

TEXT – Proverbs 3:1-12

INTRO- These are three principles for truly successful and happy Christian living, and we can hardly do better than test our lives by the standards laid down here.

I. Is yours a sanctified life? (1-4)

God's law and will should constantly be in our minds and hearts, governing our every thought, word and action.

Living by the rules of your parents or preacher is not living by your convictions. You must determine to live by the Word of God.

A. By salvation

1 Co 6:9-11 *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

B. By the Word of God

John 17:17 *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

C. By a holy life

1 Th 4:3 *For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:*

You can't sing the songs of Zion in a strange land

Psa 137:1-4 *By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. 2 We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. 3 For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. 4 How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?*

II. Is yours a guided life? (5-6)

God wants to lead us in "the path of righteousness" (Psalm 23:3).

A. Confidence in his power

B. A willingness to be led

C. A reliance upon his wisdom and not upon our own frail human understanding

The Hymn "Only Trust Him" was written by John Stockton and used extensively by D. L. Moody and Ira Sankey in their revival meetings:

**Come, every soul by sin oppressed,
there's mercy with the Lord,
and He will surely give you rest
by trusting in His word.**

Refrain:

**Only trust Him, only trust Him,
only trust Him now;
He will save you, He will save you.
He will save you now.**

III. Is yours a consecrated life? (7-10)

The thought here seems to be that the Lord wants the first claim upon our gifts and talents. He asks us to put them at His disposal, so that He may use them in His service.

Deu 6:5 *And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. - Matt. 22:37*

A. Is He first in every part of your life

- We should give Him the first part of every day
- The first day of every week
- The fruits of all our increase
- The first consideration of every decision

B. Have you made a commitment to serve Him?

Psa 100:2 *Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.*

IV. Is yours disciplined life? (11-12)

The only way to make progress in the classroom or in sports is to be willing to have our faults "corrected." God wants to use his Word, our own experience, and often the advice of others, to discipline us and make us better Christians.

When people are right with God, they are apt to be hard on themselves and easy on other people. But when they are not right with God, they are easy on themselves and hard on others. - John Newton.

The advice from godly counselors is often from their failures from which they learned

Heb 12:5-11 *And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor Esp. Heb 12:10* *For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*

The job of a football coach is to make men do what they don't want to do, in order to achieve what they've always wanted to be. Tom Landry

1 Co 11:31-32 *For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*

CONCL –

David, a 2-year old with leukemia, was taken by his mother, Deborah, to Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, to see Dr. John Truman who specializes in treating children with cancer and various blood diseases. Dr. Truman's prognosis was devastating: "He has a 50-50 chance." The countless clinic visits, the blood tests, the intravenous drugs, the fear and pain--the mother's ordeal can be almost as bad as the child's because she must stand by, unable to bear the pain herself. David never cried in the waiting room, and although his friends in the clinic had to hurt him and stick needles in him, he hustled in ahead of his mother with a smile, sure of the welcome he always got.

When he was three, David had to have a spinal tap--a painful procedure at any age. It was explained to him that, because he was sick, Dr. Truman had to do something to make him better. "If it hurts, remember it's because he loves you," Deborah said. The procedure was horrendous. It took three nurses to hold David still, while he yelled and sobbed and struggled. When it was almost over, the tiny boy, soaked in sweat and tears, looked up at the doctor and gasped, "Thank you, Dr. Truman, for my hurting."