### Proverbs

## Chapter 3

1O son,  
  
Don’t forget the laws [that I’ve shown you],  
 And keep the things that I’ve said in your heart;  
 2For, this will add length to your life.  
 Yes, you’ll live [many] years,  
 And peace will be added to you.  
  
3May charity and faith never fail you…  
 If around your neck, you’ll tie them  
 And write them on the tablet of your heart,  
 4You’ll find the favor [of God].  
  
Before Jehovah and men  
 You should always plan to do what’s good.  
 5Wholeheartedly trust in your God,  
 And on your own wisdom, never rely.  
  
6Keep sight of [wisdom] in all of your ways;  
 For before you, she cuts a straight path.  
 7So, in your own skills, never trust…  
 Fear God and turn from all that’s bad.  
 8Then, healing will come to your body,  
 And care will be shown to your bones.  
  
9You must always honor Jehovah…  
 Work hard at doing what’s good.  
 As first fruits, offer Him your righteousness ways,  
 10Then with grain, your stores will be filled,  
 And wine will gush from your vats.  
  
11O son,  
  
Never treat Jehovah’s instructions lightly,  
 Or give up when He disciplines you.  
 12For Jehovah loves those who accept His correction,  
 And He whips those whom He welcomes as sons.  
  
13The man who finds wisdom is blest,  
 As is the mortal that’s smarter.  
 14She’s a better trade than silver or gold,  
 15And she’s worth more than all that’s expensive.  
  
Nothing of value is worth more than her;  
 16For long life and survival are in her right hand,  
 And in her left, is glory and wealth.  
  
Out of her mouth flows true justice;  
 On her tongue, there’s mercy and law.  
 17Goodness is found in her ways,  
 And all of her paths lead to peace.  
  
18She’s a tree of life to all who’ll grab hold  
 (Those leaning on her as they do on the Lord)…  
 They’re the ones who’ll get away safely.  
  
19For in wisdom, God founded the earth,  
 And with intelligence, He assembled the skies.  
 20By His perceptions, the valleys were formed,  
 As dew flowed down from the clouds.  
  
21So, don’t let my council slip by…  
 Pay attention and learn to gain insight;  
 22Then, the person you are will continue to live  
 And [God’s] favor will be tied ‘round your neck.  
 For, to your flesh, this brings healing,  
 And comfort to all of your bones.  
  
23Then, peace will follow in all of your ways,  
 And your feet will never be stumbled.  
 24When you sit, it’ll be without any fear;  
 And when you lie down, your sleep will bring rest.  
  
25You won’t tremble at terrible things,  
 Nor will the godless push you aside.  
 26For Jehovah will watch all your ways  
 And make straight paths for your feet,  
 So you’ll never stumble and fall.  
  
27And don’t overlook those who are poor  
 When you have what they need in your hands.  
 28Don’t say, ‘You should come back tomorrow…  
 I’ll give you what you need at some other time.’  
 Give them what’s good when you have it,  
 So you’ll never see the birth of what’s evil.  
  
29And never plot to do bad to a friend,  
 Or to those with whom you must travel…  
 Those who’ve put trust in you.  
 30Nor should you quarrel without a good reason,  
 So people don’t try to get even.  
  
31Don’t follow the evil of those you despise,  
 Or ever be jealous of the bad things they do.  
 32Since Jehovah considers lawbreakers unclean,  
 The righteous should not sit among them.  
  
33The houses of those who show no respect  
 Have all been cursed by the Lord,  
 While the homes of the righteous are blest.  
 34For Jehovah opposes the proud,  
 And shows favor to those who are humble.  
 35So the wise will inherit all glory,  
 While the godless will just get dishonor.