

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 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 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.

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