

January 21, 2024

“Faith and Trust”
Lesson 2

Proverbs 3:1-8

Intro

One of the earliest authority voices in a person’s life is a parent. Most parents want to see their children have good lives, so they teach their children the qualities needed to have good lives. They are taught to be kind, thoughtful, and to use their minds well. Parents who follow Jesus also desire their children to seek God’s wisdom and to have a personal and saving relationship with Jesus.

The passage in Proverbs we look at today lets us hear the teachings of a father to his son. Regardless of whether or not our parents taught us God’s wisdom, we can learn from this father and apply his wisdom to our lives.

Read Proverbs 3:1-8

1. vs. 1: Here is the key verse, and the key element of Proverbs

Learning from the wisdom of a wiser person, here a father to a son
Wisdom from God through parents or other wise people can be passed down
The wisdom from a father and mother are the most influential voices to a child
The son here is reminded/commanded to “not forget my teaching”
What’s being said is valuable and important; remember it

The son is also commanded to keep these teachings in his heart

The heart is the center of one’s being
It includes both the emotional but also the volitional (a person’s will)
To keep the father’s commands means to remember and obey them
Remembering God’s laws/commands is a strong foundation of a quality life

2. vs. 2: Listening to and following the father’s teaching and commands produces benefits

“They will prolong life many years, and bring you peace and prosperity”
A child who follows a father is entering a life of wisdom
Long life is never a guarantee, but following wisdom leads to a better life
This life will likely be longer than one where evil and sin are followed
Peace here could be, but isn’t necessarily, the absence of conflict
Another aspect of the Hebrew word is “flourishing, relational harmony”
Following wisdom leads to a flourishing life with relational harmony

3. vs. 3: Love and faithfulness are the key traits the father teaches next

These are two of God’s foremost attributes
His love for us brought redemption
He is faithful always in fulfilling His promises to those who seek Him
These two qualities go beyond the child’s behavior; they are about his heart
A heart filled with and displaying love and faithfulness should be our foundation as well
If these are key components of God’s character, they should be in our character also

In biblical times, necklaces were signs of honor or rank
To bind something around one's neck revealed its importance or significance
These two qualities should be "on display" at all times as highly important to a Godly life
They are also to be written "on the tablet of your heart"

This means they have been internalized; they have become ingrained as habits

4. vs. 4: To win favor means to be held in high regard by another

Even children can win favor with adults when they follow God and live rightly

Having a good name indicates a person has good character and integrity

This is a person who acts righteously

These things happen when a person seeks God and His wisdom, living in obedience

Most importantly, the person who does these things is pleasing to God

This results in gaining a good name and favor with people as well

This is a good goal so that others who don't know God will see Him in us

5. vs. 5: The father warns and instructs his son about where to place his trust

It isn't in things of this world or in people

He is to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart"

He is worthy of trust because He has given us salvation

He is worthy of trust because He has never failed to keep his promises

Trusting "with all your heart" suggests a total commitment

It requires all of a person's being, starting with the heart (see vs. 1)

Proverbs contains numerous verses warning against pride

The second half is this type: "lean not on your own understanding"

Only a foolish person would trust himself more than God and His wisdom

Also, the wisdom of the world is foolishness to God; we are not to trust in it

6. vs. 6: The person who trusts in God and His wisdom receives a benefit

His paths will be made straight

God is omniscient (all-knowing), omnipresent (all-present), and omnipotent (all-powerful)

We can trust that God will provide His people with the best path to follow

7. vs. 7: The warning of verse 5 is repeated here, but from the negative perspective

"Don't be wise in your own eyes" warns against pride and arrogance of self-wisdom

God is the source of wisdom (Prov. 2:6), and wants people to gain His wisdom

We are admonished many times in Scripture to avoid lives filled with pride

Fearing the Lord involves having an attitude of awe and reverence toward Him

One can't fear the Lord and be wise in one's own eyes at the same time

God delights in those who fear Him and show humility (see Ps. 147:11)

Shunning evil means actively turning from it, and turning toward God in obedience

8. vs. 8: The father concludes these thoughts with a benefit to be gained from following them
 “This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones”
 A life of humility, fearing the Lord, and obedience to Him results in wholeness
 The body is set up to enjoy a healthy life
 However, one’s quality spiritual life doesn’t always guarantee a healthy body
 But doing the things instructed in these verses will never hurt the body, either

Application: There are many places we can receive wisdom in our world today. There are multiple sources for news and information, starting with the many television sources and all the social media platforms that exist. These verses encourage us to evaluate where we get our wisdom from: is it from God or from some other source? Whichever one we give the greater attention to is the one that has the greater influence on our thinking, and therefore, on our actions and words.

Prayer: Father God, thank You for the wisdom You have provided us in Your Word. Show us how we can be more attentive to You and Your wisdom, so that we might lead lives that reflect You and draw others to You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

#1 v #2

: Coquille (2022) def Bandon (2022) 73 - 72

All-Time Coquille (2022) loses to Lost River (1979) 57 - 88 (awarding all points 300H/SP/PV/Jav/TJ to Coquille)

Coquille (2022) loses to Lost River (1979) 12 - 88 (excluding 300H/SP/PV/Jav/TJ)

The top ranking was tight between Bandon and Coquille. Bandon had only one athlete in three events and two in another four events. Put another way, Bandon did not field three athletes in nearly half of the events. Coquille, by contrast, had at least three in all events. This allowed Coquille to pick up some uncontested points in a dual matchup. Bandon dominated the track events longer than 400m, while Coquille was strong in the field events

#1 v #2 Grant Union (2022) def. Weston McEwen (2022), 77 -

: 68

All-Time Grant Union (2022) loses to Salem Academy (1993), 20 - 116 (excluding Javelin)

: Grant Union (2022) loses to Salem Academy (1993), 26 - 119 (Javelin points to Grant Union)

Grant Union repeats as the dual meet champion team. Prior to these two recent years, their earlier title was in 2007