

**“LEAN NOT”**  
**Destinations, Part 3**  
February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010

In every area of life there is a path that you take, and each path has a destination

Often we have a destination in mind we want to reach, then we pick a path, knowingly or unknowingly, that leads in a different direction

Direction, not intention, determines your destination

Prayer from Proverbs 27:12 – “Heavenly Father, help me to see trouble coming long before it gets here. Then give me the wisdom to know what to do & the courage to do it.”

The problem with picking the right path is the choices are now; the outcomes are later

Since we can't go back and unmake decisions, we must make the right decision up front

We have all ignored good advice at some point and often even paid for the advice

Our problem is not a lack of information, it's independence

**Insight From The Smartest Man In The World**

1 Kings 3:5 (NIV) “At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, ‘Ask for whatever you want Me to give you.’”

1 Kings 3:7-9 (NIV) “[Solomon answered] Now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.”

1 Kings 3:10-13 (NIV) “The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, ‘Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for – both riches and honor – so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.’”

**How To Know Which Path To Choose**

Solomon knew wisdom and information alone were not enough

Proverbs 3:5 (NIV) “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.”

Our tendency is to make decisions based on our way of seeing the world and what we have experienced in the world

“trust” – lying helplessly facedown; “lean” – prop something up against something else

When the way we view things conflicts with the God views things, we are to lean in His direction rather than our own

Leaning on our own understanding has the potential to take us exactly where we don't want to be

Proverbs 3:6 (NIV) "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

We must learn to live with a God component in every avenue & aspect of life

To "acknowledge God" means to recognize who He is and Respond accordingly

Direction begins with submission; submission precedes direction

If we trust with all our hearts, refuse to lean into our limited understanding, and submit every aspect of our lives to Him, you will Know which path to take

Proverbs 3:7 (NIV) "Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil."

### Where Solomon Went Wrong

Solomon decided to lean on his own understanding & depended on foreign kings rather than God  
1 Kings 11:4-5 (NAS) "For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites."

Once Solomon abandoned his dependence on God, he made one bad decision after another

Moral of the story: Information, wisdom, insight, and experience aren't enough. We need God

We need to live with a posture of dependency on God

Most of the time we are willing to acknowledge dependency on God in areas we can't control

Have you ever surrendered areas you do have some control over to God?

We personally need a relationship with God, and that happens, not by asking for direction but by surrendering

Surrendering always precedes direction

### My Next Step Today Is:

- To fully develop my relationship with God, I am surrendering all areas of my life to God
- I am trusting in God and leaning on His understanding as I seek direction in a specific area of my life
- I want to attend the "Meet the Pastor's" lunch on Sun, Feb 28<sup>th</sup>
- I will memorize Proverbs 3:5-7