

## He Will Direct Thy Paths

Proverbs 3

“Let not **mercy** and **truth** forsake you.”

- Proverbs 3:3
  - Truth and the principles of mercy are never changing.
  - This implies a special interest is to be taken by the individual to **examine** one’s self to insure what you are doing is in accordance to the examples and commands given in God’s Word, the collection of truth.

“Lean not on your own understanding.”

- Proverbs 3:5-6
  - Proverbs 14:12—“There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof is death.”

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart.”

- Proverbs 3:5-6
  - Observe the example of Daniel 3:17-18
    - “If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace; and he will deliver us out of thy hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”
  - Complete trust in the power and ability of God. Physical death is not a limit to His power or care for us. (cf. Romans 8:38-39)

“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”

- Proverbs 3:6
  - Many focus on the aspect “He will direct thy paths,” and draw erroneous conclusions as to *how* they would have God accomplish this.
  - How this is accomplished is described from the preceding passages.
    - “In all your ways acknowledge Him...”

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- Lean not on your own understanding
- Meditate on His truth (3:3)
  - Example: Pharisees’ and Jesus’ differences at meals
    - Matthew 15:1-2; 12:1-2, 7-8 – Pharisees were concerned with the traditions of hand washings and “work” on the Sabbath. They did not acknowledge God, but appealed to their traditions and thoughts instead.
    - John 6:11,23; Matthew 26:26-27; Luke 24:28-31; (Paul) Acts 27:33-36

## Acknowledge God

- Micah 6:6-8
  - “What does God require of you?”
    - “Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.” – Mirrors ideas of Proverbs 3:3
    - To walk humbly with God, is to submit to His ways and be obedient to His revealed commands and truths.
- Matthew 5-7 (cf. Proverbs, Ecclesiastes)
  - Shows how we are to acknowledge God in all our ways.
    - To seek God and His ways above our self-centered ways. Thus He will be directing our paths; when we seek Him and those things relating to the kingdom first.