

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 126 – Don't Forget The Law Through The Inheritance Of The Wise (Proverbs 3)

1. Can one forget the law of God?

Yes: “**My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments**” (Proverbs 3:1).

“Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee” (Deuteronomy 4:23).

“(4) It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: (5) Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted” (Proverbs 31:4-5).

\* One can also be diligent in not forgetting the word of God: “I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me” (Psalms 119:93).

2. Can obeying the Law of God positively affect one's physical life?

Yes: “(1) My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: (2) **For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee... It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones**” (Proverbs 3:1-2; 8).

\*\* **Verse 8 follows verse 7 in discussing departing from evil, etc.**

“Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many” (Proverbs 4:10).

Application: When GODLY wisdom is dispersed unto those who'll listen, life is much better even in the flesh: “(1) Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. (2) Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) (3) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. 4) And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:1-4).

\*\* “For bodily exercise profiteth little: **but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come**” (I Timothy 4:8).

\*\* We know that this Proverb is not always applicable (cf. John 7:7), but consider this: “When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him” (Proverbs 16:7).

\*\*\* TO BE CLEAR, obedience to the word of God can also have a negative affect on us physically because of persecution: “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong” (II Corinthians 12:10).

3. What should be done to find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man?

*“(3) Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: (4) So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man” (Proverbs 3:3-4).*

\* *“(2) And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. (3) And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.(4) And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand” (Genesis 39:2-4).*

\* *“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man” (Luke 2:52).*

\* *“(46) And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, (47) Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:46-47).*

\*\* As noted before in our study, this does not always apply as the wicked often choose to hate the righteous: *“(51) Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. (52) Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: (53) Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it. (54) When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth” (Acts 7:51-54).*

4. Should one trust in their own understanding for direction?

No: *“(5) Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. (6) In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).*

\* *“Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom” (Proverbs 23:4).*

\* *“O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23).*

\* *“(8) But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding. (9) Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand judgment” (Job 32:8-9).*

\*\* More in next question...

5. What three instructions exist in Proverbs 3:7?

*“<sup>1</sup>Be not wise in thine own eyes: <sup>2</sup>fear the LORD, and <sup>3</sup>depart from evil” (Proverbs 3:7).*

# 1: Don't be wise in your own eyes (**Proverbs 12:15, Proverbs 16:2, Proverbs 21:2,** and **Isaiah 5:21**).

# 2: Fear the Lord (**Joshua 4:23-24, Psalms 96:4, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, II Corinthians 7:1, Philippians 2:12,** and **Hebrews 12:28**).

# 3: Depart from evil (**Psalms 34:14, Psalms 37:27, Proverbs 16:17,** and **II Timothy 2:19**).

6. Under the Old Law God directly blessed His people (Malachi 3:10-11). Our treasures and reward are now in Heaven (Matthew 6:19-21 and Luke 18:20-23). With that in mind, what was promised if the children of Israel gave of their first fruits?

*“(9) Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: (10) So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine” (Proverbs 3:9-10).*

\* God still expects to be first in all things (**Matthew 6:33** and **Matthew 22:37**).

7. How should we view correction from God?

*“(11) My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: (12) For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth” (Proverbs 3:11-12).*

\* *“Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty” (Job 5:17).*

\* *“Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law” (Psalms 94:12).*

\*\* How does that work today? Notice: *“(31) For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. (32) But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world” (I Corinthians 11:31-32; cf. II Corinthians 13:5).*

8. How should a man who has gained wisdom feel?

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

9. How valuable and beneficial is wisdom?

*“(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 rubies: and all **the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her**. (16) Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour. (17) Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. (18) **She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her**” (Proverbs 3:14-18).*

\* Wisdom is often personified [represented by a figure in human form – i.e. **Proverbs 4:5-6**].

10. What has the Lord done through wisdom and understanding?

*“(19) The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens. (20) By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew” (Proverbs 3:19-20).*

\* *“O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches” (Psalms 104:24).*

\* *“He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion” (Jeremiah 10:12).*

11. What good comes from keeping sound wisdom and discretion?

*“(21) My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: (22) So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck. (23) Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble. (24) When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet. (25) Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. (26) For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken” (Proverbs 3:21-26).*

12. How does Galatians 6:10 apply to our study of Proverbs chapter 3?

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

\* **James 2:15-16.**

13. What instructions are given in Proverbs chapter 3 concerning how we treat our neighbors?

*“(28) Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee. (29) Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee” (Proverbs 3:28-29).*

14. How does Romans 12:17-21 effect Proverbs 3:30?

\* Proverbs 3:30 says: *“Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm” (Proverbs 3:30).*

\* **Romans 12:17-21** shows us that even with a cause we should not repay evil with evil!

15. Should we be envious of those who oppress others?

*“(31) Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways. (32) For the froward is abomination to the LORD: but his secret is with the righteous” (Proverbs 3:31-32).*

\* To ADD to that: *“Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long” (Proverbs 23:17).*

16. Do wicked and foolish individuals have good things to look forward to?

NO: *“(33) The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just. (34) Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the*

*lowly. (35) The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools”*  
**(Proverbs 3:33-35).**

\* *“If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema [**accursed**]  
Maranatha [**our Lord will come**]” (I Corinthians 16:22).*