

# Proverbs Week #20 (3:1, 2)

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Proverbs 3:1, 2

*My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.*

When I read today's verses from the book of Proverbs I am reminded of what the Torah commands sons and daughters. "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you." Deuteronomy 5:16

This commandment applies to everyone with a mother and father (does that leave anyone out?). The relationship between parent and child is so important to God that he connects long life and the promise of living in the land to those who would be faithful to His teaching (command) in this area. Those who came out of Egypt as children and were now the adults about to enter the land of promise were taught by Moses. His teaching would have likely been repeated as parents impressed these words upon their children's hearts and minds. I could imagine a parent telling their child "do not forget this teaching for by obeying it you will prolong your life and prosper in the land." This practical advice would not be based upon the guarantee of the parent but upon God Himself who was the source of this instruction.

This is the same for us today! We hear what God teaches and we impress His words on our children's hearts and minds. We remind them that learning God's truth and becoming wise results in God being faithful to His words. Those who cry out to God for wisdom will find God prepared to give wisdom. (James 1:5) Those who seek the Lord will find Him. (Matt 7:7) Those who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. (Joel 2:32, Acts 2:21, Rom 10:13) In each of these examples the advice a parent gives their child will find its reward not from the parent but from God who will supply it.

Our next verses in the book of Proverbs will remind the son that He must trust in the Lord and not lean on his own understanding. Being wise in God's eyes is different in many ways to the wisdom of the world. You may have heard it said that "knowledge is power," but I think that many of those who say this do not understand where true power comes from. Many in Yeshua's day expected the Messiah to be a great warrior and to show His power in defeating the Romans who ruled in the land. The Messiah did come in power but His use of God's power had a different result than what most people expected. The gospel and wisdom of God is powerful and it leads to salvation. (Rom 1:16, 2 Tim 3:15) To many in the world this is foolishness, but God says to those who believe it is the source of eternal life. (1 Cor 1:21-23) Will you hear God's message today? Will you hear the words of a father saying, "Listen to what God says and treasure these words in your heart"?

I want to give the children some homework for later in this week (parents help them remember to do this). I want you to read (or have someone read to you) the first five verses of chapter 3 of Proverbs. Next week I'll ask you what two things you should bind around your neck and write on the tablet of your heart. Lord willing, these two things will be the subject of next week's lesson.