

The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 35

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passages that will be the basis of the sermon next week.

**Topical Series: Wisdom in Work, Wealth
and Decisions**

This Week's Key Passage: Proverbs 16:3

Sermon Date: June 8, 2008

Make decisions that honor the LORD.

Have you ever known anyone who just could never make a decision about anything? In business, I have often heard it said that sometimes not making any decision can be more damaging to a company or project than the wrong decision.

How do you go about making important decisions? Do you look in the daily paper to read your horoscope for guidance? Do you seek the counsel of trusted friends? Do you ask your parents for their advice? Do you do your own research about an issue and then make up your own mind? How should we do it as a follower of Jesus Christ?

This week's lesson is on making decisions that honor the Lord. Let's look together at what the book of Proverbs has to say about making decisions that honor the Lord.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have. The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>Key Text: Proverbs 16:3 NIV</p> <p>16:3 Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.</p> <hr/> <p>11:14 For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure.</p> <p>11:27 He who seeks good finds goodwill, but evil comes to him who searches for it.</p> <p>12:5 The plans of the righteous are just, but the advice of the wicked is deceitful.</p> <p>12:15 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.</p> <p>14:22 Do not those who plot evil go astray? But those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>17:4 A wicked man listens to evil lips; a liar pays attention to a malicious tongue.</p> <p>20:18 Make plans by seeking advice; if you wage war, obtain guidance.</p> <p>24:5 A wise man has great power, and a man of knowledge increases strength;</p> <p>24:6 for waging war you need guidance, and for victory many advisers.</p> <p>24:8 He who plots evil will be known as a schemer.</p> <p>24:9 The schemes of folly are sin, and men detest a mocker.</p> <p>27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it Say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **S**ins to avoid
- ◆ **P**romises to believe
- ◆ **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **C**ommands to obey
- ◆ **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

4. In Genesis 2:15-25, God gave Adam the responsibility for the garden and told him not to eat from “the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” God, rather than preventing him from eating, gave Adam a choice. Why does God allow us the freedom to make decisions (choices)?

5. What are some principles of good decision making? Consider Proverbs 12:15; 18:13; 18:15; Psalm 25:4, 37:30, 119:97-99, and I John 5:14.

6. Proverbs 16:3a tells us to “Commit to the Lord whatever we do”. What does “committing our plans to the Lord” really mean? Consider Psalm 37:1-40.

7. Proverbs 20:18 tells us to make plans by seeking advice. Where should we look for good advice? Consider Proverbs 6:20-24; Hebrews 10:24-25; Proverbs 27:17; Mark 10:17-31; and Psalm 32:8.

8. How do we know if we have made a good decision? Consider Psalm 79:9; Galatians 5:22-23; and Hebrews 5:14.

9. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life?
 - a. Looking back at decisions you have made in the past, how might you have better applied the biblical principles of decision making that you have learned in this study?

 - b. What decisions are you currently wrestling with or anticipating facing soon? How can you apply what you have learned in this study in making these decisions?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 16:3

^{16:3} Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

Do you know what the most important decision you will ever make is? It is not whether to buy this house or that one, or which career to pursue, or other similar questions that you may be struggling with. The most important question that demands a decision from each of us is: "What shall I do with Jesus?"

If you choose to accept him as your personal savior, your eternal destiny is assured and your life here on earth will be radically different from what it will be if you choose not to accept him.

Do you want to experience that radical transformation in your life? Trust in the promises of God given to us in the Bible and let Jesus take over your life—and God will guide you, watch over you and never let you go.

Take a moment right now to ask Jesus to become Lord of your life. Then seek out a Bible teaching church, and get into fellowship with other believers where you can study the Bible together and grow in your faith in the Lord.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon and can be picked up from the table at the back of the sanctuary and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>.

*Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact **studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com***

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