

Words of Wisdom for Our 2nd Anniversary

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

Introduction:

1. We learn from 2 Peter 1:3-4 that God has richly blessed His people.
 - a. (vs.3) He has given us *"all things that pertain unto life and godliness."*
 - b. (vs.4) He has also given us *"exceeding great and precious promises."*
2. With these thoughts in mind, let us read some words of wisdom written by Solomon in Proverbs 3:5-6.
3. As we examine these verses we see that Solomon wrote about:
 - a. several things *"that pertain unto life and godliness"* (vs.5-6a)
 - b. one of God's *"exceeding great and precious promises"* (vs.6b).
4. These words of wisdom are especially appropriate for our 2nd anniversary.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.6b) SOLOMON WROTE ABOUT AN *"EXCEEDING GREAT AND PRECIOUS"* PROMISE THAT GOD HAS MADE TO HIS PEOPLE
 - A. In the context Solomon touched on several blessings that God will provide for His people, including:
 1. long life (vs.1-2)
 2. favor with God and man (vs.3-4)
 3. good health (vs.7-8)
 4. abundant physical blessings (vs.9-10).
 - B. (vs.6b) Solomon wrote about God's promise to direct the paths of His people.
 - C. According to Jeremiah 10:23, we desperately need this blessing from God.
 - D. God has promised to provide direction for His people; however, this is a conditional promise.
 - E. In other words, we must meet certain conditions for God to direct our paths.
 - F. To learn what the conditions are we must examine these verses further.
- II. (vs.5-6a) SOLOMON WROTE ABOUT SOME THINGS *"THAT PERTAIN UNTO LIFE AND GODLINESS"*
 - A. (vs.5b) In order for God to direct our paths we must avoid leaning unto our own understanding.
 1. This admonition is given many times in the Bible (vs.7a; Romans 12:16b).
 2. We must avoid leaning unto our own understanding because:
 - a. man's ways result in death (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25)
 - b. what seems right to us may not please God (Proverbs 16:2; 21:2)
 - c. trusting in our own hearts is foolish (Proverbs 28:26).

3. Two Bible characters who leaned unto their own understanding:
 - a. Saul (1 Samuel 13, 15)
 - b. Naaman (2 Kings 5).
- B. In order for God to direct our paths we must comply with 2 positive conditions.
 1. Solomon said:
 - a. *"trust in the Lord with all thine heart"* (vs.5a)
 - b. *"in all thy ways acknowledge Him"* (vs.6a).
 2. When we make any plans, make any decisions, or attempt to do anything, we must depend upon God.
 3. Seeking counsel from God includes:
 - a. searching the Scriptures for instruction
 - b. talking to God through prayer.
 4. Two Bible characters whose paths were directed by God:
 - a. Abraham (Hebrews 11:8-10)
 - b. Moses (Hebrews 11:24-27).
- C. As we examine the things that Solomon wrote about life and godliness, we see that they are actually conditions for having God direct our paths.

Conclusion:

1. On our 2nd anniversary, let us appreciate God's blessings over the last 2 years.
2. As we begin our 3rd year, let us follow Solomon's words of wisdom so God will direct our paths.