

Proverbs Chapter 3
Week 2, v.2-4

Review Pr 3:1 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.

Look at verse 2 in chapter 3. According to this verse, what are some blessings of keeping God's commandments?

Pr 3:2 For length of days and years of life, And peace they will add to you.

"length of days and years of life" –*Long life is the blessing of God which he gives to his, so far as it is expedient for them.* (Geneva Bible Notes)

Expedient: appropriate, useful, advantageous

Pro 3:2 For length of days, and long life,.... Or, "years of life", or "lives"; a long life of usefulness and comfort here, and eternal life hereafter: the law of Moses promised a long life to the observers of it; but the Gospel of Christ brings an immortal life to light and promises to all believers in him that they shall not perish, but shall have everlasting life. (John Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible)

Ps 91:16 "With a long life I will satisfy him, And let him behold My salvation."

Pr 3:16 Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor.

Pr 4:10 Hear, my son, and accept my sayings, And the years of your life will be many.

Pr 9:11 For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you.

Pr 10:27 The fear of the LORD prolongs life, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.

Do these verses mean that we will all live to a ripe old age? In general, think about the lifestyle of someone living for the pleasures in the world contrasted with someone living for God's glory. How might these two different lifestyles shorten/lengthen life? What is the eternal future of these two lives?

Peace <shalowm> safe, well, happy, friendly; also welfare, health, prosperity, peace

Ps 119:165 Those who love Thy law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble.

Isa 32:17 And *the work of righteousness will be peace*, And the service of righteousness, *quietness and confidence forever*.

Ro 15:13 Now may the God of hope *fill you with all joy and peace* in believing, that you may *abound in hope* by the power of the Holy Spirit.

If we are abiding in God we will be at peace. Peace means there is freedom from conflict, calmness and quietness within our soul, no anxiety. Even when turmoil is raging around us, stillness will fill our heart as we trust God.

Do we have a *continual* regard for God's instructions? Is there consistency in our time studying the Bible and praying? Have you noticed a change in your attitude or the way you cope with difficult circumstances when you have not been in the word?

Phil 4:6-8 Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

We need to be familiar with God's Word so we know how to apply it to our daily lives. *Are we obedient to what we have learned?*

Are our feelings, will and intellect all engaged in the desire to follow God? What do we do to get there?

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

Kindness, KJV – mercy <cheched> kindness; by implication (towards God) piety

Truth <emeth> stability; (figuratively) certainty, truth, trustworthiness

Leave, KJV – forsake <azab> to loosen, i.e. relinquish, permit

God offers us mercy and truth through Christ. It is His mercy that saves us and His truth that propels us. We have a choice: either we accept His promises or we reject them. Denying them leaves us with no certain foundation, leading us to be tossed about by the enemy and circumstances of the world. If we are His children, we will honor Him by extending the mercy and truth He has shown us towards others. Our lives will then be characterized by kindness and trustworthiness.

Ps 25:10 All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Ps 57:3 He will send from heaven and save me; He reproaches him who tramples upon me. Selah. God will send forth His lovingkindness and His truth.

Pr 16:6 By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, And by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil.

Eph 5:1-2, 8-10 Therefore *be imitators of God*, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. ...for you were formerly darkness, *but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light [consists] in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.*

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

If we have something tied around our neck, we are constantly aware of it; those things that are engraved on our hearts are the principles that will guide and motivate us. Kindness and truth comes from within and is seen in our outward character.

Pr 6:20-23 My son, observe the commandment of your father, And do not forsake the teaching of your mother; Bind them continually on your heart; Tie them around your neck. When you walk about, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk to you. For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life,

De 10:16 "You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.

Ps 119:11 Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee.

Jer 31:33 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Have you ever seen counterfeit goods? The first time I was introduced to this idea was on the streets of New York. People try to sell you something that looks real at a fraction of the cost. These items look really genuine on the outside but are only cheap imitations of the real thing. **What do you think happens as time goes on with these false copies?**

"Fake handbags, watches, shoes and perfumes. The business of Counterfeit Goods is the largest underground industry in the world. Hundreds of billions of dollars are generated..." CNBC **Why do you think this is?**

We can look like the real thing and even for a time be successful at saying the right thing but a genuine believer has God's laws written on their hearts. He Himself engraves His law on our heart. When we are a child of God we don't just wear His signature label, we are branded with it, we are the real thing. As we are tested, God's promises will stand.

Something to think about: **Is your faith in Christ a part of your life or is your faith in Christ your life? Being a believer is not something we add, it is someone we become.**

Ps 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable
In Thy sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

Ps 55:21 His speech was smoother than butter, But his heart was war; His words
were softer than oil, Yet they were drawn swords.

Isa 29:13 Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their words and
honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me,
and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned

Does your heart service match your lip service? How invested are you in your
relationship with God, even when it is difficult or requires sacrifice of time and
energy? How about when it makes you feel uncomfortable or unpopular?

Verse 4 follows the plea to be a serious Christian found in vs. 1-3. It tells us of the
blessings bestowed on the one who is faithful to God's word.

Pr 3:4 So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man.

Favor <chen> graciousness, i.e. subjective (kindness, favor) or objective (beauty):-
-favour, grace(-ious), pleasant, precious, (well-)favoured.

Favor: an act of kindness performed; an approving or supportive attitude;
preferential treatment; (ant. reject)

Repute <sekel> intelligence; by implication, success:--discretion, knowledge,
policy, prudence, sense, understanding, wisdom, wise.

Repute: reputation, character according to what people in general think;

Think of these questions as we look at the following scriptures. How does God show
favor upon us? What does having favor with men look like? What does it mean to
have good repute in the sight of God? of man?

Ps 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good
understanding have all those who do [His commandments]; His praise endures
forever.

See also: Gen 39:1-4, 21; Dan 1:8-9

Josh 1:7-8 “Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. “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.*

Pr 22:11 He who loves purity of heart [And] whose speech is *gracious*, the king is his friend.

Ps 101:6 My eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; He who walks in a *blameless* way is the one who will minister to me.

Ro 14:17-18 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. *For he who in this [way] serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.*

According to the verses above, God's favor will bestow upon our character:

- good understanding
- success
- gracious speech
- blamelessness
- acceptance and approval

Think! Even in a world bent on evil, wouldn't this person generally be preferred?

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How would you describe your time last week reading the word and praying? Is there room for improvement? What steps do you need to take?

Proverbs 3:3 says, “do not let kindness and truth leave you”. Do you struggle with being kind sometimes, in thought, word or attitude? If so, what are some practical things you can do to change this?

Reflect back on the time when God opened your heart to accept His truth. How have you changed? Can you look back and see His hand on your life? Do you regularly thank Him for calling you His child and saving you?

Is your life (attitude, the way you spend your time, thoughts, words, etc.) pleasing to God right now? Do you need to make any adjustments?

Would your character be described by others as pleasing or argumentative? Are you gracious with others or do you easily find yourself in conflict? What do you need to do to improve this?

Is there anything else this study has brought to your attention?

At Home

Take the time to **review** verses 2-4, work on **memory** verses, and pay close attention to personal **application**.

Look at Prov 3:5-7 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?