs 21:12).*

God told the priests of Israel: *"And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you. If ye will not hear, and if*

*ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart. Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts; and one shall take you away with it" (Malachi 2:1-3).* Not very pretty, is it?

Will you hear, will you lay it to your heart, and give glory to His name? Let's find out. Are you thinking, living, and doing everything God expects?

- Everything written in His Word?
- Everything you have heard rightly preached?
- Everything the holy men and women of Scripture would have done?

Where are you cheating? What are you compromising?

**If** you are compromising or cheating in any part of your life, don't look up! Storm clouds are gathering over your home and house! The way of sinners is hard, and it can get far worse than you think or have ever experienced (*Proverbs 13:15*).

What are the conditions for His blessing? Are they costly and difficult? Read carefully His answer. *"Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:6-8).*

This Proverb applies to churches as well, which are the houses and habitations of God by His Spirit (*Ephesians 2:19-22; 1Timothy 3:15*).

The nation of Israel was called Ichabod, when the glory of God departed, and they were cursed with the Philistines rulers (*1Samuel 4:12-22*).

And churches today, playing with carnal living and wicked hearts, will also be deprived of the glory of God, when the Son of man walks among His candlesticks (*Revelation 1:9-20; 2:5*).

Yet the same Lord seeks fellowship with churches, which will have Him (*Revelation 3:20*).

***Proverbs 3:34 Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.***

God is angry and hates scorning. Those who neglect His Word, mock His Truth, despise His Ministers, and

worship their own thoughts will be judged harshly (*Isaiah 29:20-21*).

Those who think poorly of themselves and tremble before Him will receive kind blessings.

The judgment of scorers is certain. "Surely" they shall not escape.

The Lord will have them in derision. He will laugh and mock, when He brings their worst fears upon them for their arrogant disregard of His offers of wisdom, truth, and life (*Proverbs 1:20-31; Psalm 2:1-12*).

Scorners resent correction, despise authority, mock truth, and are full of conceit.

God will resent, resist, ridicule, and reject them for their pride and arrogance. Others cannot help or protect the scorners, for God will surely judge him or her (*Proverbs 9:12*).

The lowly, have poor and contrite hearts, are humble in thought, confess their errors quickly, and tremble with ready hearts for His instruction. God will favor the lowly, with His gracious and merciful blessings. Though He is high, He has respect to the lowly and resents the proud (*Psalm 138:6*).

Our Proverb is so true it is stated twice in the New Testament (*James 4:6; 1Peter 5:5*). God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. So we must humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God that He might exalt us in due time (*James 4:10; 1Peter 5:6*).

God gives this grace, before and after we humble ourselves; for it is His grace that humbles us, and it is His grace, that rewards our humility with further favor (*James 4:5-6*).

The rule of heaven is simple: God repays in kind. God is merciful to the merciful, God is upright to the upright, He is pure to the pure, but He is froward to the froward (*Psalm 18:25-26*).

God saves afflicted persons, but He brings down the high looks of the proud (*Psalm 18:27*).

God will not be slack to repay those who hate Him to their very face (*Deuteronomy 7:9-11*). And He will give them the same contrary treatment they have given Him, but with His fury (*Leviticus 26:23-28*).

God's ways are equal, though Israel charged Him with being unfair (*Ezekiel 18:25-30*).

A man choosing scorn and iniquity will be judged, a man choosing humility and righteousness will be saved.

### **The Ways Of God Are Equal Humble Yourself**

Pharaoh scorned the Lord, but Israel ravished the nation terribly.

Korah scorned Moses, but he and his family went to their graves alive!

Goliath scorned Israel's God, but a lad stole his head.

The Jews scorned our Savior, but He publicly ridiculed their doctrine, hypocrisy, and persons.

Caiaphas and Israel scorned our Lord and His apostles, but He leveled their temple and annihilated their nation. Surely He scorneth the scorers!

When Elymas scorned the gospel, Paul sent blindness upon him (*Acts 13:4-12*).

When the Jews rejected Paul's message of the Messiah, he turned to the Gentiles and told the Jews they were unworthy of everlasting life (*Acts 13:46-47*).

The haughty teachers at Corinth, who resented Paul, publicly heard chapter after chapter of his glorious boasting, which left them all scorned before the church! And Paul in turn told Timothy and Titus to let no man despise, or scorn, them (*1Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:15*).

**If** you have tried to teach a scorners and received hatred, shame, and a blot in return, do not worry. There is a God: and He is higher than they, no matter how high their conceited thoughts. Surely He scorneth the scorers! You will be vindicated! (*Proverbs 9:7-8*)

Parent, if you see even a glimpse of scorn or just smell it in the air from a child, it must be eliminated. This most hateful of all spirits must be corrected, or you will bring upon yourself grief and bring upon your child the judgment of God. It is the seed of hell in your child, but wise and early use of reproof can drive it away.

Do your hackles ever rise in pride and rebellion at the preaching of God's Word? Do resentful thoughts enter your mind against the message or the messenger? Are you offended by the correction or warning of a friend? Unless you have overwhelming Bible evidence to question their words, you are taking the seat of the scornful.

Do you resent authority? Is it easy for you to criticize or mock government? Do you love giving your opinion on how things should be done in the nation? On the job? In the church? Beware! Surely He scorneth the scorers!

But on the other hand, God does draw nigh to humble men, who wait quietly with contrite hearts and tremble at His Word (*Isaiah 57:15; 66:1-2*).

Consider these precious promises! What a privilege! What a low cost! Humble yourself. He giveth grace to the lowly!

***Proverbs 3:35 The wise shall inherit glory:  
but shame shall be the promotion of fools.***

You will receive an inheritance. You will be promoted. You will get either glory or shame. Your decisions today will earn one or the other.

In fact, you may already have part of your inheritance or promotion. Are you living successfully by God's definition with a good reputation? Or are you ashamed of the mess you have made of your life?

**There Are Consequences To Every Decision.  
Some Consequences Are Not Immediately Seen,  
But You Cannot Avoid Them.**

**If** you choose wisdom, as the basis for life's decisions, then the natural process of life and the supernatural blessing of God, will bring you glory and honor.

**If** you choose foolishness, you and God have guaranteed your pain and shame.

Wise men make decisions by the Bible (the revealed will of God). Fools make decisions by their feelings, their thoughts, popular opinion, tradition, habits, educators, news anchors, televangelists, and other foolish sources.

**If** you live wisely, you will be honored; if you live foolishly, you will be punished in disgrace.

Consider two men and their choices regarding women: Joseph resisted seduction by Mrs. Potiphar on the grounds it would displease God: he ended up on Egypt's throne.

Samson pursued the painted faces, offered bodies, and flattery of Philistine whores to please his lusts. He ended up a blind, manual laborer, who committed suicide to end his pain.

Consider two men and their choices regarding wealth: Moses rejected all the pleasures and treasures of Egypt to honor God, and he became one of Israel's greatest heroes.

Lot lusted greedily for the lush valleys of the Jordan, where the city of Sodom was situated; and he ended up losing everything, living in a cave, and impregnating his two daughters.

Consider two men and their choices regarding education: Saul of Tarsus flushed one of the finest educations as dung for the knowledge of Jesus Christ (*Acts 22:3; Philipians 3:4-8*). He became the greatest apostle.

The philosophers of Athens adored their own thoughts and mocked Paul's vital teaching about Jesus Christ (*Acts 17:22-34*).

Consider two men and their choices regarding the lord from heaven: One thief on a cross beside Jesus confessed his guilt and wisely chose Him as King: he went to Paradise that day.

The other thief cursed Jesus in his anger and pain, and he went to hell that day to suffer eternal and unspeakable shame.

Only blinded idiots or stubborn rebels would think they can make their own choices in life and avoid the painful consequences.

The evidence is all around that human foolishness leads to incredible dysfunction, misery, and pain. The Bible, from beginning to end, including detailed facts about a terrible worldwide flood, shows God's certain judgment for selfish choices. Be sure your sin will find you out!