

## God's Ways Are Best

*Proverbs 3:1-10*

*Proverbs 3 challenges us to hand over the fantasies of our own wisdom (3:1-2) callous independence (3:3-4), self-determination (3:5-6), freedom to make our own moral rules (3:7-8), total ownership of possessions (3:9-10), and freedom from correction (3:11-12). Taken together, their message is clear: "You cannot be masters of your own destiny, you cannot be you own god." (Koptak)*

- I. An important part of trusting God is following the Lord's way over what might seem best to us. It is essential to living a Spirit filled life, because if we are not willing to embrace his way, then we will find it very difficult to trust him.

2 Cor. 4:18  
Rom. 12:1-2

- II. In trusting that God's ways are best, we are to make every effort to keep ourselves free from the deception of being wise in our own eyes. When we keep God's Word in our hearts, we allow him to keep constant vigilance over our hearts. (**vv. 1-2**)

שלום (shä·lōm') = completeness, soundness, welfare, peace

- III. In trusting that God's ways are best, we are to make every effort to keep ourselves free from the deception of a callous, uncaring heart. We do this by holding onto God's love and faithfulness toward us, no matter what situation we may find ourselves in (**vv. 3-4**).

2 Cor. 8:31

*God is calling us to draw 'kindness' and 'truth' ever closer to ourselves until they become the fabric of our hearts, the substance of our thinking, and the first response of our wills. (Kitchen)*

- IV. In trusting that God's ways are best, we are to make every effort to keep ourselves free from self-determination over and above God's purpose for our lives. Those who choose to embrace God's ways (his wisdom), trust that he is working for our good in all things and are willing to stake their lives on it (**vv. 5-6**).

Rom. 8:28

**Isaiah 55:8-9** *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than you thoughts."*

- V. In trusting that God's ways are best, we are to make every effort to keep ourselves free from making a morality (*ethic*) which supersedes God's moral absolutes (**vv. 7-8**).

Proverbs 26:12

Isa. 5:21

*"The heart that trust Yahweh, fears Yahweh, honors Yahweh understands and knows that life can only be found in paths that lead straight toward him, not away." Koptak*

- VI. In trusting that God's ways are best, we are to make every effort to keep from thinking that our possessions and resources don't belong to God. Everything we have has been given to us by God; therefore we are to freely give back to the Lord in tithes and offerings what he has so generously given to us (**vv. 9-10**).

*Romans 11:35-36 Who has ever given to God that God should repay him? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever! Amen.*