

Proverbs 3:1-12

¹ My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, ² for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. ³ Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴ Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. ⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. ⁸ This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. ⁹ Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. ¹¹ My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, ¹² because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

- Notes

- Chapter 3 gives us a picture of what a wise person looks like. The central point is v. 5. It contains two sections, vv.1-12 and 13-35.
- The word trust should not be easily glossed over. The basic sense in the Bible is security. It is used predominantly in the Psalms and the Prophets. One either is secure in the Lord or in other things.
- Another word that should not be assumed is the heart. In the Bible the heart is the center of a person and includes our thoughts (Prov. 18:15; 23:33). It is not merely the emotional part of us. It is also our rationality, imagination, and the will.
- Remember Proverbs does not give promises, or guarantees. Doing what is right does not always go well for the believer.

Questions

1. This chapter provides a lot of benefits to wisdom. How should we understand the benefits it says one can gain from wisdom?
2. What does it mean to trust the Lord with all of our heart?
3. What are other things in your life you tend to place your trust?
4. What does it look like to trust the Lord in a practical way on matters addressed in the rest of chapter 3? (choose one or two for your group to discuss)
 1. submitting to his word (v.6)
 2. being teachable (v. 7)
 3. being generous (v.9)
 4. handling adversity and criticism (v. 11)