

Proverbs Chapter 3  
Week 7, v. 19-22

Review Pr 3: 16-18 What does it say? What does it mean? How is it applied? Give an example of how this truth worked itself out in your life last week.

Everyone follows something or someone. What drives people in their decisions, actions and words?

How powerful is God's wisdom and understanding?

Pr 3:19-20 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens. By His knowledge the deeps were broken up, And the skies drip with dew.

Ps 104:24 O LORD, how many are Thy works! In wisdom Thou hast made them all; the earth is full of Thy possessions.

Jer 10:12 [It is] He who made the earth by His power, Who established the world by His wisdom; and by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens.

Gen 1:7 And God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so.

Just in case we think that God does not understand or cannot lead us or rescue us, we are reminded that His wisdom is infinite. Who do you know is able to create a planet and set it's rotation in place amongst the heavens of an entire solar system? It seems we have a choice to make – either follow the wisdom and understanding of men, which is limited, or follow the wisdom and understanding of the Creator who knows all things.

Think of the most powerful, influential people on earth. Who comes to mind? With every resource at their hands, what are they able to accomplish? Do they have limitations? Where do their resources come from?

John 1:3 *All* things came into being by Him, and apart from Him *nothing* came into being that has come into being.

Jer 14:22 Are there any among the idols of the nations who give rain? Or can the heavens grant showers? Is it not Thou, O LORD our God? Therefore we hope in Thee, For Thou art the one who hast done all these things.

Since God is in control of all things, He is in control of the power given to men on earth. He is in control of nature and of the earth itself. Nothing happens without the foreknowledge of God. In considering this idea, is there anything God wants you to do that He will not give you the resources for? Is there any circumstance that is part of your life that God is not capable of handling?

Pr 3:21 My son, let them not depart from your sight; Keep sound wisdom and discretion,

What is the counsel in verse 21?

The negative: let them not depart from your sight. Are you always looking to God?  
the positive: keep sound wisdom and discretion. When you look to God for guidance, do you stay there?

Depart <luwz> to turn aside

Sight – John Wesley's Notes on the Old Testament explains the word sight this way: the eyes of the mind, meaning constantly and seriously meditating upon them [wisdom and understanding].

Our focus needs to be on God. We need to always be looking towards Him for wisdom. We looked closely at the word keep in our first study on Proverbs 3, verse

1. What do you remember about this word? What does it mean to keep something? We would guard something that is precious to us in order not to lose it. This is more than just having wisdom for one particular time; it is keeping wisdom always at the forefront.

We see similar instructions in verses 1-3 of this chapter. Why do you think this instruction is repeated? What happens when we look away from wisdom, when our focus is distracted momentarily?

De 4:9 "Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons.

Josh 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

There are many things we might consistently check to make sure things are okay. What comes to mind? In the same way, we need to consistently check our motivation, actions, heart and thoughts with the Word in order to be sure we are following God's instructions and not our own. The only way to do this is by regularly spending time with God in His word.

A word used in Strong's Concordance in explaining discretion is sagacity: profound knowledge and understanding, coupled with foresight and good judgment. This question comes to mind: Do we treat God's Word with carefulness and with responsibility? Or, do we set it aside carelessly as something that is not important? Think of a child that just "needs" that new game or toy. After they get it, does it hold the same fascination? Does the Word of God captivate you? Unlike "things" in the world, the value we place in God's Word should consistently increase as we mature.

**Do you forget things?** Our minds need constant exercise to remember what we have learned. God's Word is not something we read through, study and then declare we are done and put it aside. We must pour over it constantly to seek His wisdom, to gain understanding and to remember what He has taught us.

De 6:6-9 "And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

John 8:31 Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, [then] you are truly disciples of Mine;

Heb 2:1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away [from it.]

Pr 3:22 So they will be life to your soul, And adornment to your neck.

Life <chay> from chayah; alive; to revive, nourish, preserve, restore

Adornment <chen> graciousness, favor

Pr 4:20-22 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart. ***For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their whole body.***

Pr 1:8-9 Hear, my son, your father's instruction, And do not forsake your mother's teaching; Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head, And ornaments about your neck.

Wisdom, knowing God and fearing Him, is life to our soul. Are you alive in Christ?  
What is the opposite of life?

We are saved by the grace of God. Is that grace manifested in your life in ways  
that others can see?

Verses 21-22 in NIV say this: My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do  
not let them out of your sight; they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your  
neck.

Is your life characterized by sound judgment and discernment? Just as a beautiful  
necklace would adorn an outfit, does wisdom from God stand out in your life? What  
makes you beautiful? What you look like on the outside or who you are on the  
inside? Who can change the heart?

Proverbs Chapter 3  
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Go back to the beginning of this chapter and make a list of the benefits of wisdom.

Which of these is weak in your life? What do you need to work on? Look at the preceding verses related to it for an answer on what you need to do or not do.

How powerful is God's wisdom and understanding? What does that mean for your life and circumstances?

We have been told again in this chapter to keep wisdom close. How are you doing? In the past few weeks, what steps have you taken to grow in this area?

Are you captivated by God's Word? Do you consistently desire to spend time with Him in prayer and reading? Is this desire translating into action?

Does God's grace adorn your neck? In what ways?

At Home

Take the time to **review** verses 19-22, work on memory verses, and pay close attention to personal **application**.

Look at Prov 3:23-26 for next week's study. As you read/study, jot down what you discover. Memorize the passage. Use any reference tools you have to look up a few main words in the passage. What questions come to mind that will help you to apply what you read?