

Studies In Proverbs Lesson 3

How To Be Successful In Life

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

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

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

Briefly Stated, Success In Life Involves Three Things:

- a. Acting wisely toward God.
- b. Acting wisely toward people.
- c. Acting wisely toward self.

Things Involved In Acting Wisely Toward God

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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.

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; 55:7-9.*
2. *"Fear the Lord, and depart from evil," Proverbs 3:7; 1:7; 9:10; Ecclesiastes 12:13,14; Matthew 10:28.*

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

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

Things Involved in Acting Wisely Toward Men, Proverbs 3:2

Not harming your neighbor, Proverbs 3:29,30.

Some ways to harm a person involves:

1. Gossip or slander, Proverbs 20:19; 26:20.
2. Cheating him financially, Proverbs 20:10,14.
3. Going hastily to law against a person, Proverbs 25:8; 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 73:3,16,17,18; James 3:16.

1. He will suffer the consequences of his evil deeds, Proverbs 3:31,32,
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

Things Involved in Acting Wisely Toward Self

A. Keeping your Heart with all Diligence, Proverbs 4:23.

1. This includes keeping it pure and clean, 1 Timothy 5:22.

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

1. Sexual immorality, Proverbs 5:1-5.
2. Intoxicating drink, Proverbs 23:29-32.

Conclusion

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.