

Wisdom: making a straight path for your feet! [3]

Dear Listeners,

Do you know *where* the *way* in your life will *lead*? Can you point that out on a *roadmap*? I don't think so; I'm sure you can't. *MapArt* or *Routemaster* can't provide you with such a map. O sure, when you *look back* you will see some of the tracks you have covered *so far*. These may be *nice trips* which you enjoyed; there may have been stretches that were *not so nice*: when your wife died, or your child was in an accident, or when you lost your job. How did you deal with *those* experiences though; that's the question quite often! You didn't deal very well with it; you felt lost, confused, and wondering whether you were coming or going, or *where* your life would lead to? Was *God* with you, was *God* there for you? That's an important question! Did you *trust* in God, *lean on* Him, and were you comforted and *directed* by Him? This month we are listening and learning together from the book of *Proverbs*. It can help you deal with these questions!

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding," we read in Proverbs 3, "in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." You see, dear listeners, *by nature* we are inclined to *trust in ourselves* and to lean on our *own* understanding. We want to be the master of our *own* lives, without regard for God. That was precisely the sin of Adam and Eve, our first parents in Paradise, who were led to believe by the devil that they could rely on their *own* understanding and live independently of God. Ever since that time, the call has gone out to *trust in the LORD* and acknowledge *Him* in everything that we do. Trusting in the LORD God means that you feel safe and secure with *Him*, knowing that you're secure in *His* care. We're not *inclined* to do this but rather seek our support in this world, in this life, with people, in organizations, in a secure position, or what have you. Here, in

the book of Proverbs, Solomon gives the wisdom for life: Trust in the *LORD* with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding!

Now when Solomon says, "Trust in the *LORD*," he uses the name of God which reminds of God in His relationship with His *people*: the God who saved them from Egypt, the God who led His people through the wilderness, through the Red Sea and the River Jordan, the God who gave them the Promised Land! Trust in *Him*, Solomon says, for He is the *Saviour*, the God who cares, protects, provides, and who keeps His promises! Then *today* we know Him also as the God who so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that whosoever *believes* in Him will not perish but have everlasting life! Well, dear listener, *believing* in Him also means *trusting* in Him today, and trusting in Him for your life! Trust in the *LORD* with *all your heart*, He says, because He now wants to see us trust with an *undivided* heart. The *heart* is the source, the *basis* for all our feelings, for our love, our joy, our sorrow, our bitterness, our despair, etc. It's also the *centre* of our understanding, the centre of our spiritual life; the place from which originate our faith and unbelief, our obedience and our disobedience, and the basis for our trust or distrust!

I am sure you will agree with me, dear listeners, that this *demand* of God's Word is *not an easy one*. Of course, Solomon's wisdom doesn't mean that we may *not use our* understanding since God gives us the gift of understanding for use in His service. The book of Proverbs shows clearly that man *should* use his understanding to develop skills and get ahead in life. Yet, Solomon does say that also in that case we should not *lean* on our own understanding and *rely* on it as if we *ourselves* can *chart the course* of our lives. The *LORD* does not want us to *depend* on our own insight, but instead He wants us to depend on *Him*. He wants us to listen to Him and learn from His Word what the best way will be for us to proceed on the paths of our life! That's the *hard* part though. It is a daily struggle for us to place all our trust in God because we so easily fall into the trap of relying *first* on ourselves and on God for only a few areas of our lives. Sometimes we think and act as if God is for the *soul* and the rest is *our* business. This is

far from the truth! Rather than being removed from daily affairs, God is *so* involved that He even knows the number of the hairs on our head (Mt. 10:30).

What is Solomon teaching us, dear listeners, regarding the way we go in our life, concerning the paths we walk on our way? God wants us to recognize that He has an absolute *claim* on our lives and that we must acknowledge *Him* in everything we undertake. Just as it is insulting to *someone* when we ignore that person and do not acknowledge his presence, so it is insulting to *God* when we ignore Him and do not acknowledge His presence in our lives. The LORD wants us to ask what is right and pleasing according to Him, according to His Word, thereby acknowledging that we are *dependent* on His help in everything we do. That doesn't mean that when we do so everything will be alright and go well. It does mean though that *God* will be *with us* and will lead us in *straight paths*. Sometimes we look at people who live without God, and we think that they are managing just fine. Perhaps it even looks attractive to live like they do, without regard for God and without any apparent limitations. But the book of Proverbs points out that living without God is self-destructive ultimately since "the LORD's *curse* is on the house of the wicked, but He *blesses* the home of the righteous." [Prov. 3:33]

When we trust in the LORD, dear listeners, and acknowledge Him in all our ways, we will be *rewarded* because the LORD will make our paths straight. This does *not* mean that life will be free of problems. In fact, sometimes life seems it is full of *zigzags* and *detours* brought about by various adversities. Yet, through it all, God is working out His plan of salvation for our lives. Therefore dear listeners, heed Solomon's wisdom, and *acknowledge* the LORD in all the tracks and trips in your life and on the entire journey of your way of life! In prayer, also, you may lay your questions and decision-making before Him, rather than leaning on your own understanding. Then *He will make a straight path for your feet!* After all, who would know the right way better than He does?! With Him you will arrive at the *goal* for our lives: blessed *fellowship* with God in glory! You

want a *foretaste* of it already? In the *church* of Jesus Christ you will have this fellowship with God and with His people! Please join us for it soon!