



## Connection to Proverbs 3:1-12

To be a devoted follower of someone, we must do so with our mind, heart, and actions. To forsake one of these three elements would yield a less than fully devoted follower. Solomon gives us insight into what it looks like to follow Him with our minds, hearts, and actions.

## Introduction/Opening

We learned last week the importance of following wisdom in order to not act like fools. Once we know where wisdom comes from and the results of not following, the next step is following directions from the One who provides wisdom. Yes, wisdom is found in God's words. Acting upon this wisdom is found in following His directions with our minds, hearts and actions.

## Outline

1. Following Directions with Our Minds:
  - a) Growing up, most of us were told by a parent to not forget our gloves, hat, etc. and the list was endless. If we are married, our spouses may tell us to not forget our keys, phone, etc., and the list is yet again endless. God tells us here to not forget as well (v. 1). To forget or remember something is a mental exercise. We will be unable to remember something unless we engage mentally.
  - b) Now, what was it that I was supposed to remember? God graciously provides the answer. We are to remember His teaching (v. 1). It is in and through God's Word that we find purpose, meaning, and salvation. Let us be found faithful in being able to quote His Word more so than our opinions or what we have always been told.
  
2. Following Directions with Our Hearts:
  - a) The heart represents the center of who we are. We love those close to us with our whole hearts. God wants us to keep His commands with our whole hearts—with the center of who we are (v. 1). If we want to follow His directions, then let's do so with our hearts.
  - b) As we keep His commands with our hearts, we can trust Him with all of our hearts (v. 5). The commands He calls us to follow will be counter-cultural. Therefore, trust needs to be involved. This trust originates in the heart and it is based on remembering His teachings, connecting our heads with our hearts. As we seek to faithfully follow His directions with our minds and hearts, our actions will change.

3. Following Directions with Our Actions:
  - a) Have you ever had to recruit someone for a team or hire a new employee? If yes, loyalty and faithfulness are characteristics that most of us would seek. These are actions that are lived out on a day-to-day basis, and they come from the heart. God calls us to never let loyalty and faithfulness leave us (v. 3). Yes, we will fall short. But, our actions need to be loyal and faithful to His teachings and from hearts that seek to trust Him.
  - b) In ancient times, when a king would travel to another land his servants would go in front of him in order to clear the path of obstacles. The servants would make the path straight for the journey ahead (v. 6). God, through His Son, has cleared a path for us to travel in order to obtain a relationship with Him. In order for this to happen, we need to follow His direction with our minds, hearts, and actions.

## Conclusion

Those who know Christ as Savior might hear a message like this and wish a lost friend would have been here today. While this message does benefit a lost person, it is just as vital for the one who is saved. Let us not forget His commands and let us be found faithful in fulfilling them with a heart of love and consistent obedience.

For the one who does not have this relationship, the conclusion resides within the context of trusting the Lord with your heart and walking the straight path set before you. The only way to begin this journey is by placing your faith in Christ who sacrificed Himself for your sins.

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