

PROVERBS: Wisdom for Living

Study 5: Trust and Obey: A certain path to happiness

READ Proverbs 3:1-12 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig Baxter's [sermon](#).

Obedience to God and trust in Him represent the path to happiness. However, in our sinful nature, all of us have a tendency towards self-autonomy. We tend to lean on our own understanding and not God's for our decision-making. Not only is this morally wrong, but it is personally destructive, leading to anxiety and sadness, and away from a loving relationship with God. In his third lecture, the father tells the son that wisdom, which leads to life, looks like earnest obedience to the Lord's commands from the heart and wholehearted trust in the Lord. It is through this means that true happiness, peace, and joy are found.

Main lesson: God promises happiness to His children who obey Him earnestly and trust Him wholeheartedly, whether in prosperity or pain.

Questions:

1. A. Read the passage and identify the various blessings presented. Which one stands out to you and why? Are the blessings conditional?

B. What from the text is the root cause of missing wisdom and not receiving the blessings?

2. From the following verses explain the importance of "keeping" or obeying Christ's words. Consider the role "love" for Christ plays in obedience. Also consider the role the Holy Spirit plays.
John 14:15-31

John 15:10-11

3. What does trust look like in a relationship? How do you know if you fully trust someone?
4. From vv. 5-6, how would you define trusting in God and how might this link to "keeping" the commandments of God in your heart?
5. How might you know if you are trusting God or "leaning on your own understanding"? In what circumstances are you tempted to look to your own understanding and not trust in God?
6. Under the Mosaic covenant earthly blessing was promised for obedience (Mal 3:10-11). Under Christ's covenant we are promised sufficiency now (Luke 12:31) and eternal riches later (Matt 6:19-20). How might we "honour" (to see as weighty) God through our wealth now? See Luke 19:8-9.
7. How are we to view God's "discipline" (vv. 11-12) and why is this helpful to remember when going through trials? See Heb 12:5; Rev 3:19.
8. What question has most encouraged or convicted you? Why?

STOP AND PRAY:

Adore: the Lord for His steadfast love and faithfulness toward His children

Confess: times where you have leant on your own understanding and not on God's

Pray: for growth in your obedience and trust for God, born from a deep love for Christ