

Trusting In God and Not Ourselves

Introduction:

Proverbs 3:5 (ESV) Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

Proverbs 3:6 (ESV) In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

The motto of my high school was exceedingly secular. The school's motto was "In ourselves our future lies."

Our passage has a vastly different take on life. Rather than to rely upon ourselves we are to rely upon God.

We can have confidence in the future because we can have confidence in God.

There is a great promise in the verses that we are going to consider this evening.

Proverbs 3:6 (ESV) In all your ways acknowledge him, **and he will make straight your paths.**

I. The exhortation is to trust in God.

A. The exhortation is to trust.

Proverbs 3:5 (ESV) **Trust** in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

1. To trust is to place our hope or confidence in someone or something.
2. Trust is active reliance upon another.
3. Trust is not a feeling but a volitional choice.
4. Thus, trust is active dependance and obedience.
5. Trust is relinquishing control.
6. Illustrated in trust exercises

B. The exhortation is to trust in God.

Proverbs 3:5 (ESV) **Trust in the Lord** with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

1. Jehovah is to be the object of our hope or confidence
2. He is the one in whom we are to trust.
3. We are to trust in a personal God and not merely a code of ethics.

C. The exhortation is to trust in God whole heartedly, exclusively, or completely.

Proverbs 3:5 (ESV) Trust in the Lord **with all your heart**, and do not lean on your own understanding.

1. We are not to have a plan B in case we do not like plan A.
2. We are not to be a people who are hedging our bets or diversifying our spiritual portfolio.
3. Trust in God is not to be mitigated by additional trust in someone or something else.

Matthew 6:24 (ESV) “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

4. We are not to trust in any other entity for our well being.

Psalms 20:7 (ESV) Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

Isaiah 31:1 (ESV) Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help **and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many** and in horsemen because they are very strong, **but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the Lord!**

5. We are to trust in a God who upholds His word and can be counted upon to fulfill His promises.

Isaiah 31:3 (ESV) The Egyptians are man, and not God, and their horses are flesh, and not spirit. When the Lord stretches out his hand, the helper will stumble, and he who is helped will fall, and they will all perish together.

6. We are to place all of our eggs in one basket - Trust in God alone.
7. That stands in opposition to all that our culture tells us.
8. You can't take God for a test drive.
9. In context, we are to trust in God as opposed to trusting in ourselves.

II. The exhortation is to trust in God's wisdom and not to rely upon our wisdom.

A. We are **not to rely upon** our own understanding.

Proverbs 3:5 (ESV) Trust in the Lord with all your heart, **and do not lean on your own understanding.**

1. To lean upon is to rest upon, It is to find help, support and place confidence in another.
2. I lean upon a cane as I walk,
3. Our wisdom is not to trump God's word.

B. Understanding as it is used here is discernment. The ability to decide and distinguish between various points of view and courses of action,

Proverbs 3:5 (ESV) Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own **understanding.**

Proverbs 3:7 (ESV) **Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.**

Proverbs 3:8 (ESV) It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

Proverbs 26:12 (ESV) Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Isaiah 5:20 (ESV) Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

Isaiah 5:21 (ESV) **Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!**

Jeremiah 9:23 (ESV) Thus says the LORD: “**Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom**, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,

Jeremiah 9:24 (ESV) **but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth.** For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

1. We are to guard against jumping to conclusions as to what the result will be in following God's commands.
2. We must not rely upon our own ability to discern outcomes but rather by faith trust God for the outcome of choices made in keeping with His word.
3. This verse does not teach that we as Christians must put our minds in neutral. Nor does it mean that God does not intend us to use our own common sense and good judgement.
4. What it does mean is that we are not to jump to the conclusion that somehow our life will be worse for obeying God or conversely that our life will be better by disobeying God.
5. Our wisdom is not to supplant God's word.
6. Our wisdom is not to stand in judgment over God's word.

III. We are exhorted to keep God in mind in all of life's circumstances and events.

A. We are to keep in mind the God who we are to trust.

Proverbs 3:6 (ESV) In all your ways **acknowledge him**, and he will make straight your paths.

1. To acknowledge Him is literally to “know” Him.
2. We are to keep the person of God in mind.

- a. God is “able” to do what he wills.
- b. God is “good” in what He wills or desires for us
 - (1) His mercy
 - (2) His providence
 - (3) Is for our well being,
 - (4) He gives us truly what we stand in need of.
 - (5) It is the goodness of God that prompts His actions.
- c. God is wise in what He wills.
 - (1) God knows how to bring about his desired end.
 - (2) God knows what He must do to bring about the best in us and for

- 3. In keeping God in mind we are to remember that He is the creator of the heavens and the earth.

Isaiah 29:16 (ESV) You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, “He did not make me”; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, “He has no understanding”?

Job 38:2 (ESV) “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

Job 38:3 (ESV) Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me.

Job 38:4 (ESV) **“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.**

Job 38:5 (ESV) **Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?**

Job 38:6 (ESV) On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone,

- B. In every decision in life we are to take God into account.

Proverbs 3:6 (ESV) **In all your ways** acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

1. We must avoid only thinking of God in the "big" decisions.
2. We must avoid only thinking of God in the time of the difficult decisions.
3. We must realize how all decisions in life are in fact "spiritual" decisions.
4. There is an expression that some decisions are a no-brainer
5. There are no decisions which are a no-Godder.
6. Illustrated in the life of Nathan the Prophet.

2 Samuel 7:1 (ESV) Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,

2 Samuel 7:2 (ESV) the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent."

2 Samuel 7:3 (ESV) And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

2 Samuel 7:4 (ESV) But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan,

2 Samuel 7:5 (ESV) "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?'

2 Samuel 7:12 (ESV) When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, **I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.**

2 Samuel 7:13 (ESV) **He shall build a house for my name,** and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

7. Illustrated in Joshua and his men.

Joshua 9:3 (ESV) But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai,

Joshua 9:4 (ESV) they on their part acted with cunning and went and made ready provisions and took worn-out sacks for their donkeys, and wineskins, worn-out and torn and mended,

Joshua 9:5 (ESV) with worn-out, patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out clothes. And all their provisions were dry and crumbly.

Joshua 9:6 (ESV) And they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a distant country, so now make a covenant with us."

Joshua 9:7 (ESV) But the men of Israel said to the Hivites, **"Perhaps you live among us; then how can we make a covenant with you?"**

Joshua 9:8 (ESV) They said to Joshua, "We are your servants." And Joshua said to them, "Who are you? And where do you come from?"

Joshua 9:9 (ESV) They said to him, "From a very distant country your servants have come, because of the name of the Lord your God. For we have heard a report of him, and all that he did in Egypt,

Joshua 9:10 (ESV) and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon the king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth.

Joshua 9:11 (ESV) So our elders and all the inhabitants of our country said to us, 'Take provisions in your hand for the journey and go to meet them and say to them, "We are your servants. Come now, make a covenant with us." '

Joshua 9:12 (ESV) **Here is our bread. It was still warm when we took it from our houses as our food for the journey on the day we set out to come to you, but now, behold, it is dry and crumbly.**

Joshua 9:13 (ESV) **These wineskins were new when we filled them, and behold, they have burst. And these garments and sandals of ours are worn out from the very long journey."**

Joshua 9:14 (ESV) So the men took some of their provisions, **but did not ask counsel from the Lord.**

Joshua 9:15 (ESV) And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live, and the leaders of the congregation swore to them.

Josh 9:14 (NASB) So the men of Israel took some of their provisions, and did not ask for the counsel of the LORD.

Josh 9:15 (NASB) And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live; and the leaders of the congregation swore an oath to them.

8. Illustrated in the battle of Jericho.

IV. The effects of trusting in God's wisdom and not our own wisdom

Proverbs 3:6 (ESV) In all your ways acknowledge him, **and he will make straight your paths.**

- A. The path is straight and we are not to deviate from it. We are not to turn to the right or the left.

Joshua 1:7 (ESV) Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. **Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left**, that you may have good success wherever you go.

- B. God will keep you from wandering aimlessly.

Joshua 1:7 (ESV) Only be strong and very courageous, **being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you.** Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, **that you may have good success wherever you go.**

Joshua 1:8 (ESV) This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. **For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**

Deuteronomy 1:2 (ESV) **It is eleven days' journey** from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea.

Deuteronomy 1:3 (ESV) **In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month**, Moses spoke to the people of Israel according to all that the Lord had given him in commandment to them,

- C. Follow the way of God.

Proverbs 3:7 (ESV) Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

Proverbs 3:8 (ESV) It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

Proverbs 3:9 (ESV) **Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;**

Proverbs 3:10 (ESV) then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

Proverbs 3:11 (ESV) **My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof,**

Proverbs 3:12 (ESV) for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

- V. Conclusion: