

# PROVERBS

## Lesson 3 – Wisdom Teaches: “Fear and Trust the Lord”

1. One of the things Proverbs instructs us to do is to trust in the Lord. Read Proverbs 3:5-6. How deep is our trust of the Lord to be? What are we to do? What will the Lord do as we trust in Him and acknowledge Him in all our ways? (“To acknowledge” literally means “to know in an intimate personal way.”)
2. Read 29:25. Why is the fear of people contrasted with trust in the Lord? What are the consequences of each?
3. In order to get the most out of wisdom’s teaching how are we to approach it? What are we to do with it once we have learned it? What is the goal of wisdom’s teaching?
4. Proverbs also enjoins us to fear the Lord. In the past we have learned to fear the Lord means to regard Him with reverent awe, to trust in Him as the Lord of our life, and to serve Him in willing obedience. Read 14:26. What does the fear of the Lord provide to those who fear Him? How is this also true for their children? See also 18:10; 30:5.
5. Read 14:27. What awaits each person who walks on the path of life without the fear of the Lord? What does the fear of the Lord provide?
6. Proverbs tells us a number of things about God whom we are to fear and trust. What do the following verses tell us about what God knows and does: 15:11; 20:27; 16:2; 16:4; 22:12; 29:26?
7. What does 11:20 tell us about what the Lord detests and what He delights in? How is the converse of this stated in 14:2?

8. Proverbs enlightens us about other things that the Lord detests and delights in. What are they according to these verses: 6:16-19; 15:8-9; 15:26?
  
9. According to 3:3-4; 21:3; 29:18 what should characterize the lives of those who fear the Lord and seek to do what delights Him?
  
10. Our relationship with the Lord and how it is lived out in our lives is no light matter. Proverbs has much to say about the life and death consequences involved. Read 11:19. What two groups of people are contrasted here? What contrast is made between them?
  
11. Sometimes when Proverbs talks about life, the emphasis is on a harmonious, productive, prosperous life on earth. This is sometimes contrasted with the living death that the wicked live apart from God or with the early death they are likely to bring on themselves by their actions. But the eternal dimension of life and death are also in view in Proverbs. Read 12:28 and 14:32. How do these verses show the eternal dimensions of life and death?
  
12. Compare 13:14; 15:24; and 14:27 to 14:12. Where is the path of life to be found? What can we not trust to lead us to life?