

## **GUIDANCE FROM A WISE MAN (Proverbs 3)**

### **I. Don't be forgetful (3:1-6).**

- A. Solomon says not to be forgetful of the Law of Moses
  - 1. He was teaching his son this law (3:1).
  - 2. This would equip him to be able to keep God's commandments.
- B. Notice the results of keeping the commandments of God.
  - 1. It will increase his life and bring him peace.
  - 2. It also gives the possibility of a longer life.
    - a. We know that life is fragile.
    - b. When one engages in sin, it generally has the ability to shorten life spans.
    - c. Following the commands of God keeps life pure and has the possibility of lengthening life.
  - 3. It also results in one being merciful and having the truth.
    - a. We are taught to be merciful in order to obtain mercy (Matthew 5:7).
    - b. Jesus also tells us what truth is: God's word (John 17:17).
    - c. God looks favorably on those that have these attributes.
- C. We will end up where we want to go by remembering God's law.

### **II. Fear the Lord (3:7-12).**

- A. The word "fear" means to "hold someone or thing in awe; to reverence."
- B. The only way this is possible is if we don't forget God's law.
- C. When we do fear God, it brings spiritual health.
- D. Another result of fearing God is that we will be the givers we should be.
- E. It will also allow us to accept God's correction.
  - 1. We all sin from time to time and we need to be corrected.
  - 2. If God did not correct us, it would show that He did not love us.
  - 3. God does correct us which shows that He loves us (Hebrews 12:6).

### **III. Find wisdom (3:13-20).**

- A. God is the giver of true wisdom (Proverbs 2:6).
- B. The reason for finding wisdom is that it leads to great spiritual riches (Matthew 6:20).
- C. It is also a tree of life.
  - 1. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve had access to the tree of life that allowed one to live and not die physically.
  - 2. When we find and follow wisdom, it allows us to live without dying spiritually.
  - 3. Once one is raised to walk in newness of life, we don't have to die again spiritually if we follow the wisdom of God.

### **IV. Watch your feet (3:21-26).**

- A. With wisdom, our feet will go in the right way so as not to stumble.
- B. There is only one path in life that leads to heaven (Matthew 7:13-14).
- C. When one is on this path, there is safety and peace.
  - 1. This is not safety from the problems of life.

2. We all have to face these and learn how to deal with them with great help from God's Word.
  3. There is spiritual safety when we are on the path of wisdom.
- D. We don't have to fear what the world is throwing at us because God is leading us and with us (Hebrews 13:5).

**V. Don't be a fool (3:27-35).**

- A. A fool is one without wisdom.
- B. A way to show that you are fool is to not help your neighbor in need.
1. If it is in our power to help, we are obligated to do so.
  2. We are to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:39).
- C. It is also foolish to be envious of others.
1. Envy is a sin (Galatians 5:19-21).
  2. It is especially foolish to envy sinners.
  3. Psalm 73 deals with one who envied sinners for a time until he worshiped God and realized the sinners end.
  4. Those who are sinners are an abomination to God and it is foolish to envy them.
- D. When we aren't foolish, we will receive blessings, grace and eventually will inherit glory.
- E. Is there any better guidance to follow than this?