

## **GROWTH FOLLOWS CORRECTION.**

Proverbs 3

*My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments,<sup>2</sup> for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.<sup>3</sup> Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.<sup>4</sup> So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.<sup>7</sup> Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.<sup>8</sup> It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.<sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;<sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.<sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof,<sup>12</sup> for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.*

### Growth and Correction

- Remember and obey what you know to be true – 3:1-4

*My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments,<sup>2</sup> for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.<sup>3</sup> Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.<sup>4</sup> So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.<sup>1</sup>*

Q: What does this look like?

- 1) Trust God with all your heart – 3:5a *Trust in the LORD with all your heart,*
- 2) Think deeply but humbly – 3:5b *and do not lean on your own understanding.*
- 3) Acknowledge God in everything you do and He will prepare the path for where He wants you to go – 3:6 *In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*
- 4) Don't let your accomplishments go to your head – 3:7-8 *Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.<sup>8</sup> It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.*

## Proverbs 26:12

*Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.*

Roland E. Murphy: "To be "wise in one's own eyes" is to be in an utterly hopeless situation...When does wisdom cease to be wisdom? When you think you are wise."<sup>2</sup>

- 5) Honor God with your income: What does your bank statement say about your priorities? – 3:9-10 *Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; <sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.*
  
- 6) Remember growth comes from discipline – 3:11-12 *My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, <sup>12</sup> for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.*<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "[Verse 3] does not speak specifically of fidelity to the covenant or in some other particular arena of life but looks for inner integrity that manifests itself in all interactions with God and people. In this respect, Proverbs is different from earlier non-Israelite wisdom . . . Egyptian wisdom particularly exhorts the pupil to the behavior that is likely to give success in a career. High moral concepts are by no means absent, but emphasis is on politically sensitive behavior rather than on the character of the inner person." Duane A. Garrett, *The New American Commentary: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*, Vol. 14 (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1993), 80.

<sup>2</sup> Roland E. Murphy, *Word Biblical commentary: Proverbs*, Vol. 22 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1998), 21.

<sup>3</sup> "While the idea of punishment is certainly present . . . "discipline" primarily involves teaching or training rather which, although the threat of punishment is present, even stern discipline is not necessarily retribution for offenses. Hardship and correction are involved, however, which are always hard to accept." Duane A. Garrett, *The New American Commentary: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*, Vol. 14 (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1993), 81.