

## Studies In Proverbs Lesson 3

How To Be Successful In Life

### Studies In Proverbs

The wisdom in Proverbs is many-sided in nature, but primarily it points in three directions:

1. Upward toward God. Proverbs 9:10; 2:2, 6.
2. Outward toward people. Proverbs 8:20; 7:1-5.
3. Inward toward self. Proverbs 4:23; 23:7.

Note: By exercising wisdom in these three directions we can be successful in life.

### Things Involved In Acting Wisely Toward God

#### Paying attention to the word of God.

##### **Proverbs 3:1-4.**

1. By so doing you stand a better chance of:
  - a. Enjoying length of days and inward peace. cf. Proverbs 4:10; Ephesians 6:1-3
  - b. Finding favor and good understanding (*high esteem, NKJV*) in the sight of God and man. Proverbs 3:4.

### Things Involved In Acting Wisely Toward God

#### Trusting in the Lord, Proverbs 3:5; 16:20; 29:25; Jeremiah 17:5-8.

1. Completely, "*with all thine heart*" Proverbs 3:5
  2. With humility, "*and lean not unto thine own understanding*" Proverbs 3:5; 14:12; 16:25; Isaiah 31:1; Psalms 146:3
  3. In everything, "*in all thy ways acknowledge Him, and he shall direct thy paths*" Proverbs 3:6
- Proverbs 21:24, "The proud and haughty man, scoffer is his name; He worketh in the arrogance of pride."**

### Things Involved In Acting Wisely Toward God

#### Fearing the Lord. Proverbs 3:7-8

1. "*Be not wise in thine own eyes*" Proverbs 26:12; Isaiah 5:21, "*Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes*" cf. 55:7-9
  - Romans 12:16, "*Be of the same mind one toward another, Set not thy mind on high things, but condescend to things that are lowly. BE NOT WISE IN YOUR OWN CONCEITS.*"
2. "*Fear the Lord, and depart from evil*" Proverbs 3:7; 1:7; 9:10; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Matthew 10:28; Romans 3:9-18

### Things Involved In Acting Wisely Toward God

#### Honoring the Lord with your Material Possessions.

##### **Proverbs 3:9, 10; Exodus 23:19; Deuteronomy 26:1-2**

1. Giving is an important subject in the New Testament.
  - a. God gave Jesus. John 3:16
  - b. Jesus gave Himself to die for us. John 10:11
  - c. Christians gave themselves. 2 Corinthians 8:5
  - d. God wants us to give of our means.
    - 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
2. Give to the Lord, and the Lord will give to you. Proverbs 3:9-10; Deuteronomy 28:8; Matthew 6:33

### Things Involved In Acting Wisely Toward God

#### Humbly Accepting the Chastening of the Lord.

**Proverbs 3:11-12; Revelation 3:19;**

**Hebrews 12:5-7**

1. Why God chastens us. Hebrews 12:6, 10-11.
2. We must not:
  - a. *"Despise the chastening of the Lord."*  
Proverbs 3:11.
  - b. Become *"weary of His correction."*  
Proverbs 3:11-12; Psalms 119:67, 71.

### Things Involved In Acting Wisely Toward God

#### We must find wisdom because:

1. It is the way to true happiness. Proverbs 3:13
2. It is extremely valuable. Proverbs 3:14-15
3. It gives length of days, honor, and pleasantness. Proverbs 3:16-18.

### Things Involved In Acting Wisely Toward Men Proverbs 3:2

#### Paying what you owe. Proverbs 3:27; Romans 13:7-8

1. Pay it as soon as you can. Proverbs 3:27-28
2. One debt all of us owe is the debt of love. Romans 13:8;  
Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 10:25-37

#### Not harming your neighbor. Proverbs 3:29-30

##### Some ways to harm a person involve:

1. Gossip or slander. Proverbs 16:27-28; 20:19; 26:20.  
Truly, *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue ..."*  
(Proverbs 18:21)
2. Cheating him financially. Proverbs 20:10, 14
3. Going hastily to law against a person. Proverbs 25:8-10;  
1 Corinthians 6:1-8

### Things Involved In Acting Wisely Toward Men Proverbs 3:2

#### Not envying your wicked neighbor. Proverbs 3:31; 23:17; 24:1, 19; Psalms 73:3, 16-18; James 3:16

1. He will suffer the consequences of his evil deeds.  
Proverbs 3:31-32
  - a. God's friendship is with the upright.
2. God gives grace to the humble. Proverbs 3:34;  
Matthew 5:3; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5

### Things Involved In Acting Wisely Toward Self

#### Keeping your Heart with all Diligence.

**Proverbs 4:23.**

1. This includes keeping it pure and clean.  
1 Timothy 5:22
2. Make wise choices ... safety. Proverbs 3:21-26;  
10:9; 6:20-22

#### Avoiding those things which destroy health and happiness, such as:

1. Sexual immorality. Proverbs 5:1-5; Proverbs 7
2. Intoxicating drink. Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-32.

### If You Are Wise In Your Conduct Toward God, Man, And Self, You Will Be Successful In What Counts!

#### The wise are blessed. Proverbs 3:2, 4, 14-26.

##### If you are wise ...

1. You stand a greater chance of enjoying length of days and peace. Proverbs 3:2, 16-18
2. You will find favor with God. Proverbs 3:4, 35; Luke 2:52
3. You have greater chance for material prosperity.  
Proverbs 3:10, 16
4. You will enjoy happiness and true wealth.  
Proverbs 3:13-15
5. You will enjoy greater safety. Proverbs 3:23-26
6. You will be honored by God. Proverbs 3:35