

**Trust and Obey (50 Minutes)**  
**Proverbs 3:5-6, 2023-01-15A, #16**

**Introduction:** Today, I want to talk to you about our theme Scripture for this year – Proverbs 3:5-6. Our theme is Trust and Obey. The plan is to remind one another throughout the year of the theme and of the Scripture, especially in Sunday school.

**I. The Meanings of Trust (Proverbs 3:5).**

- A. “Trust” translates the Hebrew verb  $\text{בָּטַח}$  *batach*, which means “to lean on, to rely upon, to put confidence in something or someone.”**
- B. Everyone trusts in something or someone every day – Everyone has faith.**
- 1. Many have drowned because they put faith in thin ice.**
  - 2. Atheists have faith that there is no God – A lot of faith is required to believe that the universe does not have a designer.**
    - a. God has revealed Himself in creation (Psalm 19:1-3; Romans 1:18-20).**
    - b. God has revealed Himself in conscience (Romans 2:14-15).**
    - c. God has revealed Himself in the Scriptures – Genesis through Revelation.**
  - 3. Many believe that death is annihilation rather than separation (cf. Matthew 17:1-8; Luke 16:19-31).**
  - 4. Hell will be filled with people who had faith in the wrong objects.**
  - 5. All around us are people who have faith in the wrong objects.**

**II. The Object of Trust (Proverbs 3:5).**

- A. “The LORD” – “LORD” translates the Hebrew Noun  $\text{יְהוָה}$  *Jehovah* or *Yahweh* (cf. Psalm 23:1; 27:1).**
- 1. God did not appear to be sovereign when Job lost all that he had (cf. Job 1:12; 2:6).**
  - 2. God did not appear to be sovereign when Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers (Genesis 50:20).**
  - 3. God did not appear to be sovereign when Jesus was scourged and crucified (John 10:17-18; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28).**
- B. Seven Reasons the LORD – Yahweh or Jehovah is a good object of trust:**
- 1. The LORD is sovereign at all times and over all things (Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 46:9-10; Psalm 135:6).**
  - 2. The LORD is omniscient (Psalm 139:1-4) – There is not anything that He does not know – He knows all of the past, present, and future.**
  - 3. The LORD is omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-12; Jeremiah 23:24; Proverbs 15:3; Hebrews 4:13).**
  - 4. The LORD is omnipotent (Jeremiah 32:17, 27; cf. Genesis 1:1-2; Job 26:7; Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:17).**
  - 5. The LORD is all wise – He has all wisdom and knowledge (Romans 11:33).**
    - a. God’s wisdom in the plan of salvation (Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 6:23; Isaiah 53:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 3:25; 5:8; John 3:16).**

- b. No one has more wisdom than the Triune God (Romans 11:33; Colossians 2:2-3).
6. The LORD is faithful (Lamentations 3:22-23; 1 Thessalonians 5:24).
  7. The LORD keeps His promises – “He shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:6).
    - a. He will make the rough places smooth, and He will make the crooked places straight.
    - b. Some promises are conditional – observe the conditions:
      - 1) “Trust in the LORD” (Proverbs 3:5a).
      - 2) “With all of your heart” – mind, emotions, and will – all that is within you (Proverbs 3:5b; cf. Psalm 103:1-2).
      - 3) “Lean not unto your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5c) – human insights and wisdom (cf. James 1:5; Joshua 9:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).
      - 4) “In all of your ways” – all of your decisions, all of your actions, all of your journeys – at all times and in all things (Proverbs 3:6a, 7; Jeremiah 9:23-24).
      - 5) “Acknowledge Him” (Proverbs 3:6b) – “acknowledge” translates the Hebrew verb יָדָה yada, which means to know intimately, to know by experience.
    - c. God keeps His promises (Romans 12:19; Philippians 4:6-7; Hebrews 13:5; cf. Micah 5:2; Luke 2:1-7).

### III. The Means by Which God Directs Our Paths:

- A. God directs by the Scriptures – Word of God (Psalm 119:24, 99, 105, 130; cf. Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3; Matthew 4:4; Ephesians 6:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
  1. Questions to ask regarding gray areas:
    - a. Will this enslave me (1 Corinthians 6:12)?
    - b. Will this edify (1 Corinthians 10:23; Romans 15:1-2)?
    - c. Will this glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31)?
  2. The Word of God in relation to trust (Romans 10:17; cf. Job 23:12).
- B. God directs by the Holy Spirit (John 16:13; cf. Acts 13:1-3).
- C. God directs by saints – servants of God (Proverbs 11:14; 15:22).
- D. God directs by situations or circumstances (Genesis 31:1-3) – The circumstances must always line up with the Word of God.

Pastor-Teacher, Julius R. Malone