

Intro-

"Rules To Go By"

TEXT: Proverbs: 3:5-10

INTRO: ① Many graduations this time of year -
② Many of our Christian young people,
leaving the safe cocoon of H.S., friends, family -> to go out in the wicked world

Some
③ The Bible has rules to go by, to direct their paths and for them to abide by -
④ Also for all Christians to follow.

*In the first section (vs 5,6), the son is given three rules to go by if he desires God to "direct his paths."

-These rules are:

- 1) "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart" (vs 5)
- 2) "Lean not unto thine own understanding" (vs 5)
- 3) "In all thy ways acknowledge him" (vs 6)

*In the second section there are four rules to abide by:

- 1) "Be not wise in thine own eyes" (vs 7)
- 2) "Fear the Lord" (vs 7)
- 3) "Depart from evil" (vs 7)
- 4) "Honour the Lord with thy substance" (vs 9)

*The reward for keeping this second set of instructions is:

- 1) "It shall be health to thy navel" (vs 8)
- 2) "Marrow to thy bones" (vs 8)
- 3) "Thy barns shall be filled" (vs 10)
- 4) "Thy presses shall burst out with new wine" (vs 10)

*The first set of instructions are spiritual and have to do with:

-God guiding and leading the wise man into all truth and righteousness

-And the perfect will of God for his life.

*The second set is plainly practical; it is for the gaining of material blessing and prosperity.

I Rules to Go If you desire God to "direct your paths" -

a) "Trust in the Lord"

- heart-felt confidence which leans and relies on the Lord and counts Him faithful - "who hath promised" -
- ~~heart-felt confidence~~ that believes the Lord, when he said
He. 13.5 "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."
- heart-felt confidence that boldly says -
"The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."
- heart-felt confidence that has learned
"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."
- Do you realize, that folks are quick to place their faith and trust in man, before they will in God. -"
- Reason so-many people are getting ripped-off -
- Believe + Trust can artists - before God. -
- Teaching our child this also - e.g. - kids going with + being misled
- Prime example with Christians is that they would rather place their trust in a so-called Bible scholar who attacks AV 1611 -
~~to intercept the Bible, than the Holy Spirit of God~~
~~Oh, I couldn't possibly understand KJV Bible~~

(2)

• Instead of placing their trust in the Holy Spirit, the author of the Bible, who indwells each believer to be their Bible Teacher. -

5) "with all thine heart" -

• Not easy to do - especially times of trial - as described - in He 11:36-38 - when can't see the light at the end of tunnel -

• Can be done - Paul - e.g. 2 Cor 11:20-30 - -

So, rule No. 1 if 'desire God to direct your path' is "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart"

Rule No. 2 -

b) "lean not unto thine own understanding"

• Is a commandment which is nearly impossible for an educated man. -

• Little record of any great Educator, Scientist, or Psychologist who ever did anything But lean on his own understanding.

• That is want these so-called institutions of higher-learning is teaching - to lean on the understanding of Darwin - / His Theory of Evolution.

- Remember, that is exactly what it is a "theory" -
- I rather lean on God's understanding, God's Book which says I came from Adam -

not Ape. -

< Do stuff on theories - How Earth made big bang - accident
No accidents with God - does things descend in order

- Even modern "Christian" Education consists of leaning on the understanding of fallible men as they sit in judgment on the word of God. -

look at creation
Beauty of nature

- Secular education - simply teaching the student how to rely on his "own understanding" (ie. after he has been demoralized, brain-washed, and converted to a socialistic agnostic by the professors) instead of the Bible or the Lord.

- Every notice the change some of the young people go through after one year of secular education -

- They talk different.
- Dress different
- Look different

reprogrammed - by their professors - whose understanding they have learn unto

↓ Sad, part parents paying big bucks —

- More education - intellectual harder to get "sure" attitude have all answers - don't need faith - everything measurable

The last rule to go by if desire Lord to direct your paths

Rule No. 3 -

c) "In all thy ways acknowledge him" -

- This means full recognition of God's hand and leading in all phases of life and all aspects of success, joy, sorrow, adversity, opposition, blessing, bereavement, and attainment -

- See

- The Lord God is to be acknowledged in the:

- dining room - automobile - classroom - restaurants -

- bedroom - factory - bridal Chamber

- living room - office - fields

- bathroom - barracks - highways

- carport - showerroom - motels

and where He cannot be "acknowledged" openly and immediately, the Christian has no place going.

- He is to be consulted about matters of ~~going~~

- dating - homemaking - working

- study - buying - retiring

- marriage - selling - saving

- separation - building - and religion

- divorce - planting

see Phil. 4:4-6.

• Reason Christians mess up their lives don't consult the almighty to direct their paths

- Where any man, church, religion, sacrament, teaching, tradition, or authority takes precedence over Him, it is to be ignored or removed.
The Bible tells us in →
↓
- Colossians 1:18 -
"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."
- Read Colossians 1:12-17
- The Christian who really believes Colossians 1:12-17 does not hesitate to consult the Lord in prayer constantly on every phase of life, instantly, at every occasion.
- Consequently, he obtains answers to problems and peace of mind which the vast majority of Christians know nothing about and fight all their lives to obtain.
- See James 4:1-4.
- People use prayer as a "give me" "shopping list" - Instead of the main source of consultation
- Just as the woman with the issue blood consulted many physicians instead of the Lord and as a result had her pocket-book drained and even grew worse.

d) As a result of following the rules -

Prov 3: 5-6

of:

- Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;
- Lean not unto thine own understanding;
- In all thy ways acknowledge him -

- Result - "... he shall direct thy paths."

• David put it another way -

Psalms 37:23

- "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way."

• David put it even stronger when he said -

Psalms 73:24

"Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory."

• You see "He shall direct thy paths" is plainly conditioned on forsaking your own humanistic, reasonable, rational "understanding" in many situations -

• Paul, a Pharisee-, an educated lawyer who got saved gives us this advice -

- See 1 Cor 2:4 - he could have leaned unto his own understanding - and spoke with enticing words of man's wisdom - but did not - He gave it over to God - didn't do the Lord's work in the flesh but the spirit.

In fact this what Paul said about all his fancy degrees and education -

// See Phil. 3:3-8 -

We have looked at the rules to go by if you desire God to direct your paths -

Now, No. 2 - we want to look at the rules to abide by and the reward for keeping them.

II Rules to Abide by -

- a) v7. "Be not wise in thine own eyes:" - is a universal teaching of the Bible found in either testament. "Conceited" - having a high opinion of one's self.
- Romans 12:16 - tells us -
"Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits."
 - Churches get into trouble when not ^{of} one mind - when individual members get infected with the personal pronoun "I" syndrome - "I" did this and "I" did that. "I" know what "I" am doing -

②

In other words too wise in their own eyes to take instruction and admonishment from their Pastor - who is just trying to do his job.

Gal 6:3 - gets to the heart of the thing -

"For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself."

- The only people God uses are those who know they are nothing in the sight of a holy God.
- God uses folks who are humble and faithful.
- God is more interested in availability as oppose to ability.
- Such men as Nietzsche, Russell, Dewey, and Company are not to be taken seriously by the man who is trusting the Lord.
- These men are just light weights and what they have to say is nothing but light reading, when you got nothing else better to do.

- No wise man should take a man seriously who thinks that his plan of salvation, church teaching, traditional upbringing, knowledge of religion, philosophy, or outlook on life is superior to the Bible. —

Proverb 26:12 - has something to say to this type of man -
 "Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit?
 there is more hope of a fool than of him."
 more hope for a fool than for someone who is conceited

- So. Rule No. 1 we should abide by is -
 "Be not wise in thine own eyes"

• Rule No 2 is

vs 7 b) "fear the LORD"

"fear of the LORD" is The Fear of the LORD, not reverential trust -

• The word means "to terrify" or "to scare" -

• Paul refers to this fear as "trembling" in

Phil 2:12, Ephesians 6:5, 1 Cor 2:3 -

- "the fear of the LORD" - This definition is given clearly by God Himself - in Exodus 20:18-20.

↳ READ.

• Notice - no "godly reverence" in the passage; the people are scared out of their wits.

• You see the problem with man today is that he doesn't fear God.

• Instead, he fears man, and the Bible tells us the "fear of man bringeth a snare" -

• Men who don't tremble and quake before God tremble and quake before men -

• e.g. Herod, Felix, and Agrippa when dealing with the Apostle Paul.

Pilate when dealing with Jesus -

• Reason folks don't witness and hand out gospel tracts - "fear of man" - They tremble and quake before men.

• Reason our society out of control - no fear of God - no fear of retribution for their sins - from God -

even
years ago - unsaved fear God - etc.

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So, rule No. 2 to abide by - is
 "fear the LORD"

c) No No. 3. to abide by is -
 vs 7 "Depart from evil" ←→

- The Bible tells us in Proverbs 16:6 -
 "... by the fear of the LORD men depart evil"

so, we see - one of the by-products of
 fearing God is to make a man depart from evil -

So, the reason so much evil in the world -
 "no fear" of God -

e.g. in scriptures - of departing from evil -
 when Potiphar's wife tempted to Joseph
 to lie with him - and as she caught
 him by his garment - The Bible tells
 Ge 39:12 that Joseph - "fled and got him out"

Prior to this Joseph told Potiphar's wife
 when she came after him -

"... how then can I do this great
 wickedness, and sin against God."
 Joseph had the fear of the LORD.

You see the problem with Christians today instead of departing from evil -

They departing from - the scriptures,
from the sanctuary and from the
SAVIOUR -

So, we see Rule No. 3 to abide by
is depart from evil -

The last rule and rule No. 4 is

d.) "Honour the LORD with thy substance,
and with the firstfruits of all thine increase".

The universal testimony to the truth of the verse is that people who have honoured the Lord with their substance have been blessed tremendously.

Although the New Testament does not guarantee material prosperity for the "liberal" soul "

Remember. # Tim 3.12 - "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

If your a Christian because you are in it for the dough forget it. -

- False doctrine about praying for "material prosperity"
- Pray for that new car so you can consume it upon your flesh -
- Remember, Paul said in Phil 4:19 -
 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." -
 Key-word "need" not "want".
- Although Paul does not wind up with the goods and substance of Abraham -
- Still 90% of Christians in this age who honour God with material things are blessed in return with material blessings. - See Malachi 3:10.
- It is never a mistake to trust God with money - it is always a mistake to distrust Him with it. -
- If you are to trust Him as says in v5 - "with all thine heart" certainly includes your billfold and pocket book. - see - MT 6:20-21.

II • If you can't trust God with your money, you cannot trust Him with your family, property, time, or your soul!

• The prosperous child of God needs to remember I Tim 6: 6, 8, 17-

• Heed the lesson of Luke 12, regarding the man whose "barns were full"

• And then trusted in the barn-loaded instead of the One who loaded it (MAT 13:30).

III - Finally, we want to look at the rewards for keeping the second set of instruction -

a) "It shall be health to thy navel" - vs 8

- The "navel" is used metaphorically for the "whole body"

"marrow to thy bones"

The bones need lubrication and marrow which is apparent from Psalm 32:3 & Job 21:24

- The idea is clear -
- for good physical health. the wise man should obey verse 7 of Proverbs 3
- for increase in material prosperity he should obey verse 9. - of Proverbs 3.

• So, the result of "Be not wise in thine own eyes, fear the LORD, and depart from evil"

• IS - "It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones." - good physical health -

And the result of: "Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase."

• IS: "So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" - material prosperity -

We want to observe. That it is "new wine" that comes out of the wine press, not fermented liquor (old wine - earthly joy)

Compare this with Isaiah 65:8 and notice that "new wine" is found "in the cluster" and coming out of the winepress.

it is this wine which Jesus squeezes out of "fruit of the vine" at the Last Supper (MAT 26.29).

The Lord Jesus Christ was not a wine bibber and he doesn't want us to be one either.

Scriptures are clear - abstinence - ^{from} fermented liquor -

Conclusion • This morning we have looked at some God-given rules to go by if you desire God to direct your paths -

• We also looked at some God-given rules to abide by - and the reward of keeping these rules.

• These divine instructions - are more important than what a person will learn in 12 years of schooling - or four years of college -

The scripture tells that we can have more understanding than all your teachers if you meditate on the word of God and keep, obey, follow - the word of God. - see Psalm 119: 99-100 -

So, what ~~or what~~ advice or instructions can we give to the Class of 1994 - and all future graduates - Read Proverbs 3: 5-10. -

Christian - how can your child be following these instructions if you are not? -

The Bible tells us in Proverbs 22:6 -

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Have you prepared your child, and armed your child for what he has to face in this wicked world?

That is your God-given responsibility - stop trying to push ^{it} off on the schools, the teachers, the government, drug-cure - or worst of all the TV.

What kind of testimony for The Lord Jesus Christ are your children.

- Christians who are not parents -
- You may not have children - , but you still have a testimony -
- Do you follow the God-given rules we have discussed, here this morning.

- Who is directing your path?
- Who are you trusting in - to guide you?
- Are you leaning upon your education - your own understanding, or some other educated fool to direct you?
- Who are you acknowledging - yourself, friends, family, your school teachers, university professors?

- Are you having it pretty rough - financially?
- Are you in poor health? -
- Quit possibly it could be because
 - you are wise in your own eyes -
 - you don't fear the Lord -
 - you have departed from the things of God - for the things of world
 - you don't honor the Lord with thy substance and the first fruits of all thine - increase -

Christian during our time of invitation won't you
come to this old-fashion altar. allow Holy Spirit
to direct your path -

I answered - you need to trust in the Lord
with all thine heart " to save you -

Don't lean unto how you think^{you} to go to heaven -
or what religion and man says -
- Lean unto what the Bible says -
" Ro 10:13 - Ro 10:9 -

Acknowledge - That is only the Lord Jesus
Christ who can save you -

(Give Prayer) During our time of invitation -
won't ask Jesus to save you - + tell him to you
accept him as your personal Saviour -
Call upon his name -

STAND for Prayer.