

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON
STUDY NUMBER 24 – PROVERBS 3:1-26

Last week Solomon died and the way that he died sort of wrapped it up without any repentance, any remorse, and any sense of wanting to say something that would be meaningful in the final stretch kind of left us all empty as we walked away.

So I agonized how to end this series and really the key to the whole thing is to let the man speak for himself. I think over the years some of the best funerals in my memory log are funerals where the person's bible or something with some of their notes and things and, even though they are dead, still speak as to their values.

Mickey Mantle, as you know was diagnosed with this liver disorder and had to have a transplant. Just a month after receiving that transplant Mantle made this incredible statement, how gracious!

“You talk about your role models. This is your role model. Don't be like me.” Mantle squarely faced the fact that while he was a superstar on the field, his personal life was not one to hold out to others for emulation.

Nevertheless, in the ninth inning of his life, with two outs and a full count, Mantle hit a personal home run. With humility, a sense of humor, and an absence of self-pity, he pleaded eloquently with others to take

heed of his mistakes. In return, his final days were ones marked by a great outpouring of love—not only in response to the great moments he had given on the baseball fields of the nation, but in response to his honest self-appraisal that was marked by personal pain and regret.

To hear a man like this be so honest and so forthright and lay it out before he dies, what an incredible finish! I said to myself, I wish Solomon had done that. Now I know I am in a little bit of the minority when I talk about Proverbs being a late product of Solomon’s pen. Remember what Deion Sanders said last week when we were talking about his life, POWER, MONEY and SEX! These are the urges that most people spend all of their lives trying to satisfy. Those are the three words that are dominant in Solomon’s failure, POWER, MONEY and SEX! They have caused him to be derailed and to make a sorry finish as far as life is concerned.

When I got to Proverbs 3:1-26, these are the titles that I came up with up with for Proverbs 3:1-26:

“LESSONS LEARNED THE HARD WAY!” or

“WE GROW TOO SOON OLD AND TOO LATE SMART!” or

“THE THINGS I LEARNED!” or

“I DID IT MY WAY!”

Now, I am focusing on Solomon when I look at it that way. Then I had this idea, and this is the title:

“LIVING LIFE HIS WAY.”

You see Mantle would say, “don’t do it like I did it that’s wrong, learn from my mistakes!” This is the way you should do it. I see Solomon in exactly the same way when I read Proverbs 3:1-26. He is not going to deny the fact that he messed up big time but he isn’t going to die until he tells you how to do it right. The neat thing about these verses today is there is nothing that we are not going to touch in these verses that you are going to have to face coming down the pike. All the bases are covered.

What I have done is I have taken these 26 verses and I have divided them into eight parts and each one of these eight parts is a goal or an objective. What you might want to do when you get home is to take these eight goals and objectives, print them out on your computer, put them on your mirror and face them everyday and see if you don’t say, “Wow, you told me so!” You are going to cover all the bases and Solomon is just basically telling you this is the way I should have done it, this would have been right! So, what a positive way for us to finish. What I am going to do is give you an outline:

- 1) OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD – (verses 1 & 2)
- 2) COMPASSION AND CONSISTENCY IN YOUR CONDUCT – (verses 3 & 4).

- 3) **TRUST THE LORD AND LET HIM LEAD – (verses 5 & 6)**
- 4) **HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE THE LORD AND AVOID SIN – (verses 7 & 8)**
- 5) **HONOR THE LORD IN YOUR GIVING – (verses 9 & 10)**
- 6) **SURRENDER YOURSELF TO THE LORD’S DISCIPLINE – (verses 11 & 12)**
- 7) **PURSUE WISDOM WITH A PASSION – (verses 13-20), and**
- 8) **STAY FOCUSED ON SOUND JUDGMENT AND DISCERNMENT – (verses 21-26)**

In this final episode, we are pushing back the chair, away from a man’s life that we have studied, have walked with him, have cried with him, and have laughed with him.

Now we come to the time of how do you do this? What are the goals and the guidelines that are involved in living a life his way and having peace about it knowing that we are right on track in what we are doing.

Number 1) **OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD (verses 1 & 2)**. I know what you are saying, “You have really overworked that word “OBEDIENCE” through this whole thing”.

We have, haven't we? You can almost go back over the other hours of study and somewhere along the line we will say, "I'm concerned about the level of Solomon's obedience. The key is Number 1 and justifiably so. The first and most important ingredient in your life and mine, is OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD. Simplistic but we don't do it! Simplistic but we live with rationalizations; we live with things that are tentative, rather than being able to say YES I am obedient to the best of my knowledge and understand my walk with GOD right now.

Look at verses 1 & 2:

v. 1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,

Throughout all of this, when Solomon talks about Proverbs he'll say don't do it that way, do it this way! There will be a "NEGATIVE" command and then there will be a "POSITIVE" command, or their might be TWO "NEGATIVES" in some of them. Don't forget my teaching (NEGATIVE), but keep my commands in your heart! You know as I got to thinking about OBEDIENCE for just a minute it is not just limited to what Solomon has to say either. David said in Psalm 119:11:

Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

So when somebody comes to you and they say how come you're so happy, how come your so fulfilled? You can say I am focused on obedience. I am doing what I feel God really wants me to do in light of what I know his Word says.

Have you read 2 Kings recently? You get tired of a little phrase *and they did evil in the sight of the Lord, and they did evil in the sight of the Lord, and they did evil in the sight of the Lord*. What is that? Disobedience!

They aren't doing what God has prescribed in his Word. So it is right, obedience to his Word should be at the top of the pile. The bottom line is, Solomon blew it by his disobedience! Saul did too. Samuel had to come to him and said obedience is better than sacrifice. To heed is better than the fat of rams. You can make all kinds of sacrifices but just listen to me and do what I say. As a result of your disobedience the kingdom is gone from you Saul, your history. Throughout all of scriptures almost like it's a constant refrain, OBEDIENCE, OBEDIENCE, OBEDIENCE!

Hebrews 5:8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered.

Speaking of the Lord Jesus, Himself. You know something maybe I am going to be a little tough here but that's okay. I find that the people who are the most genuine and the people who are really walking with God are honest and transparent enough to say that they are really having a hard time with obedience. They are really having a tough time putting their money where their mouth is!

It is like twentieth century Christianity. It's saturated with the pharisaical attitude of self righteousness. I have it all together and everything is fine. Yet the most spiritual of those who are dealing with obedience are individuals who are transparent.

Isaiah 6:5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

Job 42:6 Therefore "I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

Paul, himself,

Romans 7:24 What a wretched man I am! who will rescue me from this body of death?

Struggling with the subject of obedience, rejoicing in the living power of Christ who dwells within him, it comes right down to it, he is saying, OBEDIENCE is a major issue.

v. 2 for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.

Obedience always has its compensations. There are two things:

- 1) It will PROLONG YOUR LIFE MANY YEARS, and
- 2) BRING YOU PROSPERITY.

I'm just telling you there is a relationship to longevity and spirituality when it comes to the area of obedience. When I'm obedient, God blesses with longevity. We have an illustration of it. Solomon is history, he didn't even make it to sixty! What did the Lord tell him when he started out on this deal. If you do this, you are going to experience "long life". But because you didn't do it, you surrendered the longevity. Somebody asked George Mueller how he lived to be ninety-two years of age, he said, "Focusing on what God wanted, obedience to His Word. Doing what it was that he wanted brought it all about."

One of the most refreshing things I liked about Deion Sanders' book was one sentence. This sentence just jumped out at me:

I want to be close to the answer instead of hanging out with the problem.

I'm just saying, Deion, that's it! Just stay close to the play book and be obedient to the word of God and everything else is going to fall into place. Or, when all else fails, follow the instructions. We know that!

2) **COMPASSION & CONSISTENCY IN YOUR CONDUCT**
(verses 3 & 4)

v. 3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS. NEVER LET THEM LEAVE YOU TO COMPASSION AND CONSISTENCY!

What is it that is your greatest witness for the Lord Jesus? What is it that people see that impact them for the cause of Christ? It is not what you say but it is what you do. It is your life that bears scrutiny that allows you to have the kind of fruitful witness you should have. So it is more of what you do than what you say. I am telling you the two key words to what you do is **COMPASSION** and **CONSISTENCY**. Compassion in that you really feel

for others and you hurt. It's a feeling with someone to the point that you are ready to do something to help someone in dire stress and need that is **COMPASSION**.

Now what is **CONSISTENCY**? You know what it is. It is always being there. Everybody else can leave but you there. You are as predictable as night and day. Because you're that kind of a person, you just don't ever let up. You can always be counted upon, **COMPASSION** and **CONSISTENCY**, describe this faithfulness.

It is these characteristics of God himself that are in our lives and in our relationship with Him that the world is dying to see in us.

Now He says "*bind them around your neck and write them on the tablet of your heart.*" Let me ask you this question...what is written on the tablet of your heart today?

What is it that is there that describes your insatiable desire, your number one priority? Is it power, is it money, is it sex, or is it the deep desire to live for God and honor Him and finish your life strong?

Listen to Solomon who had all this and now he is telling you do this, **COMPASSION AND CONSISTENCY** in your conduct. I didn't but please do it because it is a critical key.

Is that what Paul meant when he said in Acts 24:16?

Acts 24:16 So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.

I love the way Howard Hendricks says it:

“Conscience is the red light on the dashboard telling you there is something wrong with the engine.

Sensitive and aware! I want to glorify Him that is written on the tablet of my heart. I want to make one more statement of warning at this point, when you talk about COMPASSION and CONSISTENCY you must, in the same sentence, talk about ACCOUNTABILITY. You cannot be compassionate and consistent on a regular basis without accountability. Many of you already know that don't you? You know that if you are going to go on a diet to be lone ranger with the diet you can drop the diet within six hours. But if your accountable to somebody for a diet, and weight loss, then that changes the whole picture because now it becomes competitive. This is great especially for men. Buy me a steak if I lose thirty pounds before you do. Man, oh man they will do anything to win that. Accountability! We have accountability not only with our dieting but we have accountability when it comes to spiritual things and that is the key to the whole deal. People to whom you are accountable can ask you the tough questions. There is so little compassion and consistency because there is little accountability.

I love what Deion said about this too, he said, “I don’t like to go anywhere by myself. You can go places and do things with your power, but using it incorrectly can destroy you. There are guys I’ve played with who have done all those things and some of them have lost control and gone over the edge because of it. He is saying I can’t afford it. You look back on so much of the tragedy in the body of Christ. It comes from the lack of **ACCOUNTABILITY!**

What are you going to get when you are compassionate and consistent in your conduct ?

v. 4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

v. 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Principle three is if you want a goal or objective for a productive way of living life God’s way **TRUST THE LORD AND LET HIM LEAD (verses 5 & 6)** trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

POSITIVE – trust Him how? With all your heart and **NEGATIVE**, lean not on your own understanding. All of a sudden the top of my chart lit up because I am looking at the word **HEART** three times in these first verses. So I went back, it is such a blessing, verse 1 keep my commands in your heart. Verse 3 write them on the

tablet of your heart. Verse 5 trust in the Lord with all your heart. Now does that make Proverbs 4:23 meaningful:

Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life.

That made Psalms 86:11 meaningful to me:

Psalms 86:11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

Then in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 6:21

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Where your treasure is written on the tablet of your heart that is where your heart will be. So Solomon is saying here, Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, let him have it all. Be totally committed to Him and what he wants is so crucial.

But the next phrase is hard isn't? Lean not on your own understanding. You know I think as Christians we spend more emotional energy on trying to understand what God is up to in our individual lives that it is almost embarrassing. Could I say, try to understand what God is doing in your life and in mine is beyond human comprehension. Look if you trust somebody with all your

heart you don't have to understand what he is doing because it is going to be all right. Why do you need to understand what God is doing in your life? What is that going to contribute? Yet, we have to know! It is like if we are going to trust Him we have to know what He is doing now and if we are going to trust Him tomorrow we have to know what he is doing today so He will earn our trust. We are just walking along on pins and needles every day worrying about whether he has it under control and whether he is handling it all right. Lean not on your own understanding.

Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

You see it is that sweet peace that comes when you just turn it over to Him.

1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Abraham Lincoln said that one time:

I told God that I had done all that I could and that now the result was in His hands; that if this country was to be saved, it was because He so willed it! The burden rolled off my shoulders. My intense anxiety was relieved and in its place came a great

trustfulness!

(From InfoSearch 3.51)

You see when we get involved in the process we just mess it up so much that is why the first part is there. Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, the work of righteousness will be peace and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. It is going to be okay!

SURRENDER instead of trying to understand everything and trying to predict and agonize over the options.

Jim Reapsome tells the cutest story. The plane was packed. Last-minute travelers laden with bags trundled down the aisle. The man stopped and checked his boarding pass for his and his wife's assigned seats: 22E and F. Sure enough, they were occupied and the people said, yes they were in the right seats.

“No fight ensued. The fellow was quite amiable. ‘Just glad to be on the plane,’ he said to no one in particular. To his wife, he said, ‘Don’t worry. They’ll find us some seats.’ And they did –just a couple of rows further back.

“ Not long afterward, the man discovered why seats 22E and F had been taken. No, it wasn’t a computer foul-up. He and his wife had dashed down the wrong jet way. Gates B 12 and 13 opened side by side in Terminal 4 of the Phoenix Skyharbor

Airport. One led to Chicago, the other to Dallas. They thought they were headed for Dallas, but now climbing to 31,000 feet over the Sonora Desert they discovered that Chicago was their destination.

“Were they sincere? Yes. Were they dedicated? Yes. Were they zealous? Yes. Did they have the right motives? Yes. Were they on the right plane? No.

[Pulse, Feb 3, 1995. Page 8.]

(From InfoSearch 3.51)

When you come right down to it you see so many times we get on the wrong plane because we don't understand what God is doing. I think a great deal of comfort comes in our lives when we trust the Lord with all of our hearts. You can get so tangled up trying to figure out everything that is going on. You will never understand it and you won't get to where the Lord wants you. You'll probably end up on the wrong plane.

(The Seeking Heart: Volume 4: The Library of Spiritual Classics by Fenelon)

What I want for you is the calmness of heart that comes from sitting before God with a heart full of love for Him. Don't become preoccupied with outward matters. Take care of your affairs in due season with a calm, quiet attention. You will accomplish more by quietly working in the presence of God than by the restless activity

that comes from your old nature.

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Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. That is Abraham and Sarah. Here they are beyond the ability to have kids and all they have is God's promise.

Romans 4:20-21 Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

(In the Grip of Grace: You Can't Fall Beyond His Love by Max Lucado

Listen to Lucado describe it.

Everything was gone, no youth, no vigor, no strength. The get-up and-go had got up and gone. All old Abe and Sarah had was a social-security check and a promise from heaven. But Abraham decided to trust a promise from heaven rather than focus on the problem. As a result, the Medicare couple were the first to bring a crib into the nursing home.

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It's a wonderful thing to trust Him and to know that He

can handle it.

v. 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

It was your HEART in verse 5 and it is ALL YOUR WAYS in verse 6. Your priorities are dictated and your path is directed. God has a thousand ways when I can see not one, when all my means have reached their end His has just begun.

Proverbs 4:18 The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

Principle four, HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE THE LORD AND AVOID SIN (verses 7 & 8).

v. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.

Here the statement does not say, “shun the Lord and fear evil”, but rather fear the Lord with respect and out of that respect for his Holiness and Righteousness run from evil! Get away from it. Don’t allow it to work its tentacles into your life, avoid sin. Why?

v. 8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

Obedience has compensation. When I am shunning evil

and I am walking with God I learn that is going to be healthy to my body and nourishment to my bones. I am going to make a statement:

I BELIEVE THERE IS A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PHYSICAL WELL-BEING AND SPIRITUAL WELL BEING.

My illustration of this is David. He kept silent for a whole year about the affair with Bathsheba. When it finally came out in his confession in Psalm 32:3-4:

Psalm 32:3-4 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

So there's a relationship there. Solomon brings it out again. He has a right to say it because he is out of here before he is sixty and because of the consequences of sin involved in his life.

Principle Five you know every preacher would get an offering if he could. **HONOR THE LORD IN YOUR GIVING** (verses 9 & 10). Let me just put it this way, this Fifth One and the Sixth One tell you how to handle two of the most difficult times in your life as a Christian when you are negotiating a Christian life. You are going to be shocked by the first one and not shocked by the second one. The first one is how do you handle prosperity? The second one is how do you handle adversity? They

are both there. Verses 9 and 10 ask what do you do when you are prosperous? Then, what do you do when you are living in adversity, verses 11 and 12.

v. 9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;

We look back in verse 5. We're to trust in the Lord, and now in verse 9 we're to honor the Lord in this. One of the things that came to my attention was as far as Solomon was concerned this is the advice of what he should have done but he didn't do. You don't see Solomon as a "giver", I'm sorry, you just don't. There are two times that he gives but he has to, it's diplomatic. It's a diplomatic exchange because with Hiram the king of Tyre he gets logs, Solomon gives him wheat, grain, olive oil and wine. It's an import-export deal.

It's exactly the same thing with the Queen of Sheba. She comes into town with this huge entourage of all of these gifts for the king she wants to impress and as she is leaving Dodge, he says have whatever you want and she took a whole bunch. So, you can't call that giving. Giving is doing something whereby you are giving something for the benefit of others and you are not going to get anything in return. That 'is what giving is! It is more blessed to give than to receive. David was a giver, "big time"! His Daddy knew what it was to sacrifice.

Listen to these:

1 Chronicles 22:3-4

He provided a large amount of iron to make nails for the doors of the gateways and for the fittings, and more bronze than could be weighed. He also provided more cedar logs than could be counted for the Sidonians and Tyrians had brought large numbers of them to David.

1 Chronicles 22:14 I have taken great pains to provide for the temple of the Lord a hundred thousand talents of gold, a million talents of silver, quantities of bronze and iron too great to be weighed, and wood and stone. And you may add to them.

There is a principle of giving in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7:

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Proverbs 11:24-25 One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

I hate to quote the results of a poll but one was taken. It

has been discovered that almost half of all charitable giving in the United States comes from incomes of less than \$30,000 annually. Bottom line, it is almost like the widow's mite as she throws in the little that she has and the Lord acknowledges what she does. What's going to happen when your generous?

v. 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Obedience has its compensations. Okay, that's PROSPERITY, now let's talk about ADVERSITY.

Principle Six SURRENDER YOURSELF TO THE LORD'S DISCIPLINE—verses 11 & 12. It is hard to talk about discipline. It is hard to tell a young believer that they can expect having a tough time and that the tough time has nothing to do with past sin in their lives or a lack of devotion in some area. But, it is a loving Father that wants fruit more than anything else from the life of his student. We can expect that suffering one on one is part of the divine curriculum and you understand so much of the difficulty that goes on in your life with understanding this principle. Surrender yourself to the Lord's discipline.

v.11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resent his rebuke,

He is at work. Somebody said it is easier to suffer in silence if everybody knows about it.

**(The Seeking Heart: Volume 4: The Library of
Spiritual Classics by Fenelon)**

Suffering is necessary for all of us. You will be purified by dying to your own desires and will. Let yourself die! You have excellent opportunities for this to happen—don't waste them!

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**(Don't Whiz on a 'Lectric Fence: Grandpa's Country
Wisdom by Roy English**

Life is not about how fast you run, or how high you climb, but how well you bounce.

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Remember that great song:

GOD LEADS US ALONG

**REFRAIN: Some through the waters,
some through the flood,
Some through the fire, but all through the blood;
Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song,
In the night season and all the day long.**

Why do we get disciplined?

v. 12 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

The whole section in Hebrews 12:5-11 is on discipline.

Hebrews 12:5-11 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Psalm 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.

I didn't know that Job said it.

Job 5:17 Blessed is the man who God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.

God doesn't want that for you. So, he has to deal with us as sons and daughters that are bent on doing it our way and that will have to be broken, that spirit has to be submissive and I have to just open myself up to him and say, "God do whatever you have to do!" I spend the first part of my intercession every morning in praise. But I always come to the first petition of the day and I say, "Lord, do whatever you have to do to make me more like Christ today and may there not be a single thing that would hinder you Lord." To me that is critical. I can't afford to waste a day resisting what God is doing to make me more like his son because life is so short anyway.

Solomon is saying here at the end of it, it would be so much better if I had surrendered to the discipline and listened to my instructors and my teachers.

You know you read some of these great hymns and the words in them and you understand the people that have got a hold of it.

BE STILL MY SOUL

**Be still, my soul! the Lord is on thy side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;**

Leave to thy God to order and provide
In every change He faithful will remain,
Be still, my soul! thy best, thy heavenly Friend
Through thorny ways, leads to a joyful end.

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That is learning how to handle discipline.

Principle Seven PURSUE WISDOM WITH A PASSION
(verses 13-20).

**v. 13 Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who
gains understanding,**

Delitzsch says:

Such submission to God, the All-wise, the All-directing,
who loves us with fatherly affection, is wisdom, and such
wisdom is above all treasures.

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It is going after wisdom. It's pursuing it with a passion.
Understand the laws of life.

(God's Little Devotional Book by Honor Books, Inc.)

Even a woodpecker
owes his success
to the fact that he uses his head.

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v. 14 for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.

v. 15 She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.

v. 16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

v. 17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.

v. 18 She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed.

v. 19 By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place;

Does it ever get you? It gets me every morning. I get ready to pray and I say, "God, I just want to take a minute to praise you for your person." I then start praising Him as a Creator and Sustainer. I said, "God how in the world have you got time on your docket and agenda to hear anything that I have to say?" Just the magnitude and the greatness of it just blows you away.

v. 20 by his knowledge the deeps were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew.

(The Book of Wisdom by Multnomah Books)

Dear God,

Could you change the taste of asparagus?
Everything else is OK.

Love,
Fred

nine-year old child

Quoted in Dear God: Children's Letter to God

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What does that tell you? As the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe, He is qualified to run your personal life. That is the whole understanding of wisdom.

Principle Eight STAY FOCUSED ON SOUND JUDGMENT AND DISCERNMENT – (verses 21-26).

v. 21 My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight;

v. 22 they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck.

v. 23 Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble;

v. 24 when you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down your sleep will be sweet.

(A Man to Match the Mountain: Overcoming the Obstacles of Life by David Roper)

“Sleep is God’s contrivance for giving us the help he cannot get into us when we are awake,” said George MacDonald.

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Psalm 4:8 I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

v. 25 Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked,

Just trust Him!

(Time-Out Leadership by Donald Luce)

“I have had a long, long life full of troubles, but there is one curious fact about them—nine-tenths of them never happened.”

ANDREW CARNEGIE

p. 68

It’s the wisdom to relate and to trust.

v. 26 for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared.

Think of LIVING LIFE HIS WAY!

- 1) OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD.**
- 2) COMPASSION & CONSISTENCY IN YOUR CONDUCT**
- 3) TRUST THE LORD AND LET HIM LEAD**
- 4) HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE THE LORD AND AVOID SIN**
- 5) HONOR THE LORD IN YOUR GIVING**
- 6) SURRENDER YOURSELF TO THE LORD'S DISCIPLINE**
- 7) PURSUE WISDOM WITH A PASSION
STAY FOCUSED ON SOUND JUDGMENT AND
DISCERNMENT**

CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Obedience to the Word should be our highest priority.

LESSON #2: Obedience has its compensations.

LESSON #3: We ought to be aiming at compassion and

consistency in our conduct.

LESSON #4: It ought to be our goal to “trust in the Lord with all of our heart” and let Him lead.

LESSON #5: Humble yourself before the Lord and avoid sin.

LESSON #6: “Fear the Lord and shun evil” ought to be one of our primary goals.

LESSON #7: There is a relationship between our spiritual health and our physical health.

LESSON #8: “Honor the Lord” in your giving.

LESSON #9: Learn to surrender yourself to the Lord’s discipline.

LESSON #10: Pursue wisdom with a passion.

LESSON #11: Stay focused on sound judgment and discernment.

LESSON #12: God has His way of doing things and we must learn to live life His way.

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

STUDY NUMBER TWENTYFOUR — PROVERBS 3:1-26

Notes

3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,
3:2 for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.
3:3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.
3:4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.
3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
3:6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.
3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.
3:8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.
3:9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;
3:10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.
3:11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resent his rebuke,
3:12 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.
3:13 Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding,
3:14 for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.
3:15 She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.
3:16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.
3:17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.
3:18 She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed.
3:19 By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place;
3:20 by his knowledge the deeps were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew.
3:21 My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight;
3:22 they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck.
3:23 Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble;
3:24 when you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.
3:25 Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked,
3:26 for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared.

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Obedience to the Word should be our highest priority.

LESSON #2: Obedience has its compensations.

LESSON #3: We ought to be aiming at compassion and consistency in our conduct.

LESSON #4: It ought to be our goal to “trust in the Lord with all of our heart” and let Him lead.

LESSON #5: Humble yourself before the Lord and avoid sin.

LESSON #6: “Fear the Lord and shun evil” ought to be one of our primary goals.

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LESSON #12: God has His way of doing things and we must learn to live life His way.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Proverbs 3:1-26 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What two commands are given in verse 1

3. What are the compensations for obedience, according to verse 2?

4. Outline the commands and compensations in verses 3 & 4.

5. Outline the commands and compensations in verses 5 & 6.

6. Outline the commands and compensations with regard to money, according to verses 9 & 10.

7. Outline the fruitage of wisdom in verses 14-18.

8. What are the two commands given in verse 21?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?
