

Proverbs 3-5, 2 Corinthians 1(New King James Version)

Proverbs 3

Guidance for the Young

¹ My son, do not forget my law,
But let your heart keep my commands;
² For length of days and long life
And peace they will add to you.

³ Let not mercy and truth forsake you;
Bind them around your neck,
Write them on the tablet of your heart,
⁴ *And* so find favor and high esteem
In the sight of God and man.

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct^[a] your paths.

⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the LORD and depart from evil.
⁸ It will be health to your flesh,^[b]
And strength^[c] to your bones.

⁹ Honor the LORD with your possessions,
And with the firstfruits of all your increase;
¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty,
And your vats will overflow with new wine.

¹¹ My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD,
Nor detest His correction;
¹² For whom the LORD loves He corrects,
Just as a father the son *in whom* he delights.

¹³ Happy *is* the man *who* finds wisdom,
And the man *who* gains understanding;
¹⁴ For her proceeds *are* better than the profits of silver,
And her gain than fine gold.
¹⁵ She *is* more precious than rubies,
And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.
¹⁶ Length of days *is* in her right hand,
In her left hand riches and honor.
¹⁷ Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness,

And all her paths *are* peace.

¹⁸ She *is* a tree of life to those who take hold of her,
And happy *are all* who retain her.

¹⁹ The LORD by wisdom founded the earth;
By understanding He established the heavens;

²⁰ By His knowledge the depths were broken up,
And clouds drop down the dew.

²¹ My son, let them not depart from your eyes—
Keep sound wisdom and discretion;

²² So they will be life to your soul
And grace to your neck.

²³ Then you will walk safely in your way,
And your foot will not stumble.

²⁴ When you lie down, you will not be afraid;
Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet.

²⁵ Do not be afraid of sudden terror,
Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes;

²⁶ For the LORD will be your confidence,
And will keep your foot from being caught.

²⁷ Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,
When it is in the power of your hand to do *so*.

²⁸ Do not say to your neighbor,
“Go, and come back,

And tomorrow I will give *it*,”
When you have it with you.

²⁹ Do not devise evil against your neighbor,
For he dwells by you for safety’s sake.

³⁰ Do not strive with a man without cause,
If he has done you no harm.

³¹ Do not envy the oppressor,
And choose none of his ways;

³² For the perverse *person is* an abomination to the LORD,
But His secret counsel *is* with the upright.

³³ The curse of the LORD *is* on the house of the wicked,
But He blesses the home of the just.

³⁴ Surely He scorns the scornful,
But gives grace to the humble.

³⁵ The wise shall inherit glory,
But shame shall be the legacy of fools.

Proverbs 4

Security in Wisdom

¹ Hear, *my* children, the instruction of a father,
And give attention to know understanding;
² For I give you good doctrine:
Do not forsake my law.
³ When I was my father's son,
Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother,
⁴ He also taught me, and said to me:
“Let your heart retain my words;
Keep my commands, and live.
⁵ Get wisdom! Get understanding!
Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.
⁶ Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you;
Love her, and she will keep you.
⁷ Wisdom *is* the principal thing;
Therefore get wisdom.
And in all your getting, get understanding.
⁸ Exalt her, and she will promote you;
She will bring you honor, when you embrace her.
⁹ She will place on your head an ornament of grace;
A crown of glory she will deliver to you.”

¹⁰ Hear, my son, and receive my sayings,
And the years of your life will be many.
¹¹ I have taught you in the way of wisdom;
I have led you in right paths.
¹² When you walk, your steps will not be hindered,
And when you run, you will not stumble.
¹³ Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go;
Keep her, for she *is* your life.

¹⁴ Do not enter the path of the wicked,
And do not walk in the way of evil.
¹⁵ Avoid it, do not travel on it;
Turn away from it and pass on.
¹⁶ For they do not sleep unless they have done evil;
And their sleep is taken away unless they make *someone* fall.
¹⁷ For they eat the bread of wickedness,
And drink the wine of violence.

¹⁸ But the path of the just *is* like the shining sun,^[d]
That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.
¹⁹ The way of the wicked *is* like darkness;
They do not know what makes them stumble.

²⁰ My son, give attention to my words;
Incline your ear to my sayings.

²¹ Do not let them depart from your eyes;
Keep them in the midst of your heart;
²² For they *are* life to those who find them,
And health to all their flesh.
²³ Keep your heart with all diligence,
For out of it *spring* the issues of life.
²⁴ Put away from you a deceitful mouth,
And put perverse lips far from you.
²⁵ Let your eyes look straight ahead,
And your eyelids look right before you.
²⁶ Ponder the path of your feet,
And let all your ways be established.
²⁷ Do not turn to the right or the left;
Remove your foot from evil.

Proverbs 5

The Peril of Adultery

¹ My son, pay attention to my wisdom;
Lend your ear to my understanding,
² That you may preserve discretion,
And your lips may keep knowledge.
³ For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey,
And her mouth *is* smoother than oil;
⁴ But in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
Sharp as a two-edged sword.
⁵ Her feet go down to death,
Her steps lay hold of hell. ^[e]
⁶ Lest you ponder *her* path of life—
Her ways are unstable;
You do not know *them*.

⁷ Therefore hear me now, *my* children,
And do not depart from the words of my mouth.
⁸ Remove your way far from her,
And do not go near the door of her house,
⁹ Lest you give your honor to others,
And your years to the cruel *one*;
¹⁰ Lest aliens be filled with your wealth,
And your labors *go* to the house of a foreigner;
¹¹ And you mourn at last,
When your flesh and your body are consumed,
¹² And say:
“How I have hated instruction,
And my heart despised correction!
¹³ I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers,

Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me!
¹⁴ I was on the verge of total ruin,
In the midst of the assembly and congregation.”

¹⁵ Drink water from your own cistern,
And running water from your own well.

¹⁶ Should your fountains be dispersed abroad,
Streams of water in the streets?

¹⁷ Let them be only your own,
And not for strangers with you.

¹⁸ Let your fountain be blessed,
And rejoice with the wife of your youth.

¹⁹ *As a loving deer and a graceful doe,*
Let her breasts satisfy you at all times;
And always be enraptured with her love.

²⁰ For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman,
And be embraced in the arms of a seductress?

²¹ For the ways of man *are* before the eyes of the LORD,
And He ponders all his paths.

²² His own iniquities entrap the wicked *man*,
And he is caught in the cords of his sin.

²³ He shall die for lack of instruction,
And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

2 Corinthians 1

Greeting

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother,

To the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Comfort in Suffering

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. ⁶ Now if we are afflicted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. ⁷ And our hope for you *is* steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also *you will partake* of the consolation.

Delivered from Suffering

⁸ For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, ¹⁰ who delivered us from so great a death, and does^[a] deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver *us*, ¹¹ you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our^[b] behalf for the gift *granted* to us through many.

Paul's Sincerity

¹² For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you. ¹³ For we are not writing any other things to you than what you read or understand. Now I trust you will understand, even to the end ¹⁴ (as also you have understood us in part), that we are your boast as you also *are* ours, in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Sparing the Church

¹⁵ And in this confidence I intended to come to you before, that you might have a second benefit— ¹⁶ to pass by way of you to Macedonia, to come again from Macedonia to you, and be helped by you on my way to Judea. ¹⁷ Therefore, when I was planning this, did I do it lightly? Or the things I plan, do I plan according to the flesh, that with me there should be Yes, Yes, and No, No? ¹⁸ But *as* God *is* faithful, our word to you was not Yes and No. ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. ²¹ Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us *is* God, ²² who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

²³ Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. ²⁴ Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.