

The Proverbs Series #3: Straight Paths

Proverbs 3:1-10 ¹My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; ²for they will add length to your days, years and peace to your life. ³Never let loving devotion or faithfulness leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴Then you will find favor and high regard in the sight of God and man. ⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. ⁷Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and turn away from evil. ⁸This will bring healing to your body and refreshment to your bones. ⁹Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your harvest; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine. (BSB)

I. What are the details of this passage?

- A. We must remember what God has already **revealed** to us. V. 1-2 We receive blessings when we do this.
- B. Love must be our number **one** defining characteristic. V. 3-4 We receive favor with God and man when we act lovingly. The heart of reconciliation is a commitment to love.
- C. Trusting in the revealed **truth** of God keeps our paths straight. A straight path is the shortest distance between two points. A crooked path is time consuming and exhausting. V. 5-6
- D. We must put God's **direction** over our "self wisdom". Our flesh is deceptive, and our minds can be warped. V. 7-8
- E. Honoring God with our **resources** brings blessings. V. 9-10

II. What are some ways that we can apply these truths to our life?

- A. Write down some of the hard **lessons** that you have learned both from past mistakes and from good choices. Review these so that you do not forget them.
- B. Seeking the **highest** good of others even at our own expense sets us apart from other religions and provides a platform for speaking truth into the lives of others.
John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another." (BSB)
- C. It is important that a disciple of Jesus Christ not try to display a spirit of **control**. Obedience to His word leads to His **control** over our life.
- D. We need to find ways to **honor** God with our resources. This must be given to us from God. It takes courage for us to ask Him for direction in this. He will direct us.