



2016
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Summer 2017

Proverbs 3:5–6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Reflection

Historians divide human history into many periods. You may know some of them. The Bronze Age. The Iron Age. The Middle Ages. The early Modern period. Post-mod-

ernism. And many other names but surely our age is best described as the Information Age. Literacy. Education. Early childhood learning. Pre-school. Primary school. High school. Schooling gives way to more schooling, then college or university, a degree then post-graduate studies, on the job training, ongoing professional development, perhaps an MBA – a lifetime of learning.

The Information Age. More knowledge than our ancestors could have ever dreamed of just a few keystrokes away. And yet the more we know, the deeper we go, the more we realise how very little we know about this universe in which we live. Our Nobel Prize winning scientists are often the best examples. The deeper they go into their field, the more breakthroughs and discov-

eries, the more they are humbled by the finite nature of human knowledge in our infinite universe. And they are filled with wonder and awe at the natural world. For them science becomes almost a religious experience as they marvel at the order and design that they find in diverse fields from micro-biology right up to astrophysics. Unsurprisingly, for many of them, the Christian worldview makes best sense of their science.

The Bible celebrates their field as well. Solomon and Job were fascinated by the natural world and wrote extensively about it. The apostle Paul had great learning. And a whole section of the bible has come to be known as the Wisdom literature; it even incorporates writings from wise people from nations other than Isra-

el. And yet all the wisdom writings in the Bible have one thing in common: true wisdom begins with fear of the Lord. And so it is no surprise to read in Proverbs 3:5–6 today,

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Despite the blessings of our age and our great learning, true wisdom begins with fearing, standing in awe of, deeply respecting, obeying and heeding him who knows all. The wise person is the one who lives by the words of Proverbs 3:5–6,

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart

and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Lean not on your own understanding, instead trust him with all your heart, submit to him in all your ways, and watch him make your paths, not difficult, not cumbersome, but straight. It is refreshing in an age of unrelenting study and learning that simple trust in our Lord is enough. Trust and obedience and he will take care of the rest.

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Trust. Obedience. Leaning on his wisdom and not our own. Submitting all our ways to him. And the promise that he will make our paths straight. It's such a beautiful, refreshing verse isn't it? A great one to commit to memory.

Think & Pray

Consider this morning in what parts of your life you might be leaning on your own understanding, and putting too much faith in your own devices, your own competency, your own skills. Doing so makes for a tiresome and stressful existence when compared to giving everything over to him. Have you given your whole life over to Jesus? Are you trusting him with every part of it? And perhaps even more importantly are you submitting to him in all your

ways? Is he Lord over every part of your life? Or are there parts that you are holding back – a relationship, a hidden desire or a secret sin – a part of your life that you are keeping from him and trying to keep secret from the world? Pray this morning that you would,

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