

Pastor Rodney V. Pamer
Wednesday, June 09, 2010 7:23 PM
Subject: Trust In God

Proverbs 3

1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: 2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

Lesson: Trust: the key to happiness in God

Last week: Lesson was on the third Fruit of the Spirit: peace.

We are to add to love and joy, the fruit of the Spirit of peace.

However: You can't have peace unless you trust in God.

INTRODUCTION:

According to 1 Kings 10 and 2 Chronicles 9, his personal salary was over 600 talents of gold a year, and he received other moneys from various merchants, traders and surrounding governments.

That amounts to about 700 million dollars per year.

Solomon controlled the entire region west of the Euphrates and brought peace to the entire region.

He owned 12,000 horses with horsemen and 1,400 chariots.

Remains of stalls for 450 horses have in fact been found in Megiddo.

Solomon strengthened his kingdom through marital alliances, and as a result had 700 wives and 300 concubines,

Solomon built the Holy Temple that became known as Solomon's Temple.

Great quantities of local stone and imported cedar wood were used.

It was overlaid with pure gold and took seven years to complete with the efforts of 180,000 laborers.

The value was over \$50 billion dollars.

Solomon composed 3,000 proverbs, and his songs numbered 1005. He wrote the Song of Songs and Ecclesiastes.... but his greatest contribution was the Book of Proverbs... that he penned as he was moved upon by the Holy Ghost.

And out of this live of wisdom...wealth....military might....opulence....and three Holy books of the Bible.... this specific chapter is considered the pre-eminent chapter of all....

The greatest writing of the greatest book of the wisest and wealthiest man that ever lived.

In Proverbs 3.... we read these incomparable, marvelous words of wisdom that give us direction for life, a formula for happiness and a remarkable recipe to secure our relationship with God.

Here we learn from the wisest man Solomon.... the way to gain happiness and success.

For this same man Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes that...

Ecclesiastes 1

3 What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

8 the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

9 there is no new thing under the sun.

14 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

16 I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge.

Ecclesiastes 2

4 I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:

5 I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all [kind of] fruits:

6 I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:

7 I got [me] servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:

8 I gathered me also silver and gold, ... singers andmusical instruments...

9 So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in

Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.

11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all [was] vanity and vexation of spirit, and [there was] no profit under the sun.

Tonight, I want to talk to you about what Solomon considered the key to happiness and success in Christian living.

It is found here in the greatest chapter of Solomon's greatest accomplishment... the Book of Proverbs...

And it tells us ...about trusting God, His being able to trust us, and what happens when our whole relationship is based upon obedience and trust.

Song reminds us....

Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Lesson: Trust in GOD is the most important factor in life...

Open your Bibles now to Proverbs 3:1. I want you to have your pen ready, because I'm going to have you underline some words.

Verse 1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

Contemporary English Version:

1 My child, remember my teachings and instructions and obey them completely.

On your hand-out.... circle or underline the word "completely."

As the Proverb writer begins to talk to us about this relationship with God, he talks about complete obedience.

Now, the result of this obedience is found in verse 2.

2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

.... If we obey His teachings and instructions completely, then we will live a long and prosperous life, and GOD will add peace to our life.

Verse 3

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

Underline the words "not.... forsake."

He talks about mercy and truth always being at the very fore place of our life, and the result is that God and people will like you and consider you a success.

While this word... hhe´ · sedis translated in the AUTHORIZED KING JAMES VERSION most often as *mercy* 149 times.....but this word for *mercy* includes the meaning of kindness.

Nearly 100 times this same word hhe´ · sed is translated kindness or lovingkindness or goodness.

And.... truth.... is meant to be understood in the sense of faithfulness or loyalty. Some translations choose to translate this word here as loyalty.

So you could read.....

Don't let kindness and loyalty forsake you....

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

In verse 5 underline the word "all."

With all your heart, the Proverb writer says we must trust the Lord.

And in verse 6 underline the words "in all thy ways".

Observations on Proverbs 3:1-10:

1. The commands are all-inclusive.

Did you notice that there were no exceptions?

✘ He didn't say that we were to partially obey our Lord's teachings and instructions.

✘ He didn't say with most of our heart we were to trust in Him, and that we were sometimes supposed to let Him lead us.

Notice these words: completely, always, all, always, ever, all of your crops.

These words are all inclusive.

✘ No exceptions.

✘ No exclusions.

✘ No exemptions.

He says, I want you to understand the importance of trusting the LORD with all your heart.

2. These commands precede a promise.

God tells us that if we do these things, He will do some wonderful things in return.

3. The promises are conditional.

If we do our part, God will do His part.

If we trust Him completely, if we obey Him completely, then He has some wonderful provisions for us as children.

Trusting in God:

1. God's Care is Constant.

When it comes to trusting God, you can rest assured that He gives you and me constant care. I love Hebrews 13:5,6, where, "God has said, 'Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.' So we can say with confidence, the Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" Amen? That's a great promise. Literally, in the original language it reads this way: "I will not, no, not leave thee, neither will I forsake thee."

Five times God wants to assure us that He is never going to leave us. George Beverly Shea, the singer who partnered with Billy Graham for so many years, was sharing that he had many requests for songs to be sung at crusades. And he said the strangest request he ever got was when somebody handed him a slip of paper one time, and wanted him to sing a song entitled "God's grip don't slip."

Poor grammar, but it's great theology. God's grip don't slip. God constantly cares for us, and because of that Peter can tell us that we are to cast all of our anxiety, all of our worries upon Him. His care is constant. It's not occasional or sporadic; His care is total, not partial. His care is sovereign. Nothing can touch you or me without first touching God.

A favorite old song, said....
No never alone, alone, no never alone.
He promised never to leave me, never to leave me alone.

How many of you know that song?
Not only is that a song that is slipping away....
more importantly.... I am afraid it is a concept... a basic belief that is slipping away as well.

2. God's Gifts are Generous.

God not only constantly cares for us; but He is generous in His provisions to us. He has blessed us with gifts, and talents.... blessings of every kind.

When you have time today, read that Psalm 136.

Psalm 136

1 O give thanks unto the LORD; for [he is] good: for his mercy [endureth] for ever.

4 To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy [endureth] for ever.

5 To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for his mercy [endureth] for ever.

6 To him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for his mercy [endureth] for ever.

7 To him that made great lights: for his mercy [endureth] for ever:
8 The sun to rule by day: for his mercy [endureth] for ever:
9 The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy [endureth] for ever.
23 Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy [endureth] for ever:
24 And hath redeemed us from our enemies: for his mercy [endureth] for ever.
26 O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy [endureth] for ever.

Developing our Trust...

1. Trust during adversity.

We are responsible to trust him in times of adversity, but we are dependent upon the Holy Spirit to enable us to do so.

David said in Psalm 56:4, "For in God I trust, I will not be afraid."
And in Psalm 34, "I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and He delivered me from all of my fears." What's David saying? You and I are responsible to obey and trust God. That's our part.

You see, here's where the conflict comes.
Here's our problem. God asks us to obey or to trust Him in an area of our life that's bigger than what we can reason or understand, and instead of doing our part, which is total trust and obedience, we want to get over on His side.

And we want to say, "Now God, if I do this, how are you going to work? If I really let you have my marriage..."

It's almost like, "God, you just don't understand all the problems I've got in my marriage." "If I surrender this financial issue to you, God, I'm not sure you understand how bad the finances are." "I'm not really sure, God, you understand how deep the problems go."

2. Trusting in Plenty.

The extent to which we genuinely thank God for the blessings he provides is an indicator of our trust in Him.

This area becomes most difficult. Because when we are blessed, there's a tendency for us to either trust in ourselves or trust in our blessings.
I think we run to God fast when we have problems, but I think we kind of ignore God when we're being blessed. There's tendency for us just to kind of think "You know, I'm doing pretty good here. " And we become self-reliant. It's so human for all of us.

3. Trusting God as our Source.

Human tendency: Trust in God's instruments of provision rather than in God himself.

We trust the job instead of realizing that God is the provider of the job. We trust our health instead of realizing that God is the provider of our health.

Proverbs 18:10, 11

10 The name of the LORD [is] a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.
11 The rich man's wealth [is] his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit.

Contrast between people who trust in God, and people who trust in themselves or their possessions.

He's saying that those who trust in the Lord when they have an issue or need, they immediately go to Him. And He is their trust. But those who have possessions, they make them a fortified city, and they look at that fortified city and say, "It's a high wall. I cannot be touched. I'll hide behind it."

What's your high wall today?

Your education? Is it your savings account? Is it your job? Is it your health?

It's like the fellow who said, "God, it just seems like I cannot not lean on you like I want." And God says to him, "It's because you've never put your total weight on me. You're still using your own strength. You're still using your own muscles. Relax."

Be lax, dad.

Is it possible we have become so self-sufficient that we think we don't need God anymore?

Surely not! But I'm afraid that when things are going well, we act as if we don't need God.

You see, if we get sick, we can call the doctor or go to the emergency room. If a natural calamity destroys our property, we can fill out an insurance claim. If a company comes unexpectedly & we're short on food, we can go to the supermarket. If our clothes wear out, we can go to a clothing store.

If we run out of money, we can use plastic. If we don't have enough to make ends meet, we can get food stamps or a loan. If we're having relational difficulties, we can go to a counselor. So with all of this, who needs God?

In Woody Allen's *Love and Death*, Napoleon walked by his lady's room & heard voices. "I was praying," the lady explained. "But I heard two voices," Napoleon said. "I do both parts," she replied.

CLOSE

William Carey, often called the father of modern missions, faced a ministry disappointment of overwhelming proportions. Carey began his missionary career to India in 1793. He labored in that country for 40 continuous years, never once returning to his native England. Carey was a prodigious translator, translating portions of Scripture into over a dozen Indian languages.

One afternoon after 20 years of plodding labor in that country, a fire raged through his printing plant and warehouse. All of his printing equipment was destroyed, but most tragically, many of his precious manuscripts were completely consumed by the fire. Of course, Carey had no computer back-up files or Xerox masters. Twenty years of nonstop labor were gone within a few hours.

How would he respond to this crushing devastation? Carey wrote to his pastor-friend, Andrew Murray, in England:

"The ground must be labored over again, but we are not discouraged.... We have all been supported under the affliction, and preserved from discouragement. To me the consideration of the divine sovereignty and wisdom has been very supporting.... I endeavored to improve this our affliction last Lord's day, from Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God."

I principally dwelt upon two ideas:

1. God has a sovereign right to dispose of us as he pleases.
2. We ought to (comply) in all that God does with us and to us."