

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity
Nov 12, 2023 | “Accessing the *shalom* of God” | **Proverbs 3:1-12**

Six ways to access God’s “shalom” in this world:

1. _____ his commandments (3:1-2)
2. _____ his love (3:3-4)
3. _____ him wholeheartedly (3:5-6)
4. _____ him in humility (3:7-8)
5. _____ him sacrificially (3:9-10)
6. _____ his discipline (3:11-12)

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Proverbs 3:1-4. How does obedience to God’s commandments lead to our own wellbeing (i.e. peace, *shalom*)? What are some ways to (metaphorically speaking) bind steadfast love and faithfulness around our necks and write them on the tablets of our hearts?

Read Proverbs 3:5-8. Do you trust the Lord with all your heart? Do you acknowledge him in all your ways? What does it mean to acknowledge the Lord in all your ways? When are you tempted to lean on your own understanding? What are some ways that you are tempted to be wise in your own eyes? What results from this mentality?

Read Proverbs 3:9-12. Explain why God encourages generosity, not stinginess or hoarding. Explain how generosity, and not poverty, is the cure for materialism. How does generosity beget generosity? Also evaluate Proverbs 3:9-10 as a truism, and not a promise.

GET PERSONAL

How does “trust in the Lord with all your heart” relate to your salvation on this side of the cross? How is trust related to faith (see Rom 1:17, 10:9-10; Gal 2:20; Eph 2:8-9; 1 John 5:4)? How is trust/faith relevant for your sanctification (see 1 Cor 16:13; 2 Cor 5:7)? Are you trusting God day by day and growing in Christlikeness? If so, how?

Explain why it’s important to give God our “firstfruits” and not our “lastfruits.” Do you give back a portion of your income to the Lord? Why or Why not?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Reread Proverbs 3:11-12. Why is it so important for us to be teachable? Why is it important for us to be lifelong learners (i.e. “disciples”)? What are some ways that you are being chastened right now by the Lord? Do you view this as loving fatherly discipline? Why or why not?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Some of the Proverbs sound awfully similar to the modern prosperity gospel (e.g. Prov 3:9-10; 10:22; 22:4). Does Proverbs theologically support the prosperity gospel? If not, why not? For help with this subject, access the article by David Murray at the Ligonier website:

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/does-proverbs-teach-health-wealth-and-prosperity-gospel>

See also the following article by David W. Jones at the TGC website:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/5-errors-of-the-prosperity-gospel/>