

## Proverbs: 3, Part 1, Monday, June 24, 2024

### Notable observations about today's text:

There are 20 commandments.

The first 7 positive commands are in the first 9 verses with only 1 other positive command in v21.

There is a gap between verses 12-20 with no commandments.

The last section (v22-35) has only negative commands.

### Subject Outline:

- I. Commandments to the Son to Trust, Fear, and Honor Yahweh (1-12)
- II. Blessings of Wisdom (13-24)
- III. General Prohibitions (25-35)

### Exposition:

1-4 Command to remember the commandments of the father. Duet 6:1-9. The idea of “binding around the neck” (v3b) and writing them on the tablet of the heart (v3c) implies both intentionality or effort and permanence. This is a choice to have a state of mind shift from passivity to action. It is also a permanent change. Be changed. Be different. We will pick up the idea of extended life in v 16 but note that it's part of the benefits here as the commandments are something that are guarded by the heart of the son. This is a term of affection. This language implies that affection and care. Treasure used as a verb. Treasure what is treasure. Value or consider important what is precious and beautiful.

5-6 Memory verse. Trusting in the Lord generally produces a clear path forward. It is not confusing. It is not hard to follow once you start in the right place. This is like running downhill. It's like the running back running straight for the end zone with no cutting. It's just straight ahead. Run hard. Run fast.

Trust the LORD with all your being and He will make a way for progress to do more of the same. What a great life!

7-8 Prohibition against arrogance and command to fear God. Result: “healing to your body and refreshment to your bones” Don’t think much of yourself. Instead, think much of God. If you do this, it will be good for your body, not just your soul. Even your disposition will be better. The term “bones” is a euphemism about the internal part of us. When someone is depressed in the Bible, it is called an ache in the bones. The opposite is true here. “Refreshment” in the bones suggests confidence and strength but it is not from within but from without as the man fears the LORD.

9-10 Command to “Honor YHWH from your wealth and from the first of all your produce.” This is an obvious reference to the offerings and tithes from the law. The tithe was indeed the commitment to give back to God the first 10% of what He had given them. The offerings were voluntary gifts commemorating the extra blessings that God had given His people. God is a promise keeper and had committed to blessing His people if they obeyed him (see Dt 28:1-14).

The result given in v10 is a restatement of Dt. This is generally how God operates with his people. They were to recognize their utter dependence upon Him through the giving of tithes and offerings. In return, He would exponentially bless them. Remember, in Proverbs, this is a pattern of how things normally go. There can be exceptions but in this instance, it really is a restatement of the law that also came with a promise.

V11-12 Prohibition of ignoring God’s correction. In other words, submit to it. Receive it. Don’t reject it. It is the act of a loving Father. Hebrews 13:24 talks about the nature of this relationship. Romans 8 goes into the forensics of the relationship (adoption) and gives practical help “we call Abba!”

I’m reminded of 1Cor 11, which is the passage we read each Sunday before the Lord’s supper. It mentions that some are sick and others “sleep” because of their sin.