

Wheelersburg Baptist Church 7/12/92 PM  
Proverbs 3:1-6 "How to be God's Kind of Person"

**Intro:**

Tonight, after some 10 weeks, we've come to the end of our study "How to be Wise in Life according to Proverbs." Proverbs is an amazing book. It's down to earth, practical. It hits us where we live. We've learned about how to be wise in our marriages, and as parents. How to be wise when it comes to choosing and being a friend. In overcoming temptation. In dealing with alcohol. In our speech.

Proverbs is God's wisdom for daily living.

Disclaimer: This study is not the final word. In fact, it's merely the beginning. We have not looked at every verse in Proverbs. We've touched on main topics, the big issues in life. I hope your appetite has been whetted to dig into Proverbs the rest of your life for practical, day to day wisdom.

Illust:

Proverbs: God's Wisdom for Daily Living

How to be Wise. . .

1. In Life--An Introduction (1:1-7)
2. In Developing Friendships (1:10-19; 22:24; 17:17)
3. In Your Marriage Relationship
4. As a Parent (6:1ff)
5. In Your Finances
6. On the Job
7. In Dealing with Temptation (23:26-27)
8. When It Comes to Alcohol (23:28ff)
9. In Handling Your Tongue (15:1-4; 18:4-8)
10. By Being the Man or Woman God Wants You to Be

Tonight, to conclude our study, we want to turn to one of the more familiar passages in Proverbs--3:1-6. Let's sum up by asking...

Q: How can you and I be God's kind of person?

**Proposition: Tonight we want to see 2 aspects of Wisdom from Prov 3:1-6.**

I. The Symptoms of Wisdom

- A. A Wise Person is Teachable (1).
- B. A Wise Person is Obedient (1).
- C. A Wise Person is Merciful (3).
- D. A Wise Person is Committed to Truth (3).
- E. A Wise Person Trusts in the LORD (5).
- F. A Wise Person is not Self-Sufficient (5).
- G. A Wise Person is Aware of God in Life (6).

II. The Successes of Wisdom

- A. Personal Gain (2)
- B. Proper Relationship with God (4)

- C. Proper Relationships with People (4)
- D. Direction from God (6)

Note: The symptoms and successes are staggered in the text. First a symptom, then a success, then a symptom, etc.

## **I. The Symptoms of Wisdom**

If I am to be God's kind of person, what must be true of my life? Obviously, Proverbs makes it clear that God's kind of person is a wise person, a person who has and demonstrates wisdom.

But what kind of person is that? What's true of a wise person? What are the symptoms of wisdom? There are at least 7 symptoms in vv 1-6. Let's take inventory.

### A. A Wise Person is Teachable (1).

V 1 "My son, forget not my law" (NIV "my teaching")

A wise person is teachable. He hungers to know and learn God's Word.

When God redeemed Israel, He gave them the Torah, the Law. Later He gave them the Wisdom Book, Proverbs. Why did God give His people Proverbs? To apply the Torah to daily life. To get the Word of God out of the pews and into the family room and the dining room and the factory.

Q: Who does God hold responsible to do this teaching of wisdom?

2:1 "My son"

3:1 "My son"

4:1 "Hear ye children"

A: Wisdom is to be taught in the home. God expects parents to apply the truth of His Word as they interact with their children. A wise parent not only is teachable, but places a priority on the importance of teaching?

Parents, do you model a teachable spirit? Do your kids see it? Do they see in you a hunger to learn God's Word? Do you look forward to coming to church so you can glean truth for your life?

Is teaching your children important to you? Do you spend time talking with them? Do you show them how God's Word applies to kid's lives too?

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Teachable. But it doesn't stop there.

### B. A Wise Person is Obedient (1).

V 1 "...let thine heart keep my commands"

Symptom #2 is obedience. Even in the little things. Have you noticed how Proverbs seems to meddle in the little areas of our life?!

6:1-4 "If thou be surety for thy neighbor..."

17:17 "A friend loves at all times" (not just when convenient)

20:1 "Wine is a mocker..."

20:10 "Diverse weights and measures are an abomination to the Lord"

That's practical! In Proverbs, God tells us: Be a man of your word! Be a dependable friend! Don't be deceived by alcohol. Be honest in your business dealings!

All of us know these truths. But not all of us are wise. Why not? Because a wise person not only knows the truth, but he also what? Obeys the truth!

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C. A Wise Person is Merciful (3).

V 3 "Let not mercy forsake thee"

And also...

D. A Wise Person is Committed to Truth (3).

V 3 "Let not truth forsake thee."

Mercy and truth must go together. A wise person binds them about his neck, and writes them upon the table of his heart. The verse is not talking about wearing jewelry with Bible verses. The verse is saying that a wise person places a premium in his life on mercy and truth.

What does that mean?

A merciful person is loving and kind and patient. He is compassionate toward those in need. He is also tolerant of differences of opinion. Not every difference is a sign of heresy!

eg--

A wise person is also committed to truth. Hungers to know truth, dispense truth, and preserve truth.

Eg--

Next, a familiar verse...

E. A Wise Person Trusts in the LORD (5).

V 5 "Trust in the Lord..."

"trust"--the Hebrew is graphic. It originally meant to lie helplessly face downwards. Absolute dependence.

A wise person knows he is absolutely dependent upon his Maker and Redeemer. He trusts in the "LORD" (cov't name of God, "Yahweh", the One who redeems people and enters into a relationship with them).

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Conversely...

F. A Wise Person is not Self-Sufficient (5).

V 5 "lean not to your own understanding"

"lean"--not so much "incline" as "support yourself" = "rely" (RSV)

A wise person admits he is a needy person. He needs God's help in his life. He doesn't rely on his own powers or faculties or ingenuities. He admits his needs.

Illust: One of the things that makes A.A. and groups like it so helpful is that it gets people to admit their need.

Illust: Eric Harmon's brother (told about in SS last week), "If I told him he was bad off and needed Christ, he'd pull out his checkbook and say, 'I'm better off than you!'..."

### G. A Wise Person is Aware of God in Life (6).

V 6 "In all your ways acknowledge Him"

To acknowledge God means to "know" God (that's the basic Heb word). But knowing God involves far more than knowing about God. It means that we're in fellowship with Him. We have a relationship with Him. We're aware of Him in our lives. Constantly. In all our ways.

Q: Do you think about God when you're sitting in the drive up line at McDonalds? Are you aware of God's presence when you're on the phone with a client at work?

You see, we're living as wise people when we allow God to be real in our daily lives. When we learn to be aware of Him, and seek to please Him.

Those are the symptoms of wisdom. If we're really wise, they should be apparent in our lives.

Q: Are they in your life?

Tran: Why place a premium on wisdom? Let's look at the benefits, the successes.

## **II. The Successes of Wisdom**

Let's look at 4.

### A. Personal Gain (2)

V 2 "For length of days..."

Do Christians always live to a ripe old age? Do you they always experience prosperity in their lives? Certainly not.

Remember 2 things about v 2:

1. The promise of v 2 was given to Israel.

God redeemed a nation from bondage in Egypt, Israel. He entered into a special relationship with them. He gave them a special piece of real estate known as the Promised Land. He blessed their obedience in special, very physical ways--good crops, large families, long lives. But remember, Proverbs was written for the Israel. The church was not even in existence yet, was it?

Does v 2 apply to us in any way? Yes...

2. The principle of v 2 applies to us.

What's the principle? Obey God (1) and He will bless you with personal gain

(2). What kind of personal gain?

Mt 6:33 "But seek first...and all these things shall be added..."

Ph 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need acc to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

II Cor 9:8 "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work..."

The wise person experiences personal gain. Possibly in this life. Surely in the life to come!

What else is available to a wise person?

#### B. Proper Relationship with God (4)

V 4 "So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God"

Just think of it? Favor with God! Do you know for sure tonight if God is pleased with your life? Do you know for sure? Is He satisfied when He looks at your life? He is if you are walking in wisdom.

What a privilege it is to know you are in a proper relationship with your Maker!

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#### C. Proper Relationships with People (4)

V 4 "...in the sight of man"

I Sam 2:26 "And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favor both with the Lord, and also with men."

Wise people make the best neighbors. The best employees. The best students in school. The best church members. One of the products of applying God's wisdom to our lives is this--We enjoy proper relationships with people.

Illust:

#### D. Direction from God (6)

V 6 "and He shall direct thy paths"

NIV "and He will make your paths straight"

What a benefit! To know that the God of the universe is tailor-making the road I tread in life. As I acknowledge Him, He leads me. He directs my decision-making.

Ps 37:4 "Delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."

Pr 28:26 "He that trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoso walks wisely shall be delivered."

Pr 16:20 "...whoso trusts in the Lord, happy is he."

Pr 29:25 "The fear of man brings a snare; but whoso puts his trust in the Lord shall be safe."

#### **Conclusion:**

We've seen the symptoms of wisdom. And the successes of wisdom.

You say, "I want to be God's kind of person. I want to be a wise person. How can I be that kind of person?"

A: Look to the One who is wisdom and is the source of wisdom."

Lk 2:52 "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."

Col 2:2-3 "...In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

I Cor 1:24 "But unto them who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." (also 1:30)

The only way to be Wise in life is to be rightly related to Jesus Christ.  
Let's reflect on Him Who is the Wisdom of God, Jesus Christ. Let's take inventory, by the Spirit's help, of our relationship with Him. Then let's celebrate together His Work in our behalf as we participate in the Communion.

**Communion:**

Jesus Christ is the Wisdom of God. He came to this world to make sense out of the mess we'd made. He came to give His life for us. He came to restore us to a right relationship with God, our fellowman, and ourselves. Let's worship Him now.