

Sermon Handout

Citizens of the Kingdom Pt. 2

Proverbs 3:1-10

I. Keep God's Law in your Heart vv. 1-2

a. Old Testament background

- i. The commandments "kept" in the ark Ex 25:16, 21-22; Dt 4:12-14
Ex 40:20 *cf.* Dt 10:1-2; Heb 9:3-5
I Kg 8:9 (in Solomon's time)

- ii. The commandments to be "laid up in the heart" Dt 11:18; Is 51:7
In the OT church, the commandments were not to be merely external.
Ezek 11:17-20; 36:24-28; Jer 31:31-34
Ezek 44:9; Jer 9:26-27 *contra* Jer 17:1; *cf.* Prov 3:3; 7:3

b. The Promised New Covenant came to full bloom in Jesus

- i. Heb 8:1-2, 6-13 quoting Jer 31:31-34
- ii. The problem was not in the promise, but in their hearts Heb 8:8
Dt 30:6; Jer 4:4; Dt 10:16
- iii. True circumcision – in Israel and the Church
Rom 2:28-29; I Cor 7:17-19 (*cf.* Gal 5:6); Col 2:11-12
Neither circumcision nor baptism, *in themselves*, saved anyone.
Gal 3:6-9, 26-29 – the sign must be accompanied by faith (v. 9)

II. Practicing the Word of the Lord vv. 3-8

a. Kindness and faithfulness are to characterize our lives

- i. Kindness (*cf.* Gen 24:12; Esther 2:17) Generous behavior toward others
- ii. Faithfulness (*cf.* Ps 15:2; I Kg 10:6) Holding faithfully to one's word
- iii. These are to be written on the tablets of our mind *cf.* Dt 6:8-9

b. The Lord is to be the object of our trust in all matters

- i. We must not look to ourselves for guidance v. 5b
- ii. We are not to find wisdom in ourselves v. 7a
- iii. But rather to God and his commandments vv. 5a, 6a, 7b

c. In this way will our lives be fruitful

- i. We will be well thought of by God and men v. 4
- ii. Our lives will be given good direction v. 6b
- iii. We are kept from evil v. 7b (*cf.* Ps 119:9-11)
- iv. Health & refreshment will be felt in our bodies

III. Honoring God with our Possessions vv. 9-10

a. Tithing is involved here, but there is more to it than that.

b. Generous giving is blessed by God v. 10; Mal 3:10 Heb 6:10 *cf.* Mt 6:1-4

c. Giving our first-fruits remind us of our redemption by the Lord

Ex 13:12-14; Dt 26:1-10; I Cor 6:19-20