

Are You Following God's Advice?

Ricardo Campos, Teaching Elder Grace Chapel, Orange, CA February 7, 2010

I. Introduction

Proverbs 1 and 2 reveal that following God's advice leads to peace and safety and that doing otherwise leads to destruction. Proverbs 3 does the same as it focuses on different facets of life. It also includes a vivid statement which reveals the priceless value of God's *wisdom* and *understanding*. However, does God's advice really work?

II. If You Want the Secret to Living Life to its Fullest, Follow God's Advice (Proverbs 3)

A. *Follow God's Advice and He'll Give You a Long Peaceful Life* (Prov. 3:1–4)

If you make God's wisdom the arbiter of your decision-making, it will lead to a long peaceful life. Does this mean that life will be free of tension and strife? No, it means that God will give you peace in spite of the tension and strife: Acts 7:51–60.

B. *Follow God's Advice and He'll Make Your Paths Straight and Give You Strong Health* (Prov. 3:5–8)

Solomon adds force to what he's already said and includes a caution: we must not follow our own advice. Rather, we must follow God's implicitly (we must internalize it). If we do this, God will guide our path and grant us strong health.

C. *Follow God's Advice and He'll Bless Your Possessions* (Prov. 3:9–10)

God's advice now focuses on our possessions. If we honor God first with the fruits of our labor, He'll give us more fruits.

D. *When God Spanks You for Not Following His Advice, do not Despise it Because He Loves You* (Prov. 3:11–12)

God now addresses what our reaction should be when He spans us for not following His advice. When He spans us, we must recognize that He's doing so because He loves us. A parent who does not discipline his/her child hates his/her child, Prov. 13:24—God does not hate us.

- E. *Follow God's Advice (His Wisdom and Understanding) and You will Find the True Source of Happiness* (Prov. 3:13–18)

God reveals just how valuable His advice (His wisdom and understanding) is; it's worth more than any precious metal or jewel you can find because it can deliver what they cannot: *length of days, riches, honor and peace*.

- F. *God's Advice (His Wisdom and Understanding) is Omnipotent* (Prov. 3:19–20)

The *wisdom and understanding* that promises true peace and happiness in 3:13–18 is not general wisdom and understanding, but that which belongs to God and it is **all-powerful**.

- G. *Follow God's Advice and He'll Give You Peaceful Rest and Safety* (Prov. 3:21–26)

Following God's advice will give you a peace of mind (that'll prevent sleepless nights) and safety (even from the wicked who seek you harm).

- H. *Follow God's Advice and He'll Teach You how to Properly Deal with Others, Including Your Neighbor* (Prov. 3:27–30)

God now talks about our dealings with others. Dealing with others can sometimes lead to terrible things. But if we follow God's advice, we'll know exactly how to treat and deal with others.

- I. *Follow God's Advice and He'll keep You from the Ways of the Wicked and their Curse* (Prov. 3:31–35)

Now God gives advice on envying and following the ways of those who prosper by evil means. Have you ever said to yourself, "Playing by the rules doesn't work; I should lie, cheat, and steal like the rest." God tells you why this is not a good idea: you'll bring God's curse down upon yourself and miss out on His blessing.

III. Can God Really Deliver These Incredible Promises to Those Who Follow His Advice?

A young man asks for advice about a dilemma at work: his boss gives him an assignment that *may* lead to sin and he's concerned about what his co-workers will think, since they know he's a Christian.....can God deliver this young man?

IV. Conclusion

God's advice promises longevity, peace of mind, honor, riches, protection, etc. And it does exactly that for all who would follow it.