

Proverbs 03 - The Path of Wisdom: Wisdom Directs Our Paths

II. Solomon's 12 lessons of wisdom to his son(s) (Prov 1:8—9:18)

(4) Lesson 4: Trust and honor God because of wisdom's value and blessings (3:1-20)

(A) Trust and honor God (3:1-12)

(a) First cycle (3:1-2)

(i) Command: Do not forget my teaching (3:1)

(ii) Reward: Longevity and peace (3:2)

(b) Second cycle (3:3-4)

(i) Command: Be kind and truthful (3:3)

(ii) Reward: Favor and good reputation (3:4)

(c) Third cycle (3:5-6)

(i) Command: trust God (3:5-6a)

(ii) Reward: Divine guidance (3:6b)

(d) Fourth cycle (3:7-8)

(i) Command: Reject pride and evil and fear God (3:7)

(ii) Reward: Health (3:8)

(e) Fifth cycle (3:9-10)

(i) Command: Worshipful giving (3:9)

(ii) Reward: Prosperity (3:10)

(f) Sixth cycle (3:11-12)

(i) Command: do not despise divine discipline (3:11)

(ii) Reward: divine correction and love (3:12)

(B) Wisdom's value and blessings (3:13-20)

(a) Her value (3:13-15)

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(5) Lesson 5: be wise in relation to others (3:21-35)

(A) Keep wisdom (3:21-26)

(a) Command to keep wisdom (3:21)

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(B) Wisdom in relation to others (3:27-35)

(a) Do not withhold good (3:27-28)

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Proverbs 3

(4) Lesson 4: Trust and honor God because of wisdom's value and blessings (3:1-20)

(A) Trust and honor God (3:1-12)

(a) First cycle (3:1-2)

(i) Command: Do not forget my teaching (3:1)

1 My son, do not forget my teaching, But **have your heart** comply with my commandments;

1 My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments;

1 My son, don't forget my instruction, and keep my commandments carefully in mind.

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

— "...have your heart" - 9 of the 10 commandments are "operationally defined"...meaning, you can easily tell if someone is following them or not

— Do not commit adultery is the only commandment that is not always operationally defined; it can be committed in the heart

— Jesus redefines all of the commandments for us in the Sermon on the Mount—they are a matter of the heart, not an just an act

— The action is just a follow-through of what was first in the heart

— If you keep His commandments in your heart, you flee from sin before it takes root

(ii) Reward: Longevity and peace (3:2)

2 For length of days and years of life And peace they will add to you.

2 For length of days and years of life And peace they will add to you.

2 For they will add length to your days, years to your life, and abundant peace to you.

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

(b) Second cycle (3:3-4)

(i) Command: Be kind and truthful (3:3)

3 Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart.

3 Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart.

3 Do not let gracious love and truth leave you. Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart,

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

(ii) Reward: Favor and good reputation (3:4)

4 So you will find favor and a good reputation In the sight of God and man.

4 So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man.

4 and find favor and a good reputation with God and men.

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

(c) Third cycle (3:5-6)

(i) Command: trust God (3:5-6a)

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not depend on your own understanding.

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

(ii) Reward: Divine guidance (3:6b)

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

(d) Fourth cycle (3:7-8)

(i) Command: Reject pride and evil and fear God (3:7)

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

7 Do not be wise in your own opinion. Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

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

(ii) Reward: Health (3:8)

8 It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones.

8 It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones.

8 This will bring healing to your body, and refreshment to your bones.

8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

(e) Fifth cycle (3:9-10)

(i) Command: Worshipful giving (3:9)

9 Honor the LORD from your wealth, And from the first of all your produce;

- 9 Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce;
- 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first of all your produce,
- 9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

(ii) Reward: Prosperity (3:10)

- 10 Then your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.
- 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.
- 10 so your barns will be filled with abundance, and your vats will burst open with new wine.
- 10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

(f) Sixth cycle (3:11-12)

(i) Command: do not despise divine discipline (3:11)

- 11 My son, do not reject the **discipline** of the LORD Or loathe His rebuke,
- 11 My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD Or loathe His reproof,
- 11 My son, do not reject the LORD's discipline, and do not despise his correction,
- 11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:
 - "...discipline" - *yasar*, which means to chastise; to instruct
 - It does involve correction, but its goal is to make a positive contribution to a person's training in righteousness
 - In context here, *yasar* is exercised in a family setting
 - We get it backwards: we should correct our children and punish our criminals, but instead we correct our criminals and punish our children

(ii) Reward: divine correction and love (3:12)

- 12 For whom the LORD loves He disciplines, *Just as a father disciplines* the son in whom he delights.
- 12 For whom the LORD loves He reproves, *Even as a father corrects* the son in whom he delights.
- 12 because the LORD corrects the person he loves, just as a father corrects the son he delights in.
- 12 For whom the LORD loves he corrects; even as a father the son in whom he delights.

(B) Wisdom's value and blessings (3:13-20)

(a) Her value (3:13-15)

- 13 Blessed is a person who finds wisdom, And one who obtains understanding.
- 13 How blessed is the man who finds wisdom And the man who gains understanding.
- 13 How joyful is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding,
- 13 Happy is the man that finds wisdom, and the man that gets understanding.

14 For her profit is better than the profit of silver, And her produce better than gold.
14 For her profit is better than the profit of silver And her gain better than fine gold.
14 because her profit is better than the profit of silver, and her yield than fine gold.
14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof
than fine gold.

15 She is more precious than jewels, And nothing you desire compares with her.
15 She is more precious than jewels; And nothing you desire compares with her.
15 She is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire compares with her.
15 She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou can desire are not to be
compared unto her.

(b) Her blessings (3:16-18)

16 Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor.
16 Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor.
16 Long life is in her right hand, and in her left are riches and honor.
16 Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

17 Her ways are pleasant ways, And all her paths are peace.
17 Her ways are pleasant ways And all her paths are peace.
17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peaceful.
17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are those who hold on to
her.
18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who hold her fast.
18 She is a tree of life for those who embrace her, and whoever clutches her tightly will be
joyful.
18 She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth
her.

(c) Her role in creation (3:19-20)

19 The LORD founded the earth **by wisdom**, He established the heavens by
understanding.
19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth, By understanding He established the
heavens.

19 By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations, and by understanding he set the heavens in place.

19 The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

- "...by wisdom" - wisdom existed before creation

20 By His knowledge the ocean depths were burst open, And the clouds drip with dew.

20 By His knowledge the deeps were broken up And the skies drip with dew.

20 By his knowledge the depths broke open, and the clouds drip with dew.

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

(5) Lesson 5: be wise in relation to others (3:21-35)

(A) Keep wisdom (3:21-26)

(a) Command to keep wisdom (3:21)

21 My son, see *that* they do not escape from your sight; Comply with sound wisdom and discretion,

21 My son, let them not vanish from your sight; Keep sound wisdom and discretion,

21 My son, do not let wisdom leave your sight. Carefully observe sound judgment and discernment,

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

(b) Benefits of wisdom (3:22-26)

22 And they will be life to your soul And adornment to your neck.

22 So they will be life to your soul And adornment to your neck.

22 and they will be life to you and a graceful ornament for your neck.

22 So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.

23 Then you will walk in your way securely, And your foot will not stumble.

23 Then you will walk in your way securely And your foot will not stumble.

23 Then you will travel safely on your way, and your foot will not stumble.

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

24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid; When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid; When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

24 When you sit down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be pleasant.

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

25 Do not be afraid of sudden danger, Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes;
25 Do not be afraid of sudden fear Nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes;
25 Do not be afraid of sudden disaster, or the devastation that comes to the wicked.
25 Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

26 For the LORD will be your confidence, And will keep your foot from being caught.
26 For the LORD will be your confidence And will keep your foot from being caught.
26 Indeed, the LORD will be your confidence, and he will keep your foot from being caught.
26 For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

(B) Wisdom in relation to others (3:27-35)

(a) Do not withhold good (3:27-28)

27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in your power to do *it*.
27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in your power to do *it*.
27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.
27 Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give *it to you*," When you have it with you.

28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give *it*," When you have it with you.

28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back. I will pay you tomorrow," when you have cash with you.

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

(b) Do not plan evil (3:29-30)

29 Do not devise harm against your neighbor, While he lives securely beside you.
29 Do not devise harm against your neighbor, While he lives securely beside you.
29 Do not plan to harm your neighbor, when he is living peacefully beside you.
29 Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.

30 Do not contend with a person for no reason, If he has done you no harm.
30 Do not contend with a man without cause, If he has done you no harm.
30 Do not bring a lawsuit against a person for no reason, when he has done you no harm.

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

(c) Do not envy the violent (3:31-35)

(i) Command (3:31)

31 Do not envy a violent person, And do not choose any of his ways.

31 Do not envy a man of violence And do not choose any of his ways.

31 Do not envy a violent man, and do not emulate his lifestyle.

31 Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.

(ii) Reasons (3:32-35)

32 For the devious are an abomination to the LORD; But He is intimate with the upright.

32 For the devious are an abomination to the LORD; But He is intimate with the upright.

32 Indeed, a perverse man is utterly disgusting to the LORD, but he takes the upright into his confidence.

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

33 The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the home of the righteous.

33 The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the dwelling of the righteous.

33 The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous.

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

34 Though He scoffs at the scoffers, Yet He gives grace to the needy.

34 Though He scoffs at the scoffers, Yet He gives grace to the afflicted.

34 Though God scoffs at scoffers, he gives grace to the humble.

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

35 The wise will inherit honor, But fools increase dishonor.

35 The wise will inherit honor, But fools display dishonor.

35 The wise will inherit honor, but he holds fools up for ridicule.

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