

WHAT TO BIND AROUND YOUR NECK

I. Proverbs 3:1-12

A. I've shared here over the years that I first discovered Proverbs when I was in high school. I especially liked reading them from my paperback Living Bible but also read them in my NASB. (It's interesting to go back to one of your old Bibles and see what you underlined way-back-when.) I know some of you likewise appreciate Proverbs. They're rich whether you read them a verse or two a day or read a chapter a day and complete the book in a month's time. The Proverbs are potent and insightful and as relevant now as when they were first written. Some of them are actually humorous...

B. The ESV Study Bible says this about Proverbs: "Proverbs states its theme right at the book's beginning (1:1-7): 'its goal is to describe and instill 'wisdom' in God's people, a wisdom that is founded in the 'fear of the LORD' and that works out covenant life in the practical details of everyday situations and relationships.'" **Our text today will bear this out...**

C. Proverbs 3:1-3 (ESV) are some very wise words:

1) **V1-3: 1 My son (*my child*), do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, 2 for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. (Sounds like a promise!) 3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. (Steadfast love and faithfulness! Sound familiar? It's because these are the key attributes of God! Our Lord said so to Moses on Sinai all the way back in Exodus 34:6-7 when giving the second set of tablets.**

2) Moses, David, other Psalmists, Jeremiah, Nehemiah, Joel and Jonah--these all affirm that steadfast love and faithfulness are the attributes of our Lord. 250 times we hear of it in the OT. The Hebrew word for this love is *Hesed*. It's translated *lovingkindness; unfailing love; loyal love; covenant love; and steadfast love*.

D. Here's some supporting Scriptures...

1) Psalm 25:4-10 (ESV) says: **6 Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, (*Hesed*) for they have been from of old. (How old is from of old? Like eternity past, old!) 7 Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love (*Hesed*) remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD! 8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. 9 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way. 10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies. (So His steadfast love is from old and all His paths are likewise! Yes, bind them around your neck!)**

2) Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV) The weeping prophet tells us more: **22 The steadfast love (*Hesed*) of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. (Not only is God's steadfast love from of old, it never ceases--it's ever brand new! So yes, bind this around your neck!)**

3) Psalm 86:5 & 15 (ESV) echoes: **5 For You, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon You... 15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful**

and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. (It's old, it's unceasing, it's ever new, and God is abounding in them! Bind them around your neck!)

4) Psalm 103:17-18 (ESV) affirms longevity: 17 *But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, 18* **to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments. (As for His steadfast love and faithfulness--it's not going away--EVER! And if you were to turn to Psalm 136, each line of those 26 verses declares: "For His steadfast love endures forever!" So yes, bind them around your neck!)**

E. Proverbs 3:4-12 (ESV) gives us the WHY of all this along with more wisdom...

1) V4-5: 4 *So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. 5* **Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. (Trust means putting the full weight of your soul upon God! Trust is a settled confidence in God's providence--His sovereign goodness. Think of this progression: The fear (reverent awe) of God. leads to trust in God, leads to the peace of God...)**

2) V6-7: 6 *In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. 7* **Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, (Elsewhere it says *the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.* Often we fear the notions and threats brought on by man more than we do what God has clearly said and what He has clearly demonstrated to be true...) and turn away from evil. (Repentance leads to healing.)**

3) V8-10: 8 *It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment (OV medicine) to your bones. (Sounds yet again like a promise!) 9* **Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; 10** *then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. (Another promise! Giving should always be an acknowledgement of WHO provided for us in the first place! I believe there's two kinds of frugal: One kind of frugal is the result of not trusting in God. Stinginess is its byproduct. But another kind of frugal exists to enable generosity. But ultimately what we do with our wealth is proportionate to where we think it came from in the first place...)*

4) V11-12: 11 *My son, (My child) do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of His reproof, 12* **for the LORD reproves him whom He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. (Perhaps you're thinking: God must love you a whole lot! Me too!)**

F. Psalm 25:10: "All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness..." When you read through the 66 Books, you see the steadfast love of the Lord and His faithfulness in living color. You see them in the Garden onward. You see them in the lives of the Patriarchs. You see them in the deliverance of God's people from Egyptian slavery. You see them in the wilderness and in the giving of the law. You see them throughout the days of the Judges, the Kings, and the Prophets. But where do we see these paths culminate? Where's their mighty confluence demonstrated most grandly? Where do they reach their zenith? **At the Cross! John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13: "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us..." 1 Peter 2:24: "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross..." (So yes, bind this around your neck! Tattoo this on your hearts! Carve this in your trees! Shout this from every mountaintop!)**

* Close with Prayer...

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Proverbs 3:1-12 (ESV)

1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, **2** for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. **3** Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. **4** So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. **5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. **6** In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. **7** Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. **8** It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. **9** Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; **10** then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. **11** My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of His reproof, **12** for the LORD reproves him whom He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Psalm 25:4-10 (ESV)

6 Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. **7** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD! **8** Good and upright is the LORD; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. **9** He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way. **10** All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)

22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; **23** they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

Psalm 86:5 & 15 (ESV)

5 For You, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon You... **15** But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Psalm 103:17-18 (ESV)

17 But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, **18** to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.

Bonus Goodies

"Hesed" - Dr. Barry Cooper (Ligonier Ministries, Audio & Script)

<https://www.ligonier.org/podcasts/simply-put/hesed>

What I Want From A Church - Tim Challies

<https://www.challies.com/articles/what-i-want-from-a-church/>

Members Who Build the Body - Pastor Chopo Mwanza (Deeper Reflections)

<http://chopomwanza.blogspot.com/2023/01/members-who-build-body.html>

Not Like Any Other Book - Mitch Chase (Pastor, Professor, Author)

https://mitchchase.substack.com/p/not-like-any-other-book?utm_source=pocket_reader

[More Verses, Quotes, Excerpts, & Extras](#)

[Exodus 34:4-8 \(ESV\)](#)

4 So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. **5** The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. **6** The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, **7** keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.” **8** And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

[Proverbs 3:1-12 \(NLT\)](#)

1 My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart. **2** If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying. **3** Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. **4** Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation. **5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. **6** Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. **7** Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil. **8** Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones. **9** Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. **10** Then He will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine. **11** My child, don't reject the LORD's discipline, and don't be upset when He corrects you. **12** For the LORD corrects those He loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.

[Psalm 85:8-13 \(ESV\)](#)

8 Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly. **9** Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land. **10** Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. **11** Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. **12** Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. **13** Righteousness will go before Him and make His footsteps a way.

Psalm 103:8-12 (ESV)

8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. **9** He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever. **10** He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. **11** For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; **12** as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

Psalm 136:1-26 (ESV)

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever. **2** Give thanks to the God of gods, for His steadfast love endures forever. **3** Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for His steadfast love endures forever; **4** to Him who alone does great wonders, for His steadfast love endures forever; **5** to Him who by understanding made the heavens, for His steadfast love endures forever; **6** to Him who spread out the earth above the waters, for His steadfast love endures forever; **7** to Him who made the great lights, for His steadfast love endures forever; **8** the sun to rule over the day, for His steadfast love endures forever; **9** the moon and stars to rule over the night, for His steadfast love endures forever; **10** to Him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, for His steadfast love endures forever; **11** and brought Israel out from among them, for His steadfast love endures forever; **12** with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, for His steadfast love endures forever; **13** to Him who divided the Red Sea in two, for His steadfast love endures forever; **14** and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for His steadfast love endures forever; **15** but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea, for His steadfast love endures forever; **16** to Him who led His people through the wilderness, for His steadfast love endures forever; **17** to Him who struck down great kings, for His steadfast love endures forever; **18** and killed mighty kings, for His steadfast love endures forever; **19** Sihon, king of the Amorites, for His steadfast love endures forever; **20** and Og, king of Bashan, for His steadfast love endures forever; **21** and gave their land as a heritage, for His steadfast love endures forever; **22** a heritage to Israel his servant, for His steadfast love endures forever. **23** It is He who remembered us in our low estate, for His steadfast love endures forever; **24** and rescued us from our foes, for His steadfast love endures forever; **25** He who gives food to all flesh, for His steadfast love endures forever. **26** Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever.

Nehemiah 9:16-21 (ESV)

16 But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey Your commandments. **17** They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that You performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But You are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them. **18** Even when they had made for themselves a golden calf and said, 'This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,' and had committed great blasphemies, **19** You in Your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go. **20** You gave Your good Spirit to instruct them

and did not withhold Your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst. **21** Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell.

Jonah 4:1-4 (ESV)

1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. **2** And he prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that You are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. **3** Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." **4** And the LORD said, "Do you do well to be angry?"

Joel 2:12-13 (ESV)

12 "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; **13** and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster.

Malachi 3:6-12 (ESV)

6 "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. **7** From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?' **8** Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me. But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In your tithes and contributions. **9** You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you. **10** Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. And thereby put Me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. **11** I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. **12** Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

The Theme of Proverbs

ESV Study Bible

Proverbs states its theme right at the book's beginning (1:1-7): its goal is to describe and instill "wisdom" in God's people, a wisdom that is founded in the "fear of the LORD" and that works out covenant life in the practical details of everyday situations and relationships.

- Introduction to Proverbs, *The ESV Study Bible*, Crossway, p. 1130.

Theological Note on Exodus 34:6-7

The ESV Study Bible

"The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." - Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV)

34:6-7: The Lord's proclamation of His name and the declaration of His character becomes a central confessional passage for the OT (e.g., see Neh. 9:17, 31; Ps. 86:15; 103:8; Jonah 4:2; Joel 2:13). This confession describes the Lord's gracious character in preserving Israel as a whole for the sake of God's overall purpose and in the sparing of those individuals who look to Him in true faith (e.g., see note on Ps. 32:1-5). Moses will argue these very words back to the Lord when he intercedes for the people after their rebellion following the spies' report on Canaan (see Num. 14:18-19). The description emphasizes the **merciful and gracious** character of the Lord (see Ex. 33:19), whose steadfast love and forgiveness extends to thousands (probably of generations, cf Deut. 7:9; and note on Ex. 20:5-6) in contrast to the few generations upon whom He visits iniquity. Moses will appeal to Israel's need for the Lord's gracious and merciful presence so that He might forgive them and take them as His inheritance (see 34:9). On **visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children**, see notes on 20:5-6 and Deut. 5:9-10.

- Theological note on Exodus 34:6-7, *The ESV Study Bible*, Crossway, p. 200.