**Proverbs Chapter 3: The Success of Wisdom**

**Introduction**

* The thesis of Proverbs chapter 3 is Wisdom towards God and man gives **Success**\_\_\_.
* We will continue to see the contingent commands build upon one another. The **Assurances**\_\_\_\_\_ from chapter 2 become the **Contingencies**\_\_\_\_ of chapter 3.

**Pay Attention (vs 1-4)**

* **Metonymy** is a figure of speech in which one thing is replaced with a word closely associated with it. Example: “The pen is mightier than the sword.” (Quote from Edward Bulwer Lytton’s play, *Richelieu.*) This sentence has two metonyms: “Pen” stands for “the written word” and “Sword” stands for “military aggression.” In verse 3, Kindness (Mercy) and truth are metonyms of all of Solomon’s **Teachings**\_\_ and reflect the Divine attributes of God demonstrated in **Salvation**\_\_\_\_\_.

**Four Ways to Act Wisely Before the Lord with Four Corresponding Blessings (vs 5-12)**

1. Trust the Lord/straight paths
2. Fear the Lord/healing
3. Honor the Lord with $/prosperity
4. Embrace Discipline/proof of Him as Father

**The Promises of Wisdom IF We Act Wisely toward God and Man (vs 13-26)**

* Results of wise living toward God and man
* The Supreme example of walking in Wisdom
* Closing Admonition

**Three Ways to Act Wisely Towards Men (Success Towards Men) (vs 27-31)**

1. Do Not Withhold
2. Do Not Harm Your Innocent Neighbor
3. Do Not Envy Your Wicked Neighbor

**Summary of Success of Wisdom (vs 32-35)**

* The upright is taken into God’s **Confidence**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ having received His teachings in his heart.
* When God curses, He sets His **Face**\_\_ against.

**Conclusion**

The theme of Proverbs chapter 3 is the success wisdom brings before both God and man.

**Application**

Am I experiencing the success of wisdom in my walk with the Lord and before man?

If not, is it because I have not received, treasured, and valued the Word of God?

If, as true believers, we do not see the evidence of the success in wisdom in our lives, “trace the trail” of Proverbs chapters 1-3:

* + Chapter 1: Have I heard the call of wisdom and responded in faith?
  + Chapter 2: Have I treasured, sought, received wisdom as found in His Word?
  + Chapter 3: Have I faithfully remembered God’s Law and kept it by way of obedience so that I experience success before God and man?

At whatever point we do not see fruit or cannot answer yes, we need only look to the previous chapter and examine our hearts.

“The wise trust in the Lord to uphold His moral order freely (i.e., according to His own sovereign good pleasure) and contingently (i.e., in response to human activity). They are confident that as they fulfill their obligations, He will uphold His in His own time and in His own way, even when the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer. That trust must be entire, with all your heart.”

Waltke, B. K. (2009). The Book of Proverbs. Grand Rapids.