

How to Live Wisely

PROVERBS 1–9

*Wisdom is a skill—the relational skill of
pleasing God in every facet of life.*

Scripture Reading

PROVERBS 3:1–12

THE MAIN POINT OF PROVERBS 3:1–12

*If you want to experience the good life,
then put God at the center.*

*Those who put God at the center of their lives
will be blessed—often now and always later.*

PROVERBS 3: MAKE GOD CENTRAL...

1. in how you think Bible (3:1–2).

In a study of 75,000 middle-aged female nurses in the US over the period, 1992-2012, “researchers found that women who went to church more than once a week had a 33% lower risk of dying during the study period compared with those who said they never went.”

— *CNN*, May 16, 2016

“Research shows religion plays a major role in health, longevity....In general those who go to church once or more each week can look forward to about seven more years than those who never attend.”

— *Science Daily*, May 17, 1999

PROVERBS 3: MAKE GOD CENTRAL...

1. in how you think Bible (3:1–2).
2. in how you do business (3:3–4).

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4. in how you fight sin (3:7–8).

“Many nonreligious people are passionately engaged in serving and giving, while many Christians live self-centered lives. But as atheist social psychologist Jonathan Haidt observes: ‘Surveys have long shown that religious believers in the US are happier, healthier, longer-lived, and more generous to charity and to each other than secular people.’”

— Rebecca McLaughlin, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World’s Largest Religion*

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4. in how you fight sin (3:7–8).
5. in how you handle money (3:9–10).

Regular church attenders versus never-attenders of church are 84% less likely to commit suicide, 50% less likely to divorce, and 33% less likely to use drugs as teens.

— Human Flourishing Program
at Harvard University
(for a summary, see
Christianity Today, October 19, 2021)

- “People who pray daily and regularly attend church significantly outpace their irreligious neighbors in generosity to the poor, both with their time and money.”
- “Churchgoing, conservative Christians are in the category with the most fulfilling sex lives in America.”
- “Theologically conservative, gender-traditional, church-attending women are in the category of the happiest relationships with the least abuse in the country.”

— Josh Howerton, “No, Christianity Is Not as Bad as You Think” (*TGC*)

THE MAIN POINT OF PROVERBS 3:1–12

*If you want to experience the good life,
then _____ .*

PROVERBS 3: MAKE GOD CENTRAL...

1. in how you think Bible (3:1–2).
2. in how you do business (3:3–4).
3. in how you make decisions (3:5–6).
4. in how you fight sin (3:7–8).
5. in how you handle money (3:9–10).
6. in how you respond to pain (3:11–12).

“Love the LORD your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your might.”

— *Deuteronomy 6:5*