

# STEPS TO THE GOOD LIFE

PROVERBS 3:1-12

Proverbs 3:1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

4 So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD,  
and depart from evil.

8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to  
thy bones.

9 Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with  
the firstfruits of all thine increase:

10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy  
presses shall burst out with new wine.

11 My son, despise not the chastening of the  
LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth;  
even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

1. Summum bonum.

2. Everyone lives by a summum bonum

3. Jesus' summum bonum.

Matthew 22:37, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

## 4. 6 key steps.

**CHALLENGE:** Pursue the good life God's way

A. By keeping God's laws, 3:1-2 (Relationship to God)

### 1. The instruction, 3:1

Proverbs 3:1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

a. Forget not my law.

b. Let your heart keep my commandments.

2. The promise, 3:2 Two significant benefits:

Proverbs 3:2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

a. Length of days, long life.

b. Peace (shalom).

B. By practicing mercy and truth, 3:3-4  
(Relationship to man)

1. The instruction, 3:3

a. Do not allow mercy and truth to forsake you.

Proverbs 3:3a Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: . . .

b. Make mercy and truth a vital part of your life.

1) As something to guard against losing (bound about the neck).

Proverbs 3:3b . . . bind them about thy neck; . . .

2) As having been written upon the heart as a constant reminder to observe and follow.

Proverbs 3:3c . . . write them upon the table of thine heart:



## 2. The promise, 3:4

Proverbs 3:4 So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

C. By trusting in God, 3:5-6 (Day to day guidance)

### 1. The instruction, 3:5-6a

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

a. Life is short, hectic, and significant.

b. In all your ways acknowledge him,  
3:6a.

Proverbs 3:6a In all thy ways acknowledge him..,

2. The promise, 3:6b

Proverbs 3:6b . . . and he shall direct thy paths.

"Direct" comes from a word meaning "to make smooth, straight; lead straight along, direct," so it looks at the Lord leading you on a path in life that is straight, sure, secure, and right.

Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

Psalms 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

D. By humbly fearing the Lord, 3:7-8 (Companion to trusting, yet distinct)

1. The instruction, 3:7

Proverbs 3:7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

## 2. The promise, 3:8

Proverbs 3:8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

Navel: the umbilical cord.

Ezekiel 16:4 And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all.

Marrow: a soft fatty substance in the cavities of bones, in which blood cells are produced.

E. By honoring the Lord with your substance, 3:9-10 (The good life costs something materially)

1. The instruction, 3:9

Proverbs 3:9 Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

2. The promise, 3:10

Proverbs 3:10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

F. By accepting God's chastening, 3:11-12  
(Recognition of our weakness)

1. The instruction, 3:11.

Proverbs 3:11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

2. The promise, 3:12.

Proverbs 3:12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

## CONCLUSION:

1. Everyone wants a good life. Do you want it badly enough to implement these six steps? (review)
2. The good life begins with trusting Jesus as your savior.
3. The Great Life is lived by
  - a. By keeping God's laws (Relationship to God)
  - b. By practicing mercy and truth (Relationship to man)
  - c. By trusting in God, 3:5-6 (Day to day guidance)
  - d. By humbly fearing the Lord, 3:7-8 (Companion to trusting, yet distinct)
  - e. By honoring the Lord with your substance, 3:9-10 (The good life costs something materially)
  - f. By accepting God's chastening, 3:11-12 (Recognition of our weakness)