**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

**Trust In “The” Lord – Proverbs 3**

*Pastor ~ Matthew Diehl*

September 3rd In the Year of Our Lord 2023

(Unless otherwise noted, NAS is quoted.)

For centuries, about three thousand years, since King Solomon ruled the united twelve (12) tribes of Israel, God has blessed people with words of wisdom, words of ethical wisdom. . . words of ethical maxims. Some of the building blocks and formation of Western faith and culture can be found in the book of Proverbs. Here are four citations from the Myles Coverdale Bible (1535 A.D.).

**Proverbs 3:5** Put thy trust in the LORD with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own

understanding.

**Proverbs 22:6** If thou teachest a child in his youth what way he should go; he shall not leave

it when he is old.

**Proverbs 1:7** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. But fools despise wisdom

and instruction.

**Proverbs 6:20** My sonne, kepe thy fathers comaundemetes, & forsake not ye lawe of thy

mother.

There are many online sites that list the most popular Proverbs that most of us have heard. We may not know the wisdom came from God’s Word in the book of Proverbs but we have heard the verses. Check out these sites.

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/popular/Proverbs/type/mstc>

https://yourmorningword.com/2020/10/01/top-25-bible-verses-from-the-book-of-proverbs/

<https://www.topverses.com/bible/proverbs>

**Proverb definition:** Strong’s 04912 מָשָׁל mashal {maw-shawl'}

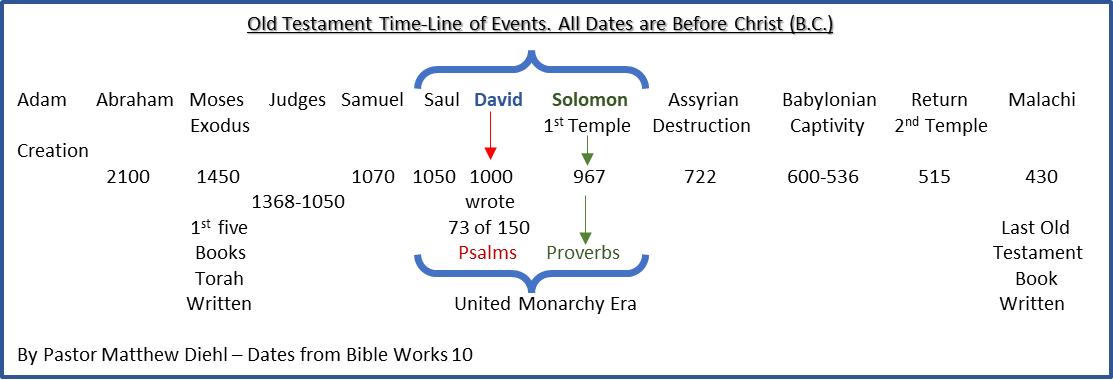
Meaning: parable, proverbial saying, aphorism, byword, similitude, parable,

poem, sentences of ethical wisdom, ethical maxims

**So, who did God direct to write the book of Proverbs?**

**Was there one writer or more?**

God is the “Author” of all the Bible. God chose and inspired specific individuals to write down His will and intent for all people. We know from Scripture that King Solomon wrote most of the Proverbs. Remember that King Solomon was the third king during the United Monarchy era in Hebrew national history.



Solomon’s name appears at the beginning of three sections of Proverbs: Proverbs 1:1, 10:1 and Proverbs 25:1, therefore, bringing biblical clarity that he was the one God chose to write down these words of wisdom.

A few of the Proverbs came from other contributors. Scholars know that anonymous writers contributed to Proverbs 22:17-24:22. Proverbs 30 begins *with “The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, the oracle*. . .”. The first verse in Proverbs 31 states that King Lemuel wrote the Proverb. It is of note that Lemuel means “for God.” Some scholars believe that King Lemuel is King Solomon.

**Why was King Solomon such a . . . “Wise Guy”?**

Believe it or not, Solomon asked God to give him wisdom. We have all heard the saying, “*You do not have because you do not ask*”, which is a Scripture quote from James 4:1-3.

1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

We also need to be aware of other Scriptures that give guidance into how God interacts with people. For example. . . God knows what we “need” before we ask Him which highlights God’s all-knowingness.

**Matthew 6:8**

"So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

From these Scriptures, we see that there is a limit to what we pray to receive. God delivering the goods is directly tied to His will, our need and motives. There is a difference between a *want* and a *need*. The difference is “selfishness.” This is why the “Health and Wealth / Name It – Claim It” message taught by too many churches is not biblical which means that it is not God’s will.

**1 John 5:14-15**

14 This is the confidence which we have before Him,

that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask,

we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

**1 Kings 3:7-12**

7 "Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king in place of my father David,

yet I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

8 "Your servant is in the midst of Your people which You have chosen,

a great people who are too many to be numbered or counted.

9 "So give Your servant an understanding heart

to judge Your people to discern between good and evil.

For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

10 It was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing.

11 God said to him,

"Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life,

nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies,

but have asked for yourself discernment to understand justice,

12 behold, I have done according to your words.

Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart,

so that there has been no one like you before you,

nor shall one like you arise after you

**1 Kings 4:29-32**

29 Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind,

like the sand that is on the seashore.

30 Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of

all the sons of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt.

31 For he was wiser than all men,

than Ethan the Ezrahite, Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol;

and his fame was known in all the surrounding nations.

32 He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005.

Today, we will read Proverbs 3, with a focus on verses 1- 4. . . concluding with verse 5 and 6.

**Proverbs 3**

1 My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments;

2 For length of days and years of life And peace they will add to you.

3 Do not let kindness and truth leave you;

Bind them around your neck,

Write them on the tablet of your heart.

4 So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

8 It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones.

9 Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce;

10 So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.

11 My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD Or loathe His reproof,

12 For whom the LORD loves He reproves,

Even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.

13 How blessed is the man who finds wisdom And the man who gains understanding.

14 For her profit is better than the profit of silver And her gain better than fine gold.

15 She is more precious than jewels; And nothing you desire compares with her.

As always when reading God’s Word, it is advisable to understand the context. The first four verses in Proverbs 3 set the stage for the understanding of verses 5 and 6.

1 My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your **heart** keep my commandments;

2 For length of days and years of life And **peace** they will add to you.

3 Do not let **kindness** and truth **leave** you;

Bind them **around your neck,**

Write them on the **tablet of your heart.**

4 So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man.

Notice that it is not enough just to know God’s teachings/commandments, but we must keep them in our heart (*bind them around our neck / write them on the tablet of your heart*). Therefore, God calls for us to be more than just aware of His Word. This is for our salvation and protection. And from this relationship of salvation and protection, we are driven to share and witness to others. Not to condemn them but so that they too can receive God’s love and then will be impowered to live the life God has intended for them. Proverbs 3 is not written in isolation. God directed Moses to write down similar words about four-hundred and fifty years previously during the time of the Exodus. Deuteronomy is the fifth of five books in the Torah - book of the Law.

**Deuteronomy 6:6** "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.

**Deuteronomy 30:6 "**Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live. . .continue in verse 8 "And you shall again obey the LORD, and observe all His commandments which I command you today.

**Note:** Moving forward about fifteen hundred years. . . Peter, filled with God’s Holy Spirit, preached to the Jews after Pentecost. . .who had their hearts cut being convicted by God’s Holy Spirit (Acts 2:36ff). God first reaches out to us with His Holy Spirit conviction. Then it is our opportunity, with our gift of free-will-choice, to respond with surrender.

Then, in the early 6th century B.C., God directed His prophet Ezekiel to write. . .

**Ezekiel 36:26-27** 26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

Overlapping the prophecy time of Ezekiel, God’s prophet Jeremiah writes for God . . . . . . . .

**Jeremiah 31:33** "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Then God incarnates Himself as Jesus the Messiah about four hundred years after the last Old Testament prophet of God speaks (Malichi). Jesus’s teachings and statements are recorded by the apostles and disciples. We have John’s witness recorded in the Gospel of John as an eyewitness to Jesus’s teachings.

**John 6:44-45 44** "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. 45 "It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.

John 6 speaks to fallen humanity’s total depravity. In fact, God sends His Holy Spirit to convict the world of sin. Without God extending His grace through Holy Spirit conviction, all humanity would be unable to make a decision to surrender to God.

**John 16:8-9** 8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

Without God loving us first (1 John 4:19) and extending His grace to us which affords all of us the opportunity to receive His Spirit. . . we would be lost forever being separated from God and His love.

God does not limit access to Him. God speaks through the Apostle Paul.

for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." (Romans 10:13 from Joel 2:32)

Paul declares for God in Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

And more Scripture witness to God reaching out to all people in order for them to have the opportunity to surrender to Him.

17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. 18 But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have; "THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD." (Romans 10:17-18)

Not only Paul, but Peter also gives a direct eyewitness to Jesus’s teachings by telling us in a New Testament book we call 2 Peter. . .

9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

Paul’s protégé Timothy is charged by Paul to teach God’s intent to all people.

**1 Timothy 2:3-6** 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

This is the same witness Jesus gives to Nicodemus (John 3). Remember, Nicodemus wanted to know how Jesus could do the things He did. Nicodemus did not have the spiritual understanding. He relied upon his own thought process. He leaned on his own understanding because he was a person who trusted his own fallen logic, and he was unable to grasp the true mission and teachings of God’s incarnation as Jesus.

**John 3:1** Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; 2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him,

"Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher;

for no one can do these signs that You do **unless God is with him."**

Jesus, as God in the flesh, who was the author of Proverbs 3, knew exactly what Nicodemus’ problem was. This is when Jesus told Nicodemus, the teacher of Israel, that he had to be born-again of Spirit.

After Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born again to *see the kingdom of God*. . . he persisted in leaning on his own understanding by saying. . .

4 "How can a man be born when he is old?

He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

Jesus repeated His witness to Nicodemus. God’s love is shown to all of us here. We may not. . . most likely will not. . . achieve the understanding God desires for us to have the first time we hear His teaching. But He keeps coming.

5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the

Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh,

and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know

where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the

Spirit."

The witness Jesus gives to Nicodemus ends in verse 21. The last statement we have from Nicodemus is in verse 9.

9 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?"

Nicodemus was challenged to **trust** in the Lord and not in his own fallen reasonings. This is exactly what Proverbs 3:5-6 teach.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

**Summation**

I find that the interwoven Word of God is a miracle. About one-thousand years before Nicodemus lived, who was the teacher of Israel, God had already given him his answer in Proverbs 3.

1 My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments;

2 For length of days and years of life And peace they will add to you.

3 Do not let kindness and truth leave you;

Bind them around your neck,

Write them on the tablet of your heart.

4 So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

Nicodemus had failed to bind the Word of God around his neck or inscribe them on the tablet of his heart. Therefore, he was unable to keep the Lord’s commandments. However, there is biblical testimony that Nicodemus had a spiritual rebirth. In John 19:39-40, we read…

39 Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight. 40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. **AMEN**