



Proverbs 3: Wisdom is Valuable

Proverbs 3:1-10

- Trust in the Lord and His wisdom, not your own.
- This chapter can be divided into three sections:
 - verses 1–10: five sets of instruction with a result for each
 - verses 11–20: a hymn in praise of wisdom
 - verses 21–35: an appeal to walk in wisdom.

Proverbs 3:1-10

- Each section opens with “my son,” as many proverbs do.
- It is also written for all the “children” of Israel and any of us who want to learn from his wisdom.
- Solomon shared that these teachings would:
 - Prolong your life for many years (verse 2)
 - Bring you peace and prosperity (verse 2)

Proverbs 3:1-10

- Solomon shared that these teachings would:
 - Help you win favor/a good name with God and man (verse 4)
 - Make your paths straight (verse 6)
 - Bring health to your body/nourishment to your bones (verse 8)
 - Give you plenty of food and drink (verse 10)

Proverbs 3:1-10

- Remember that these promises are not guarantees. They are general principles.
- In general, if you live by God's wisdom, you will have peace, prosperity, and health.
- Not everyone who follows Jesus has health and wealth.
- And Jesus said that if you follow Him, the world may hate you because of it (John 15:18-20).

Proverbs 3:1-10

- What about verses 5–6 in the middle of this section?
- If we trust in the Lord and lean on His understanding instead of our own, He will make our paths straight.
- A straight path gets you where you're going faster.
- This doesn't mean that God will take away every obstacle and make things easy for you, but the general principle applies.

Proverbs 3:1-10

- The focus in this passage is on the Lord – following His commands (verse 1), having His heart of love (verse 3), fearing Him (verse 7), and honoring Him with all we have (verse 9).
- Following God is about our hearts (verse 5; Romans 2:28–29).
- We are to honor Him with all that we are and all we have.
- Our lives belong to Him (Romans 12:1–2; Colossians 3:17).

Proverbs 3:1-10

- Moses told the people to bind God's law on their foreheads and hands (Deuteronomy 6:8), Solomon tells them to write love and faithfulness on the tablet of their hearts (verse 3).
- "Tablet" refers to the law of Moses, written on two stone tablets by the very finger of God (Exodus 31:18).
- In the new covenant, God promised He would write the law on their hearts instead (Jeremiah 31:33).

Proverbs 3:1-10

- God's law is the law of love.
- The law is summed up in two things: love God and love others (Matthew 22:36–40).
- Jesus said His command is love (John 13:34–35).
- Paul wrote that none of the religious things we do matters if it isn't done in love (verse 3; 1 Corinthians 13:1–3).

Proverbs 3:11-20

- Wisdom is more valuable than gold, silver, or jewels.
- Solomon has already provided some good results we get from walking in God's wisdom: straight path, prosperity, health, and favor.
- Now we read his hymn of praise for wisdom, personified as a woman ("she"), just as we saw last week in chapter 9.

Proverbs 3:11-20

- This hymn has the same sentiment we saw in chapter 9.
- Wisdom is worth pursuing with the same passion you would pursue the perfect wife.
- Wisdom is more precious than all the valuable things of the world: silver, gold, precious stones (verses 14–15).
- He says wisdom gives “profit better than gold” (verse 14).

Proverbs 3:11-20

- When we invest in wisdom, we will see great returns in our lives.
- What kinds of returns?
- Solomon listed things similar to those listed in the first section: long life, riches, honor, and peace.
- None of these things is guaranteed in this life, but living by God's wisdom is more likely to lead to these things.

Proverbs 3:11-20

- Solomon's description of wisdom reminds us of the description of the kingdom. It is more precious than any jewel. It's worth selling everything to attain it (verse 15; Matthew 13:44–46).
- We can get a taste of it now, when we live as kingdom people.
- Things won't be perfect because we live in a fallen world.
- But we can experience things like peace (Philippians 4:6–7) and an abundant life (John 3:1–8; 10:10).

Proverbs 3:11-20

- In the last part of this hymn, Solomon said God created this world by His wisdom (verses 19–20).
- That means when we walk by God's wisdom, we are living the way He intended us to live. Since He is the Creator of this world, it's only logical that God knows best.
- Knowing that He knows best and knowing how much He loves us are why we can trust in Him and His path for our lives.

Proverbs 3:21-35

- Wisdom will lead to action: doing good to others.
- Each section is a reminder of the importance of wisdom and of persevering in the journey to pursuing it.
- If we stay the course and keep pursuing it, we will not need to fear (verses 24–26) and our feet will not stumble (verses 23, 26).
- Most significantly, it will be life for our souls (verse 22).

Proverbs 3:21-35

- In the center is a series of “do not” commands about how not to treat others:
 - Do not withhold good from others (verses 27–28).
 - Do not plan evil against your neighbor (verse 29).
 - Do not contend with a man for no reason (verse 30).
 - Do not envy or follow a man of violence (verse 31).

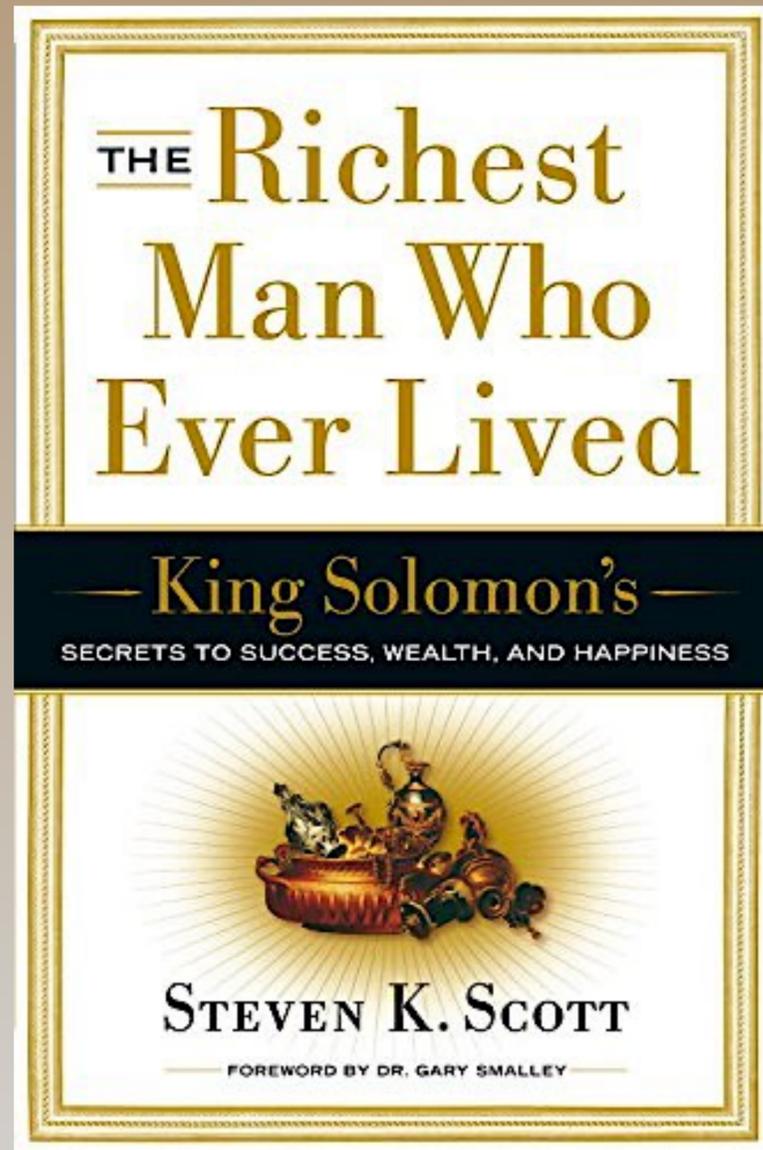
Proverbs 3:21-35

- These “do not’s” aren’t specific rules, as we see in the Mosaic law (Exodus–Deuteronomy).
- They provide us with general principles”
 - Do good and not evil (verses 27–29)
 - Don’t fight for no reason or be violent at all (verses 30–31)

Proverbs 3:21-35

- Notice how similar to Paul's description of how to live in community in Romans 12: "Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.... If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all" (Romans 12:9–21).
- Loving others involves humility or putting others needs before your own (Romans 12:10). This is how Christ loved us (washing feet, laying down His life) and it's how He commanded us to love others (John 13).

Application



- Steven Scott flunked out of every job he held in his first six years after college.
- Gary Smalley challenged him to study the Book of Proverbs.
- “How would you like to be smarter than all your bosses?”

Application

- Benefits of Solomon's strategies:
 - Knowledge
 - Discretion
 - Good judgment
 - Success
 - Better health
 - Longer life
 - Personal fulfillment
 - Financial abundance
 - Confidence
 - True wisdom

Diligence

- Solomon's concept of diligence isn't the world's definition.
- It isn't so much "hard working" as it is "smart working."
- Proverbs 20:11 - "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be *pure and whether it be right.*"
- Example: ROTC event (commander, 7:00 am versus 6:00 am)
- "Plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage" (Proverbs 21:5).

Laziness

- Few of use view ourselves as lazy, but we may have the seeds of laziness within our nature.
- Self-centeredness - “Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the heart” (Proverbs 21:2).
- Arrogance - “The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly” (Proverbs 26:16).

Laziness

- Irresponsibility - “I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down” (Proverbs 24:30-31).
- Laziness results in more laziness - “The sluggard does not plow in the autumn, he will seek at harvest and have nothing” (Proverbs 20:4)

Planning

- Wake up to reality - “How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man” (Proverbs 6:9-11).
- Define your vision - “Without a vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18).

Planning

- Find a partner - “Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed” (Proverbs 15:22).
 - The partner would be an adviser, counselor, or mentor.
- Build your life on wisdom - “How much better to get wisdom than gold. To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver” (Proverbs 16:16).

Vision Mapping

- The Vision Mapping Process is a goal-achieving process that will increase your productivity.
- It helps you create a clear and specific goal (Proverbs 29:18).
- There are five steps to the Vision Mapping Process.
- Start with a list of areas of your life in which you would like to see significant improvement and also make a list of your dreams and desires for those areas of life.

Five Steps

1. Write a clear and precise description of each dream in at least a sentence, draw a picture of what that looks like.
2. Create a “Goals Page” for that specific dream.
3. Create a page of “Goals to Steps.”
4. Create a page of “Steps to Tasks.”
5. Assign completion dates to each task and step.

Questions

- Do I really have to write all of this out?
- That's the first question everyone asks when he shares this process with an audience.
- This is a clear and precise vision for each of your dreams.
- It is a detailed road map/timetable for achieving those dreams.
- Remember that Vision Mapping is a lifetime process.

Resources

