Tonight as we bring this series of messages from the Book of Proverbs to a close we are going to be focusing our thoughts on “Heavenly Wisdom About Trusting God.”

One of my favorite scriptures in all the Bible is in Proverbs 3:5,6. This is our main text for this evening. Please turn with me to it.

Proverbs 3:5,6 (NKJV) Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

PRAYER

Introduction

“In God we trust.”

Those four words first appeared on the 2 CENT PIECE in 1864, when at the height of the Civil War a strong Christian movement was made to recognize our nation’s trust in Almighty God.

Although the words “In God we trust” were minted on a number of coins after that, it was not until July 11, 1955 that President Dwight David Eisenhower signed Public Law 140 making it mandatory that all U.S. coinage and currency display that motto: “In God we trust.”

That short, but simple motto reminds us that our trust is not in man......nor is our trust in any governmental or financial institution, our trust is in Almighty God.

But for those of us who are Christians, those words “In God we trust” are much more than a motto. It is to be a way of life for us.
Solomon writes:  Proverbs 3:5,6 (NKJV) Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

There is great power in these two verses!

.........In these two verses GOD IS INVITING ME INTO A DEEPER, CLOSER, MORE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

.........In these two verses GOD IS PROVIDING ME WITH THE PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL SOLUTION FOR DEALING WITH LIFE’S TOUGHEST SITUATIONS.

.........And in these two verses GOD IS REVEALING TO ME THE WISDOM OF TRUSTING COMPLETELY IN HIM.......AND THE FOOLISHNESS OF TRUSTING IN MYSELF.

How much fuller and richer and deeper our lives would be if we would learn to completely trust in the LORD rather than trusting in ourselves.

As we study these verses more carefully we are going to see three important admonitions regarding putting our trust in God. And then we will see the wonderful promise God gives us when we trust in Him completely.

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The first admonition is to............

I. TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART

1. In our English dictionary.........the word trust means: “to place confidence in.”

But “trusting in the LORD“ means something much deeper than just “placing CONFIDENCE in the Lord.”

TRUST means to “enter into a deep, personal relationship with God based upon complete surrender and submission.”
2. TRUST is an important part of any healthy relationship.

*TRUST is extremely important in the marriage relationship isn’t it? It is absolutely critical that a husband be able to trust his wife and a wife be able to trust her husband.

*TRUST is extremely important in the relationship between a parent and child also. Children need to know they can trust their parents to love them and care for them and protect them.

*TRUST is also extremely important in a working relationship between a boss and employee.

3. When it comes to our human relationships TRUST doesn’t always come easy. Trust has to be built between two people. Trust has to be earned.

   Trusting another human being requires us to spend time with that person and to get to know that person….and to get close to that person.

4. Likewise TRUST is extremely important in our relationship with God.

   Notice the admonition once again: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart!” God doesn’t want us to half trust Him, He wants us to wholeheartedly trust Him. He doesn’t want us to trust Him some of the time or most of the time, God wants us to trust Him all the time. He doesn’t just want us to trust Him in the BIG things, He wants us to trust Him in the little things as well.

   *He wants us to TRUST HIM with our very lives!

   *He wants us to TRUST HIM to fulfill each and every promise He has given us in His word.

   *He wants us to TRUST HIM to do what He says He will do!

   *He wants us to TRUST HIM to be with us in every circumstance we go through in life.

   *He wants us to TRUST HIM to supply all our needs through His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

4. And just how do we develop a wholehearted trust in God?
It requires that we get close to GOD, and spend time with Him, and get to know Him. It requires that we believe every word He says. It requires that we have the FAITH that absolutely NOTHING is impossible with GOD.

5. Let me ask you something:

*Has God ever failed you one time?

*Has God ever broken any of His promises He made to you?

*Has God ever failed to deliver you in the time of trouble?

*Has God ever failed to comfort you in your time of sorrow?

*Has God ever failed to strengthen you in times of weakness?

*Has God ever failed to give you courage in times of fear?

*Has God ever failed to give you hope in times of hopelessness?

*Has God ever failed to give you forgiveness in times of failure?

*Has God ever failed to give you peace in times of turmoil?

You Know the Truth Don’t You? And knowing the TRUTH should set you free to TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART!
The second admonition we see in these verses is this:

II. LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING

1. Now what does that mean?

That word “lean” literally means: “Do not put one’s weight against”……or……”Do not rely upon for support” ……..or….. “do not balance oneself against.”

“Lean NOT on your own understanding.”

2. The reason why you and I need to trust in the Lord with all our heart, is because ……

OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING is not a reliable thing to be putting our weight against.

OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING is not a good thing to rely upon for support.

OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING is not a good thing to try to balance ourselves against.

3. I mean, let’s say while I’m preaching this message all the sudden I become very dizzy and I’m about to pass out.

Which would be better for me to “lean upon,” this PULPIT? Or one of these microphone stands?

The answer is obvious isn’t it? I should lean on this pulpit because this pulpit is strong……..this pulpit is solid……this pulpit will not move!

On the other hand, this microphone stand is like our human understanding. It is not reliable to lean against. It is not trustworthy to put my weight against.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING.”

4. There’s not a one of us who knows everything there is to know about the future. Not a single one of us knows what will happen
in the next hour, let alone what will happen in the next year.

What seems secure today, may be gone tomorrow.....

your job...... your health....... your marriage,  your family....... your financial situation...... your physical capabilities........ your mental capacity....it could all change tomorrow!!!!!!!

So why in the world do would we even think about leaning on our own understanding?

5. GOD ALONE knows the future! He knows every NEWSPAPER HEADLINE for tomorrow before the papers even hit the printing press tonight. He knows every event that will be covered on the NEWS tomorrow before those events even happen.

GOD possesses an UNDERSTANDING of our PRESENT and FUTURE CIRCUMSTANCES that you and I do not have.

6. Do you see now why Solomon admonishes you and me to “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding?”

This brings us to the third admonition and that is:

III. In All Your Ways Acknowledge Him

1. There are LEGAL CONSULTANTS to help you make tough legal decisions.

There are TAX CONSULTANTS to help you make tough tax decisions.

There are FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS to help you make tough decisions on how to invest your money.

And there are HEALTH CARE CONSULTANTS to help you make tough medical decisions regarding your health.

2. And for a “hefty fee” these people will be glad to give us their expert advice.
Don’t you think it’s kind of strange that we are willing to pay big bucks to a human being to help us make important decisions, and yet so often we fail to consult the ALL-WISE, ALL-KNOWING GOD who doesn’t charge a thin dime?

3. What does it mean when it says, “In all your ways acknowledge Him?”

It simply means, “To seek God’s wisdom and counsel in every decision and circumstance we face in life.”

It means we should ask that million dollar question many of us never ask, and that is, “God, what is YOUR WILL in this matter?” “What would YOU have me to do?”

4. Some of you may be facing some really tough decisions right now…..or in the near future. Who will you consult before you make that decision?

*Your Spouse?
*Your kids?
*Your mom or dad?
*Your Minister?
*Some of your closet friends?
*Or perhaps one of the so-called experts I spoke of while ago?

Who are you going to consult? Who is going to steer you in the right direction and help you make the best choice?

5. Is it a RELATIONSHIP DECISION? Nobody knows more about relationships than God!

Is it a CAREER DECISION? Nobody knows more about careers than God!

Is it a MEDICAL DECISION? Nobody knows more about your health than God!

Is it a FINANCIAL DECISION? Nobody knows more about your finances than God!

6. But the scriptures warn us in James chapter one, verses 5-7…..
James 1:5-7 (NKJV)  If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

What this is saying quite simply is this: When it comes to asking for God’s wisdom, God wants SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY!

In other words, God will give us His wisdom and His guidance in making our decisions if we are willing to do His will instead of our own.

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART. (PAUSE)
LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING. (PAUSE)
IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM. (PAUSE)

That now brings us to THE PROMISE OF GOD.

IV. And He Shall Direct Your Paths

1. First, let me tell you what this PROMISE doesn’t mean.

   It doesn’t mean He will direct your paths away from trials and troubles.

   Nor does it mean He will direct your paths away from unpleasant or unhappy circumstances.

2. But what it does mean, is that in every circumstance of life, God will give you DIRECTION and PURPOSE and MEANING.

3. GOD KNOWS YOU BETTER THAN YOU KNOW YOURSELF.  He knows your weaknesses.  He knows what areas you need
to grow in. He knows attitudes you need to change. He knows habits you need to change.

And therefore if you will learn to TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, you will come to understand that in every circumstance you go through in life whether GOOD or BAD…….PLEASANT or UNPLEASANT…..God’s divine will is being accomplished in your life.

**CONCLUSION**

Trust Him when dark doubts assail thee,
Trust Him when thy strength is small,
Trust Him when to simply trust Him
Seems the hardest thing of all.
Trust Him, He is ever faithful,
Trust Him, for his will is best,
Trust Him, for the heart of Jesus
Is the only place of rest.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”