

Understanding the Book of Proverbs through a Law/Gospel lens

Chapter 3

The first half of Proverbs 3 follows a straight-forward pattern of Law/blessing. A _____ is given and a promised _____ follows obedience.

We must read the law always first in a way that brings us to _____. We must follow this pattern of understanding:

1. **Read _____ and _____ before the Lord** (remembering Calvin's wise words, "*We can never really seek Him in earnest until we begin to despair of ourselves*")
2. _____ **our sin and need God's _____ in Christ-** "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness*"-1 John 1:9
3. **Re-read passage now with _____ in Christ-** Faith in Christ is key to a proper keeping of the law -In Christ all of the salvific blessings promised in the law are obtained.
4. **Pray asking God, in Christ's name, to strengthen you by the Spirit of Christ to walk in _____ obedience**

We must read the law rightly for us to honor the Lord in it. Our reading of the Law should lead to an _____ of Christ never to self-exultation-this often requires reading slowly and thoughtfully.

Verses 1-2

1. Humbly consider how you have not obeyed this command-let your mind think upon the ways in which you have been _____ and not kept God's commandments in your heart. Think about how because of your sin you have forfeited long life and peace and instead deserve death and misery.
2. Confess your foolishness to the Lord and plead for God's mercy in Christ...knowing that those who plead for mercy in the name of Christ, _____ what they seek.
3. Christ did not forget the Father's teaching, nor did His heart fail to keep the commandments. Therefore, length of days and peace are His, and these blessings He _____ bestows upon them that cling to Him by faith.
4. With thankfulness of heart for God's mercy and the richness of His grace in Christ, ask the Lord for strength so that you might, as a justified child of His, who has the promise of endless length of days and peace, strive to hide His teaching in your _____.

Together work through verses 3-4

Verses 5-6

1. Humbly consider how you trust in your own wisdom and lean constantly upon your own understanding. Consider how you do not acknowledge Him in all things. Let this teach you that your paths because of sin are _____.
2. Confess your self-trust and lack of gratefulness to the Lord and seek God's mercy in Christ. With confidence and boldness go to the throne of _____ and you will find mercy in your time of need.
3. Christ always trusted in His Father and acknowledged His Father in everything. Therefore, He is the _____ path on which we must walk.
4. With gratitude of heart, and faith in Christ, ask the Lord to grow your faith and trust in Him. Ask for His continued grace to keep you from relying on your own fallen thinking but seek to instead give thanks to God in all things...this path-the path of _____ in Christ and _____ obedience is the straight and narrow way.

Together work through 7-8

Verses 9-10

1. Humbly consider how you use the blessings of the Lord for your _____ ends. Think about how we use God's blessing in ways that are contrary to that which is right.
2. Confess our self-seeking and desire to hoard and _____ all that the Lord has blessed us with. Then run to the God who _____ His Only Son and find in Him mercy for a sinner such as you.
3. Christ always honored the Father with everything that He had. Therefore, as a perfect Son, He was made rich with divine favor and freely lavishes this favor upon those who trust in Him. In Christ we have _____ that the soul needs and desires.
4. With a heart overwhelmed by divine mercy ask the God of all grace to help you to imitate His _____ with that which He has given you. May we all remember what the Apostle Paul tells us, "What do you have that you were not given?" 1 Corinthians 4:7

Together work through 11-12