

Proverbs 3:5-8, "The Path You Choose"

- ↪ When embarking on a journey of significance, the path we choose matters.
 - ✓ As believers in Christ, we are all headed to the same destination, but the road we take will make a difference.
 - ✓ Proverbs 3:5-8 - "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones."
 - ↪ As there are requirements tied to blessings found in scripture, there are prerequisites to finding the right path.
 - ✓ Trust, do/be what God wants you to do/be (Proverbs 3:5). The Lord is the Object of our trust.
 - ↪ God lays out two options. The Lord is our Supervisor, Boss, Master, and Creator.
 1. You, rely on your own understanding. We have limited understanding. Your adaptation to how life works, your justifications made with only partial knowledge.
 2. "Not self" is reiterated. "The greatest deception men suffer is from their own opinions," Leonardo DaVinci.
 - ↪ Fear - Respect the Lord (Proverbs 3:7). He will never lead you to evil, but instead to shun it.
 1. The clear focus point is always the Lord. Not a tipping point. Just compare the qualities of God verses the qualities of "Self."
 2. Trust (Faith) is the vehicle upon which Grace travels. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast," Ephesians 2:8-9.
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- ↪ Your experience and expertise are not primary, God is, so trust in Him is active, not passive. To trust is to obey God's timing and process. God does not send us on a path, He walks there with us. "God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you," Matthew 28:20. "surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age," Hebrews 13:5.
 - ↪ God desires a wholehearted trust, an ongoing two way relationship with Him. In verse 6 we see that our relationship is fleshed out by "Ever Acknowledging His Presence," i.e. constant communication, which is all encompassing so, we can be all submitting!
 - ✓ Illustration: Professor dodged embarrassment by receiving "real time feedback." Are you looking to God in that same way?
 - ✓ "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things," Colossians 3:2.
 - ✓ "I will praise the LORD at all times; His praise will always be on my lips," Psalm 34:1.
 - ↪ As we constantly and continually acknowledge Him, He shows us:
 - ✓ The Path (verse 6) God will use "powers that be," "the leadership" in your life to direct you onto the right path. As we previously studied in verse 4, His favor is upon you when you are obedient.
 - ✓ My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man," Proverbs 3:1-35
 - ✓ God leads where you can get your skills and personality developed. God prepares you for each new excursion that He has for you! What you need is at the intersection of God's place and God's time. The best benefit is the blessing of His presence and guidance!
 - ↪ What is your path without God? Fear the Lord and shun the evil one.
 - ✓ In health, trust brings peace, anxiety does not enhance your health. Worry does not help your body heal, just the opposite is true! Guilt and shame are there to bring repentance and then relief! If we run down the wrong path of self-interest, we will never know (this side of heaven) what we missed. God's provision will be found on the path He has for you. When you trust and acknowledge, He will guide you, it is your choice. The path we choose matters, so let God be the One to direct you.
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