

MONDAY, September 28, 2009: *“When running risks, responsibility must be matched by authority.”* _Winston S. Churchill

RE: Proverbs 16:3

This is one of the most solid business/leadership principles ever given. Whether your business is running a home or a factory, if God is really real and if his character is what he says it is in his Bible then this proverb is a guarantee that we need to imprint upon our heart.

As with all guarantees, there is a condition that is required to reap the benefits. In this case, the condition is *“commit your works to the Lord.”* Commit means that we give our works over to God's authority and leadership. It means that we do things his way and follow his orders.

For example, if we commit the steering wheel of our car over to someone, then we can grab the dashboard all we want, push on phantom brakes on the passenger side and clutch the armrest with a death grip. However, none of that will matter for we've committed the handling of the car over to someone else – it's in their hands.

This is what is required in our relationship with God. In all things – day by day, decision by decision – we give God the reins. We allow him to veto anything, we follow his commands and we do things his way. In other words, we can't commit shady dealings and shoddy work to him and expect Him to bless it. We can't commit selfish ambition and tithe-less profit to him and expect him to bless it. But – and this is huge – if we commit to operate our lives and business according to his will – WE WILL BE BLESSED! You can take that to the bank and you can find peace even on tough days because you know that you are just a junior partner in the firm; but the senior partner is God and he never loses!

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 37

TUESDAY, September 29, 2009: *“I do not want the peace that passeth understanding. I want the understanding which bringeth peace.”* _Hellen Keller

RE: Proverbs 4:7

I don't know how it can be put any clearer. The wise man sums it up this way: *“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.”*

Did you get that? The principal thing is wisdom. Not grace, mercy, love or all the other things we like to think about – no – the principle thing is wisdom.

Grace is wonderful but if you are counting on grace to make up for unwise decisions you will sadly learn that living under grace does not exempt you from reaping the consequences of what you sow – it's one of the laws of God's universe.

Mercy is great but it is much better to not need mercy. For the fact that you need mercy is a sign that you brought hurt and heartache to someone.

And love can be wonderful beyond description, but I've seen people do stupid things and even harmful things to themselves and to those they love all in the name of love!

Get the picture? The best question you could ask yourself in every situation is, “Is this wise?” And the second best question is, “Do I really understand this?” If you can say yes to those two questions then you will find the joy of being a giver of grace and mercy instead of being the foolish person that is always needing it!

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 3:13-18, 23:23

WEDNESDAY, September 30, 2009: *“Anyone who becomes a great person did so because he refused to be a little person. He refused to allow obstacles to defeat him.”* _Norman Vincent Peale, In God We Trust: A Positive Faith for Troubled Times

RE: Proverbs 22:3

Today let's look at the “simple” man. I want you to understand that the “simple” person talked about here is not a bad person but is rather a “naive” person. They lack experience in life.

What I'd like to point out to you today is that all of us are “simple” in some area of life. The way we learn most often is through our failures and mistakes. “Getting burned” (being naive) by someone is one of the best ways to learn! We don't like it but if we're willing to learn from these painful experiences, we will be better for it.

So, my advice to you today is, do not be so afraid of “getting burned” that you are afraid to take risk. Don't go through life so cynical that you can't trust anyone. Sure, there will be people that take advantage of you – that's life; but there will also be many new friends and great opportunities to discover when you dare to get out of your comfort zone.

The key is learning from your painful experiences. I don't remember where I first heard it, but there's a saying that I use during those times when I “get burnt”: “The first time was the devil's fault; the second time will be my fault.”

There you have it, don't grow bitter when done wrong, don't play the blame game, just pick yourself up – learn from your experience – and keep trucking! Life wasn't meant to be lived hiding behind a hard shell of fear and cynicism.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 19:7, Proverbs 1:1-4

THURSDAY: October 1, 2009: *“When I compose I sit down to the piano, shut my eyes and play what I hear.”* _Ernst Theodor “Amadeus” Hoffmann, 1776-1822

RE: Proverbs 23:6-8

There are some people that just can't have fun. They're serious about everything. Everything has to be for a purpose. Everything must show some profit. These people are “misers.” They dole out the blessings of God in dribbles instead of enjoying God's blessings and being a blessing. Why you'd think there was a ration on saying, “I love you” and “Thanks.”

Think about how different God is. When he created flowers he didn't just create one or two varieties, he created thousands (maybe more)! It wasn't enough that He made water; He wanted it to also be able to be ice, snow and steam. I could go on and on; but don't you see how much fun God must have had creating this world.

Think about our sins. God didn't just forgive some of our sins – but with extravagant grace and love He forgave all of them – no questions asked! Bottom line, God can never be accused of being a sour old miser.

So today, be like God – be a grace giver. Share what you have generously. Express your love lavishly. Make someone happy today – you will discover that it will make your day a lot brighter also. **SCRIPTURE:** Deuteronomy 7:7; John 12:1-8