



Pastor Mike Chapman

Proverbs 3:1-10

My son, do not forget my teachings, and keep my commands in mind, because they will bring you long life, good years, and peace.

Proverbs 3:3-4, Do not let mercy and truth leave you. Fasten them around your neck. Write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will find favor and much success in the sight of God and humanity.

MAKE GOD'S VALUES YOUR VALUES

Your values are those principles that...

ultimately guide your every decision and action

are fundamental to who you are as a person

really matter to you

God said his values were mercy (loving kindness) and truth (trustworthiness).

Proverbs 3:5-6, *Trust the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

TRUST GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART

Ultimately, everyone trusts something or somebody.

To be a follower of Christ, we must trust God with all of our heart. Trusting God will not always be easy, because God's way will often contradict our own wisdom and challenge us to lay down our human agendas.

What does it mean to "acknowledge God" in all your ways?

Proverbs 3:7-8, *Do not consider yourself wise. Fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. Then your body will be healed, and your bones will have nourishment.*

BE CAUTIOUSLY HUMBLE

Pride in our own intellect, in our own human wisdom, in our own abilities is a sure pathway to a "train wreck" in life.

Rather than trusting your heart – your "gut" – listen to what God says.

Humility is one of the most powerful virtues in Holy Scripture.

Proverbs 3:8-9, *Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first and best part of all your income. Then your barns will be full, and your vats will overflow with fresh wine.*

HONOR THE LORD WITH YOUR STUFF

God is not honored when we buy into the spirit of the age in regard to our things...

Acting like it is our stuff rather than his stuff.

Embracing consumerism rather than servanthood.

Finding identity and worth in possessions rather than in our relationship with him.

A heart captured by greed rather than by grace.

A true follower of Christ honors God by consistently giving God the best and the first portion of his income.