



## PRESENCE ACKNOWLEDGED: A God for All My Ways

**Sunday's Teaching:** How surprising is it that the Lord would love to be acknowledged in "all our ways"? Why? Not because God is intrusive, but out of his love, He longs to "make our ways straight."

**Key Question:** What is God's core principle-promise found in Proverbs 3:5-6?

**Proverbs 3:5-6:** When eagerly trusted in all things, God Himself brings a wise "straightness" to every decision, endeavor or relationship in life.

**Let's get STARTED** – Put on your "remembering caps" and think about someone you knew – someone who influenced you – who was extraordinarily wise. Share what you saw in their lives as you assess:

- ◆ How did this person demonstrate his/her wisdom?
- ◆ What wise--perhaps even surprising--insight did you see them speak or use that left an impression on you?
- ◆ Were the wisest person(s) you knew also godly?
- ◆ Finally, for what are you looking for wisdom in your current stretch of life? And, where are you looking? With whom are you consulting?

**Let's EXPLORE in the WORD** Proverbs 3 is packed with wisdom. **Read it together!** As you do this study, have a blank sheet of paper and a pen handy. *In his commentary Proverbs, Derek Kidner remarks: "Whereas chapter 2 emphasized the moral stability which grows with wisdom, chapter 3 particularly promises serenity. This is seen as the fruit of a thoroughgoing godliness, three aspects of which mark the main division of the chapter." These three aspects are:*

- "Glad commitment" (vv. 1-10),  
Read the verses and list **the COMMITMENTS** a wise person makes and **the RESULTS** a wise person should experience
- "Patient quest" (vv. 11-20) – How would you describe **the "quest"** of these verses? Why is "patience" needed? What is the outcome?
- "Quiet integrity" (vv. 21-35) – What are some of the wisdom keys **for living a life of integrity?** (note all the "do not's" in this section). Pick out one or two that impress you, or perhaps are currently applicable.

Interestingly, Paul points us to a PERSON who can supply us with wisdom. Take a look at Colossians 2:1-4. In light of this, **where else** (besides Proverbs) **might we find wisdom for living life well?**

**Let's Prioritize APPLICATION** - Finish your consideration of wisdom with a look at James 3:14-18. How does this Apostle urge us to display the wisdom God's Spirit gives us (cf. James 1:2-4...note the wisdom available for tough times)? Focus especially on 3:17.

Of course, we realize the following. **#1** If the Spirit is flowing through us (in control), God's wisdom has a greater opportunity to attend our lives. **#2** If God is making our day, we have a daily input of our Father's heart and mind to express in our lives.

Pray for God's wisdom to fully control you in whatever challenges you may be facing in life. Tune in and pursue the One in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

*Let's live the mission!* Pastor David (Staff)

Thanks for leading this week's study in your Connect Group. This week's message came from Proverbs 3. Here is some helpful background from Derek Kidner (Proverbs)

...The Book of Proverbs "is not a portrait-album or a book of manners: it offers a key to life. The samples of behavior which it holds up to view are all assessed by one criterion, which could be summed up in the question, 'Is this wisdom or folly?' This is a unifying approach to life, because it suits the most commonplace realms as fully as the most exalted.

**Wisdom leaves its signature on anything well made or well judged**, from an apt remark to the universe itself, from a shrewd policy (which springs from practical insight) to a noble action (which presupposes moral and spiritual discernment). In other words, God's wisdom is equally at home in the realms of nature and art, of ethics and politics, to mention no others, and forms a single basis of judgment for them all."

Here's what we hope your group members will know, feel, and do.

## KNOW

- We have the opportunity to conduct our lives with God's wisdom. Few places in Scripture so extol the availability of wisdom from the Lord as does the book of Proverbs. **For your reference as the study leader**, take some moments with **Proverbs 8**, where wisdom (personified) speaks to all who will listen about the incomparable value of God's wisdom.
- This study asks participants to think specifically about how God's wisdom can help in the particular circumstances of their lives. GIVE YOUR GROUP MEMBERS a chance to think specifically about this opportunity. It will make the study more valuable and helpful to them.

## FEEL

- Proverbs 3:5 urges that we should "not lean on our own understanding." IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOUR GROUP MEMBERS *feel* (a) that their own wisdom is likely inadequate for what they face, and (b) they truly need the wisdom that comes from God.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> bullet in the LET'S GET STARTED section has some important questions. Take a bit of time here! 😊

## DO

- APPLICATION – make sure that participants make a personal application to what they are facing. Because we are so often in the habit of "relying on our own wisdom," there can be some important break throughs here on truly "trusting in the Lord with all their hearts."

**HAVE FUN! Enjoy each other and grow!**