

**“Wisdom For 2024”**  
**Proverbs 3:1-35**  
**New Year’s Message, December 31, 2023**

**Proverbs 3:1-6**

New Year’s is traditionally a time of “**Reflection,**” at the same time the making of “**New Commitments,**”

**Romans 12:2**

**Psalms** – Describe - A Walk Before God! (The Devotional Life)

**Proverbs** – Describe - A Walk Before Man! (The Daily Life)

**Our English word - “Proverb”** is made up of two Latin words: **Pro** “*instead of*” and **Verba** “*words*” A proverb is a sentence that is given “*instead of many words*” “*A short statement based on long experience*”

**The Author** – Solomon and a few others. **Proverbs 1:1 The proverbs of Solomon 10:1, and 25:1**

**1 Kings 4:32 He also spoke 3,000 Proverbs and his songs were 1,005**

**Proverbs** includes **only 800** of Solomon’s **3,000 proverbs.**

**When Written** – Written by **931 B.C.**

**Proverbs Calls Out 3 Classes of People Who Need God’s Wisdom:**

- 1. The Fool** - Person who is dense, sluggish, careless, and self-satisfied.
- 2. The Simple** - Believes everything and everybody and lacks discernment.
- 3. The Scorer** – literally means “*to make a mouth*” Mocks God’s wisdom because it is too high for them.

**The Thought Of Our Passage:** “Knowing God’s Will Comes Through Knowing God’s Word, Which Should Produce Obedience And God’s Blessings.”

**9 Nuggets of Wisdom For 2024:**

**1. Verses 1-4 Be A Committed Disciple Of Jesus Christ: Proverbs 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, The will of God is revealed in the Word of God to the child of God! Psalm 119:105 Disciple – “follower of the teacher and his teaching”**

**But let your heart keep my commandments; To Study The Word must include the desire of Obedience to the Word of God.**

**Proverbs 3:2-3**

**Do not let kindness and truth leave you;** (NIV "love and faithfulness")  
**kindness – (Love)** root word "to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior;  
to be merciful, to have pity upon" (We could say "**Love in action**")

God demonstrates kindness towards sinners. **Titus 3:4-5**

**truth (Faithfulness)** root; "to build up or support, to be firm or to be  
permanent in assurance" (**Basically Truth In Action, Being Faithful To  
The Truth, Continuing In The Right Thing**)

**John 8:31-32; 1 Corinthians 4:2**

**Proverbs 3:4** Love and Faithfulness - These must be foundational to all we  
do.

**2. Verses 5-8 Seek To Obey God's Will: Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD  
with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding.**

**Proverbs 3:5-6 "Our obedience prepares us to receive and enjoy  
what God has planned for us."**

**Trust** – "firm belief in or confidence in, faith in or reliance on the person"  
(Idea of placing your body in a hammock, full weight! In the Lord)

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart – (Used of persons not  
nations)**

**John 15:10; Philippians 4:6-9**

**And do not lean on your own understanding. "The Just Shall Live By  
Faith Not By Explanations."**

**Proverbs 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,** "to admit being true;  
to affirm as genuine" We are to live out our belief.

**God is ever watching; He is ever mindful of all that is taking place.  
We need to look for Him.**

**And He will make your paths straight.** (NKJV) "He shall direct your  
paths" the fulfillment of that promise is centered on our obedience to the  
Lord.

**Proverbs 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;** We would say, "Don't  
be a know it all, don't take yourself too seriously" **Ecclesiastes 5:2**

**Fear the LORD** – "reverence, to be frightened, to dread" true relationship  
with God; there is a holy fear, a dread of Him. **Hebrews 10:31**

**and turn away from evil.** It is evil to exalt oneself, and it is one's  
opinions that get one into trouble. **Proverbs 14:12**

**Proverbs 3:8 (Fear God, turning from evil)** The results are health and  
wellbeing. **Obedience to the Word can add years to our life and life to  
your years.**

**3. Verses 9-10 Share God's Blessings: Proverbs 3:9 Honor the LORD from your wealth,** we need to see that all that we have belongs to the Lord. We are simply Stewards (Managers) of God.

**And from the first of all your produce;** The Old Testament Jews brought the Lord the firstlings of their flocks (**Exodus 13:1-2**) and the first fruits of their fields (**Leviticus 23:9-14**), **Matthew 6:33**

**If we don't faithfully give to the Lord, we don't really trust the Lord.**

**Proverbs 3:10 Malachi 3:10** only place in Scripture God says Test Me!

**4. Verses 11-12 Don't Despise God's Discipline: Proverbs 3:11 discipline – "training, instruction" do not reject the discipline of the LORD,** we are not to *"despise, turn away from, refuse God's training/discipline"*

**Or loathe His reproof,** *"to be detested by, to be grieved, idea of literally cutting oneself off, like to amputate"*

**Proverbs 3:12 Hebrews 12:4-13** We have to grow up!

**5. Verses 13-24 Seek God's Wisdom:**

**Verses 13-20 Characteristics Of Wisdom – (Knowledge)** *is learning, information, intelligence, data, facts, intellect, and experience.*

**Proverbs 3:14-20**

**Verses 21-24 Characteristics Of Wisdom – (Know How)** *Perception, discernment, judgment, reason, insight, prudence, discretion, and just plain old common sense.*

**Proverbs 3:21-24**

**6. Verses 25-26 Don't Allow Anxiety To Grip You: Proverbs 3:25 Do not be afraid of sudden fear, (Anxiety)** do not be gripped by fear!

**Nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes;** Not to be controlled by a possible rush over, assault of the wicked.

**Philippians 4:6-9**

**2 Timothy 3:13**

**Proverbs 3:26** God's Word, obedience to His Word, walking in His wisdom, and fearing God brings great security. Fear God, don't fear man!

**Matthew 6:33-34**

**7. Verses 27-28 Don't Delay Doing The Right Thing: Proverbs 3:27** This goes for employers/employees, goes for spouses, towards our children, relatives, friends, and neighbors.

**Proverbs 3:28**

**Don't postpone, don't put off doing the right things. So many regrets because we fail to act right now!**

## **8. Verses 29-30 Don't Become Bitter And Nasty:**

**Proverbs 3:29**

**Proverbs 3:30 Bitterness, resentment, just being nasty. If they have done you harm, clear it up! Ephesians 4:31-32**

## **9. Verses 31-32 Don't Imitate The Wicked: Proverbs 3:31**

**Society** - The bad are good and the good bad. Those that can calculate revenge.

**Proverbs 3:32** What a contrast!

**Verses 33-35 Additional Promises If We Keep The Above Commands.  
Proverbs 3:33-35**

### **Application: "How to Prepare For 2024"**

- + Make The Church Calendar Your Calendar! (Word, Prayer, Fellowship, Service, Prayer Weeks, and Witness Matters!)**
- + Get A Good Night's Rest** – Learn to say no to commitments that will keep you from being at your best for worship.
- + Prepare For Sunday, Wednesdays** - meals, clothes, children. Children should never ask if we are going to worship, they should just expect it.
- + Give Full Attention When Attending The Services** – listen for His Message to you. Don't get sidetracked on the messenger.
- + Application.** Not how I feel but how I act that really matters.
- + Those Attending 6 Months or Longer Are Privileged To Serve -**  
*Knowing always involves practice. Knowing is Growing!*
- + Pray For The Pastors and Wives, Staff, Leadership, Services, Ministries, Preparation time for study. Delivery of the Word.**
- + Pray for the protection of God.** Leadership is always under attack.