

# Proverbs Week #24 (3:3)

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*Proverbs 3:3 “Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.”*

Those who are wise bind kindness and truth around their necks. To do so we need to know what is true. How do we learn to know what is true when there seem to be so many different opinions in the world? We take as a starting point that the Bible is our source for truth. We receive it as an accurate record of what God has done and said. In learning its truth we must remember that we are instructed to value and actively seek wisdom.

*My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you, make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding; for if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; if you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will discern the fear of the LORD And discover the knowledge of God. Prov 2:1-5*

I had a friend who was raised in a conservative Jewish family. He once told me that he would be serious about God if God would just talk to him. My not-so-short reply to his remark centered around one theme—that God has spoken and is speaking. The problem is mankind’s inability and unwillingness to listen.

Ultimately God must unstop the ears of those who are deaf to Him if anyone is to truly hear truth. On the other hand, as “would-be hearers” we are urged to act! The verse above is a father’s advice to a son. “Make your ear attentive,” “incline your heart to understanding,” “lift your voice,” “seek her as silver,” “search for her as hidden treasure,” and “then you will discern the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God.” These are not passive activities -- as if we are just to wait around for God to “zap us” with some revelation.

As I developed my conversation with my friend I asked him how many times growing up he heard the phrase, “And Adonai said to Moses...”, both in English and Hebrew. He admitted often. I said, “There you have it!” This principle is central to scripture, that faithful men and women hear and proclaim what they’ve heard. And by this the people of the world will “hear God speak to them.” It is the means by which we come to know the One true God and His activities with mankind. All of scripture is inspired by God (2 Tim 3:16,17) and it was the hands of men that God used to pen His very thoughts and plans.

*“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.” John 17:20-21*

If we can understand the content of Yeshua’s prayer in John 17 as an expression of His heart then we can safely conclude that the testimony of witnesses is central in God’s unfolding plan. It is this witness that will help unite people with the living God!

Binding truth around our necks involves more than just knowledge. It involves a relationship with the Creator of all things. It involves a focused attention on those things that are important to Him. It unites us with His ways and His purposes.