

The House of God The Right Heart

Part 3

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Proverbs 3

Amplified Bible (AMP)

3 My son, forget not my law *or* teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments;

2 For length of days and years of a life [worth living] and tranquility [inward and outward and continuing through old age till death], these shall they add to you.

3 Let not mercy and kindness [shutting out all hatred and selfishness] and truth [shutting out all deliberate hypocrisy or falsehood] forsake you; bind them about your neck, write them upon the tablet of your heart.

4 So shall you find favor, good understanding, *and* high esteem in the sight [or judgment] of God and man.

5 Lean on, trust in, *and* be confident in the Lord with all your heart *and* mind and do not rely on your own insight *or* understanding.

6 In all your ways know, recognize, *and* acknowledge Him, and He will direct *and* make straight *and* plain your paths.

7 Be not wise in your own eyes; reverently fear *and* worship the Lord and turn [entirely] away from evil.

8 It shall be health to your nerves *and* sinews, and marrow *and* moistening to your bones.

9 Honor the Lord with your capital *and* sufficiency [from righteous labors] and with the firstfruits of all your income;

10 So shall your storage places be filled with plenty, and your vats shall be overflowing with new wine.

11 My son, do not despise *or* shrink from the chastening of the Lord [His correction by punishment or by subjection to suffering or trial]; neither be weary of *or* impatient about *or* loathe *or* abhor His reproof,

12 For whom the Lord loves He corrects, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.

13 Happy (blessed, fortunate, enviable) is the man who finds skillful *and* godly Wisdom, and the man who gets understanding [drawing it forth from God's Word and life's experiences],

14 For the gaining of it is better than the gaining of silver, and the profit of it better than fine gold.

15 Skillful *and* godly [a]Wisdom is more precious than rubies; and nothing you can wish for is to be compared to her.

16 Length of days is in her right hand, and in her left hand are riches and honor.

17 Her ways are highways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold on her; and happy (blessed, fortunate, to be envied) is everyone who holds her fast.

19 The Lord by skillful *and* godly Wisdom has founded the earth; by understanding He has established the heavens.

20 By His knowledge the deeps were broken up, and the skies distill the dew.

21 My son, let them not escape from your sight, but keep sound *and* godly Wisdom and discretion,

22 And they will be life to your inner self, and a gracious ornament to your neck (your outer self).

23 Then you will walk in your way securely *and* in confident trust, and you shall not dash your foot *or* stumble.

24 When you lie down, you shall not be afraid; yes, you shall lie down, and your sleep shall be sweet.

25 Be not afraid of sudden terror *and* panic, nor of the stormy blast *or* the storm and ruin of the wicked when it comes [for you will be guiltless],

26 For the Lord shall be your confidence, firm *and* strong, and shall keep your foot from being caught [in a trap or some hidden danger].

27 Withhold not good from those to whom it is due [its rightful owners], when it is in the power of your hand to do it.

28 Do not say to your neighbor, Go, and come again; and tomorrow I will give it—when you have it with you.

29 Do not contrive *or* dig up *or* cultivate evil against your neighbor, who dwells trustingly *and* confidently beside you.

30 Contend not with a man for no reason—when he has done you no wrong.

31 Do not resentfully envy *and* be jealous of an unscrupulous, grasping man, and choose none of his ways.

32 For the perverse are an abomination [extremely disgusting and detestable] to the Lord; but His confidential communion *and* secret counsel are with the

[uncompromisingly] righteous (those who are upright and in right standing with Him).

33 The curse of the Lord is in *and* on the house of the wicked, but He declares blessed (joyful and favored with blessings) the home of the just *and* consistently righteous.

34 Though He scoffs at the scoffers *and* scorns the scorners, yet He gives His undeserved favor to the low [in rank], the humble, *and* the afflicted.

35 The wise shall inherit glory (all honor and good) but shame is the highest rank conferred on [self-confident] fools.

Today's message

In understanding the purpose of the church, we must first understand what the church is.... In defining the word Church, the greek word is Ecclesia. It simply means

The church, is an assembly, a group of people called out by God for a special task.

(Note: In the New Testament, the word "Church" never refers to a meeting place, it always refers to the people who meet together.

When people have asked me the question, "Is church necessary". Their fundamental premise is flawed. What they are actually trying to ask me is permission to not come to church. By asking this question, they are in effect trying to come to a conclusion that justifies their rebellion against God's word.

There are two references to the church in the Bible. The Universal church and the local church.

Have you ever wondered why two individuals can hear the same message but one receive from God while the other feels as though he is not being fed?

I cannot tell you how many cases I hear of that very thing. Talk to one person and they are so blessed by what God spoke to their heart while hearing the message. Then minutes later I will get an email of someone telling me "I am no longer getting fed in the house of God".

We must beware that we are not attempting to apply the same rules to Jesus sheep as those that have yet come to themselves. As well as be firm about the purpose of God's house in the life of the believer. And make certain that we do not shape, nor form God's house as if it were for those who are not a part of His family.

John 10:27-29

Amplified Bible (AMP)

27 The sheep that are My own hear *and* are listening to My voice; and I know them, and they follow Me.

28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never lose it *or* perish throughout the ages. [To all eternity they shall never by any means be destroyed.] And no one is able to snatch them out of My hand.

29 My Father, Who has given them to Me, is greater *and* mightier than all [else]; and no one is able to snatch [them] out of the Father's hand.

Luke 11:15-19

Amplified Bible (AMP)

15 But some of them said, He drives out demons [because He is in league with and] by Beelzebub, the prince of demons,

16 While others, to try *and* test *and* tempt Him, demanded a sign of Him from heaven.

17 But He, [well] aware of their intent *and* purpose, said to them, Every kingdom split up against itself is doomed *and* brought to desolation, and so house falls upon house. [The disunited household will collapse.]

18 And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom last? For you say that I expel demons with the help of *and* by Beelzebub.

19 Now if I expel demons with the help of *and* by Beelzebub, with whose help *and* by whom do your sons drive them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. Your Son. Make Me Like One Of Your Hired Servants." '

Luke 11:15-20

The Message (MSG)

No Neutral Ground

14-16 *Jesus delivered a man from a demon that had kept him speechless. The demon gone, the man started talking a blue streak, taking the crowd by complete surprise. But some from the crowd were cynical. "Black magic," they said. "Some devil trick he's pulled from his sleeve." Others were skeptical, waiting around for him to prove himself with a spectacular miracle.*

17-20 *Jesus knew what they were thinking and said, "Any country in civil war for very long is wasted. A constantly squabbling family falls to pieces. If Satan cancels Satan, is there any Satan left? You accuse me of ganging up with the Devil, the prince of demons, to cast out demons,*

but if you're slinging devil mud at me, calling me a devil who kicks out devils, doesn't the same mud stick to your own exorcists? But if it's God's finger I'm pointing that sends the demons on their way, then God's kingdom is here for sure.

1 Timothy 3:15

Amplified Bible (AMP)

15 If I am detained, you may know how people ought to conduct themselves in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and stay (the prop and support) of the Truth.

Psalms 92:13-15

Amplified Bible (AMP)

13 Planted in the house of the Lord, they shall flourish in the courts of our God.

14 [Growing in grace] they shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap [of spiritual vitality] and [rich in the] verdure [of trust, love, and contentment].

15 [They are living memorials] to show that the Lord is upright *and* faithful to His promises; He is my Rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Here are 5 aspects of the right heart.

A PURE HEART

The soil of a pure heart is the only environment where God's Word can grow.

Mark 4:13-20

Amplified Bible (AMP)

13 And He said to them, Do you not discern *and* understand this parable? How then is it possible for you to discern *and* understand all the parables?

14 The sower sows the Word.

15 The ones along the path are those who have the Word sown [in their hearts], but when they hear, Satan comes at once and [by force] takes away the message which is sown in them.

16 And in the same way the ones sown upon stony ground are those who, when they hear the Word, at once receive *and* accept *and* welcome it with joy;

17 And they have no real root in themselves, and so they endure for a little while; then when trouble or persecution arises on account of the Word, they immediately are offended (become displeased, indignant, resentful) *and* they stumble *and* fall away.

18 And the ones sown among the thorns are others who hear the Word;

19 Then the cares *and* anxieties of the world *and* distractions of the age, and the pleasure *and* delight *and* false glamour *and* deceitfulness of riches, and the craving *and* passionate desire for other things creep in and choke *and* suffocate the Word, and it becomes fruitless.

20 And those sown on the good (well-adapted) soil are the ones who hear the Word and receive *and* accept *and* welcome it and bear fruit—some thirty times as much as was sown, some sixty times as much, and some [even] a hundred times as much.

Mark 4:13-20

The Message (MSG)

13 He continued, "Do you see how this story works? All my stories work this way.

14-15 *"The farmer plants the Word. Some people are like the seed that falls on the hardened soil of the road. No sooner do they hear the Word than Satan snatches away what has been planted in them.*

16-17 *"And some are like the seed that lands in the gravel. When they first hear the Word, they respond with great enthusiasm. But there is such shallow soil of character that when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it.*

18-19 *"The seed cast in the weeds represents the ones who hear the kingdom news but are overwhelmed with worries about all the things they have to do and all the things they want to get. The stress strangles what they heard, and nothing comes of it.*

20 *"But the seed planted in the good earth represents those who hear the Word, embrace it, and produce a harvest beyond their wildest dreams."*

Proverbs 4:23

Amplified Bible (AMP)

23 Keep *and* guard your heart with all vigilance *and* above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life.

1 Peter 1:22-25

Amplified Bible (AMP)

22 Since by your obedience to the Truth *through the* [Holy] Spirit you have purified your hearts for the sincere affection of the brethren, [see that you] love one another fervently from a *pure* heart.

23 You have been regenerated (born again), not from a mortal [**a**]origin ([**b**]seed, sperm), but from one that is immortal by the *ever* living and lasting Word of God.

24 For all flesh (mankind) is like grass, and all its glory (honor) like [the] flower of grass. The grass withers and the flower drops off,

25 But the Word of the Lord ([**c**]divine instruction, the Gospel) endures forever. And this Word is the good news which was preached to you.

A Servant's Heart

The heart of a servant is always in search how he can "Add value to" not "take respect away" from God's house".

1 Peter 4:10-11

Amplified Bible (AMP)

10 As each of you has received a gift (a particular spiritual talent, a gracious divine endowment), employ it for one another as [befits] good trustees of God's many-sided grace [faithful stewards of the [**a**]extremely diverse powers and gifts granted to Christians by unmerited favor].

11 Whoever speaks, [let him do it as one who utters] oracles of God; whoever renders service, [let him do it] as with the strength which God furnishes [**b**]abundantly, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ (the Messiah). To Him be the glory and dominion forever and ever (through endless ages). Amen (so be it).

Ephesians 4:15-16

Amplified Bible (AMP)

15 Rather, let our lives lovingly [a]express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]. Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way *and* in all things into Him Who is the Head, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

16 For because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints *and* ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part [with power adapted to its need] is working properly [in all its functions], grows to full maturity, building itself up in love.

Romans 12:4-13

Amplified Bible (AMP)

4 For as in one physical body we have many parts (organs, members) and all of these parts do not have the same function *or* use,

5 So we, numerous as we are, are one body in Christ (the Messiah) and individually we are parts one of another [mutually dependent on one another].

6 Having gifts (faculties, talents, qualities) that differ according to the grace given us, let us use them: [He whose gift is] prophecy, [let him prophesy] according to the proportion of his faith;

7 [He whose gift is] practical service, let him give himself to serving; he who teaches, to his teaching;

8 He who exhorts (encourages), to his exhortation; he who contributes, let him do it in simplicity *and* liberality; he who gives aid *and* superintends, with zeal *and* singleness of mind; he who does acts of mercy, with genuine cheerfulness *and* joyful eagerness.

9 [Let your] love be sincere (a real thing); hate what is evil [loathe all ungodliness, turn in horror from wickedness], but hold fast to that which is good.
10 Love one another with brotherly affection [as members of one family], giving precedence *and* showing honor to one another.
11 Never lag in zeal *and* in earnest endeavor; be aglow *and* burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord.
12 Rejoice *and* exult in hope; be steadfast and patient in suffering *and* tribulation; be constant in prayer.
13 Contribute to the needs of God's people [sharing in the necessities of the saints]; pursue the practice of hospitality.

Romans 12:4-13

The Message (MSG)

4-6 *In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't.*

6-8 *If you preach, just preach God's Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don't take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don't get bossy; if you're put in charge, don't manipulate; if you're called to give aid to*

people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.

9-10 Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

11-13 Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

A Disciple's Heart

Wisdom requires us to posture as a disciple and not a critic.

Acts 17:11

Amplified Bible (AMP)

11 Now these [Jews] were better disposed *and* more noble than those in Thessalonica, for they were entirely ready *and* accepted *and* welcomed the message [concerning the attainment through Christ of eternal salvation in the kingdom of God] with inclination of mind *and* eagerness, searching *and* examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

Matthew 10:24

Amplified Bible (AMP)

24 A disciple is not above his teacher, nor is a servant *or* slave above his master.

Proverbs 12:15

Amplified Bible (AMP)

15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who listens to counsel is wise.

John 8:31-32

Amplified Bible (AMP)

31 So Jesus said to those Jews who had believed in Him, If you abide in My word [hold fast to My teachings and live in accordance with them], you are truly My disciples.
32 And you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free.

A Submissive Heart

Submission is the willingness to bow your knee before men in order to satisfy the requirements of heaven.

Hebrews 13:7

Amplified Bible (AMP)

7 Remember your leaders *and* superiors in authority [for it was they] who brought to you the Word of God. Observe attentively *and* consider their manner of living (the outcome of their well-spent lives) and imitate their faith ([**a**]their conviction that God exists and is the Creator and Ruler of all things, the Provider and Bestower of eternal salvation through Christ, and their [**b**]leaning of the entire human personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness).

Hebrews 13:17

Amplified Bible (AMP)

17 Obey your spiritual leaders and submit to them [continually recognizing their authority over you], for they are constantly keeping watch over your souls *and* guarding your spiritual welfare, as men who will have to render an account [of their trust]. [Do your part to] let them do this with gladness and not with sighing *and* groaning, for that would not be profitable to you [either].

Romans 13:1-5

The Message (MSG)

To Be a Responsible Citizen

13 *1-3 Be a good citizen. All governments are under God. Insofar as there is peace and order, it's God's order. So live responsibly as a citizen. If you're irresponsible to the state, then you're irresponsible with God, and God will hold you responsible. Duly constituted authorities are only a threat if you're trying to get by with something. Decent citizens should have nothing to fear.*

3-5 Do you want to be on good terms with the government? Be a responsible citizen and you'll get on just fine, the government working to your advantage. But if you're breaking the rules right and left, watch out. The police aren't there just to be admired in their uniforms. God also has an interest in keeping order, and he uses them to do it. That's why you must live responsibly—not just to avoid punishment but also because it's the right way to live.

A Surrendered Heart

“Surrender” is the only language that causes Heaven’s response.

John 3:30

Amplified Bible (AMP)

30 He must increase, but I must decrease. [He must grow more prominent; I must grow less so.]

Matthew 26:36-39

Amplified Bible (AMP)

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He told His disciples, Sit down here while I go over yonder and pray.

37 And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to [a]show grief *and* distress of mind and was [b]deeply depressed.

38 Then He said to them, My soul is very sad *and* deeply grieved, so that [c]I am almost dying of sorrow. Stay here and keep awake *and* keep watch with Me.

39 And going a little farther, He threw Himself upon the ground on His face and prayed saying, My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will [not what I desire], but as You will *and* desire.

Philippians 3:7-10

Amplified Bible (AMP)

7 But whatever former things I had that might have been gains to me, I have come to consider as [a]one combined] loss for Christ’s sake.

8 Yes, furthermore, I count everything as loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege (the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth, and

supreme advantage) of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord *and* of progressively becoming more deeply *and* intimately acquainted with Him [of perceiving and recognizing and understanding Him more fully and clearly]. For His sake I have lost everything and consider it all to be mere rubbish (refuse, dregs), in order that I may win (gain) Christ (the Anointed One),

9 And that I may [actually] be found *and* known as in Him, not having any [self-achieved] righteousness that can be called my own, based on my obedience to the Law's demands (ritualistic uprightness and supposed right standing with God thus acquired), but possessing that [genuine righteousness] which comes through faith in Christ (the Anointed One), the [truly] right standing with God, which comes from God by [saving] faith.

10 [For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly], and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness even] to His death, [in the hope]

Philippians 3:7-11

The Message (MSG)

7-9 *The very credentials these people are waving around as something special, I'm tearing up and throwing out with the trash—along with everything else I used to take credit for. And why? Because of Christ. Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus*

as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant—dog dung. I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ and be embraced by him. I didn't want some petty, inferior brand of righteousness that comes from keeping a list of rules when I could get the robust kind that comes from trusting Christ—God's righteousness.

10-11 *I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ personally, experience his resurrection power, be a partner in his suffering, and go all the way with him to death itself. If there was any way to get in on the resurrection from the dead, I wanted to do it.*