

**I. Confidence Gained - Prov. 3:21-26**

1. "My son" - once again - admonitions close to home (**verse 21**)  
Rea            -the man who wrote "Peter Rabbit" did so for his own kids
2. "Wisdom and understanding" - keep them close
3. In fact hang about your "neck" (**verse 22**)  
                 -they will be a grace to you  
Rea            -we might say "they will look good on you"
4. Your foot will not stumble (**verse 23**)  
                 -stumbling is easy  
Rea            -sure footed  
Rea            -much easier to stumble than to walk straight
5. When you lie down (**verse 24**)  
                 -no fear, nor anxiety  
                 -sleep is sweet  
Rea            -have you ever missed a night's sleep because of some pressing anxiety?  
Rea            -anxiety is fear over the future
6. Fear of sudden disaster (**verse 25**)  
                 -fear of disaster or sudden ruin  
Rea            -in the words of the psalmist - you will be led to green pastures, so you will not  
                 worry about drought
7. The key is the Lord (**verse 26**)  
                 A. He will be with you  
                 B. He will keep your foot from being snared  
Rea            C. Regardless of the trials - we can handle them because He is with us  
Rea    **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. What is the secret to "sweet sleep?"
  2. Where would one find this wisdom and discretion?
  3. The waves of life will still crash but you can handle them

**II. Kindness Expressed - Proverbs 3:27-30**

1. Four snapshots from daily life (**verse 27**) - on how to treat others around us
2. Don't withhold good when you have a chance
  - A. Verse 27 is about people who work for us - don't withhold good from them  
                 -if someone does a job they ought be paid  
Rea            -this is a verse that helps me to say nice things at a lost person's funeral
  - B. A neighbor who wants to be paid (**verse 28**)  
                 -"come back tomorrow" - put them off when you ought go ahead and pay  
                 them  
                 -this is inconsiderate  
Rea            -reluctance to help quickly is selfish
  - C. Don't plot harm against your neighbor (**verse 29**)  
                 -the neighbor "trusts" you while you plot

- Rea                    -do good to your neighbor. Being “neighborly” has all but vanished.  
                           Good Christians are good neighbors.  
                           D. Don’t accuse for no reason (**verse 30**)
- Rea                    -it is all too easy to make an accusation, and all too hard to call it back  
                           once it leaves your lips
3. All four involve our neighbors
- Rea                    -we interact with a lot of people... someone said we ought treat our neighbors as if  
                           we were about to borrow money from them.
- Rea    **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Heading for this - Christians and Their Neighbors  
                           -or How to Be a Good Neighbor
  2. I’m think of Mr Rogers “neighborhood”
  3. If your faith does not affect your relationship with neighbors, then where does it help?

### **III. Blessing Secured - Proverbs 3:31-35**

1. Warning about the path of the violent man (**verse 31**)  
                           -don’t choose their “ways”  
                           -don’t even be “envious” of them
- Rea                    -don’t look at them and say, well it seems to be working for them
- Rea                    -hard to watch violence on TV (constantly) and not “think” violent
2. God detests their “perverse” ways (**verse 32**)
- Rea    3. Introduces the “Lord” as reason not to go there - that is your motive  
                           A. The Lord’s stance is clear...  
                           B. He detests the perverse  
                           C. He takes the upright into His confidence - would give them counsel
- Rea    4. God resists the proud but raises up the upright - New Testament
5. His curse is on the wicked (**verse 33**)
- Rea                    -the whole “house” of the wicked, and the blessing on the upright is on the  
                           “home” of the upright
- Rea                    -it is so true that wisdom affects all who come near it, but so does foolishness
6. Mocks the proud, but shows favor (**verse 34**)  
                           -their pride will lead to their ruin  
                           -shows favor to the humble
- Rea                    -Luke tells us that Mary (mother of Jesus) was “favored”
7. Contrasts wise and fools (**verse 35**)  
                           Wise - honor  
                           Fools - shame
8. The end of the fool is shame  
                           The end of the wise is honor
- Rea                    -it is “honorable” to be seen in the community as someone who is wise
- Rea                    -by contrasts it is easy to spot (also) the fool - they will be ashamed... in  
                           the end
- Rea    **Ideas and Questions:**

  1. What makes a man wise, and another one a fool?
  2. Two categories  
                           Right and Wrong

Shouldn't we also include - "wise"

Some things are not "wrong" but surely "unwise"

3. Wise and fools are not alone in the way they conduct their lives:

A. Wise man benefits his neighborhood - fool tears it down

B. Wise and fools are judged by God - as well

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