"Wisdom's Checklist, part 1"
Proverbs 3:1-6

C.I.T.—Solomon provides a checklist for wise living.
C.I.S.—We should follow this checklist for wise living.
Purpose—I want to provide a checklist for our people to follow in order to have a wise and successful life.
Introduction—The Importance of Checklists.

I. ***Remembrance*** vs. 1-2
   a. Don't forget/let your heart keep
      i. Make sure that these stay at the front of your mind.
      ii. Not only know them, but keep them and obey them
   b. Laws and Commands—encapsulates the teaching of Solomon in particular, but the entire Bible in general
   c. Lead to long, peaceful life—we want a long, healthy, full, and fulfilling life—shalom
   d. The way to a blessed life is by remembering and living by God's Word.
   e. Illus.—Set of instruction to build something
   f. Application
      i. When we follow the instructions, we will build what the instructions lead to building.
      ii. It is when we stray from the instructions and go out on our own that we cause problems.
      iii. Are you living in remembrance of God's Word?

II. ***Relationship*** vs 3-4
   a. Hesed/faithfulness
      i. Language of the covenant
      ii. Refers to living within the context of faithfulness to our relationship with God
   b. Command
      i. Do not leave/abandon
      ii. Bind them upon our neck
      iii. Write on your heart
      iv. Make you relationship with God the most defining part of your life that you are never without.
   c. Lead to favor and high regard (good understanding) with God and man
   d. Illus.—Good luck charm
   e. Application
      i. Your good luck charm is that you know Jesus.
      ii. You have a relationship and fellowship with Him, and therefore, He takes care of you.
      iii. Are you living in relationship with God?

III. ***Reliance*** vs 5-6
   a. Trust the LORD
      i. To believe in and place faith in
      ii. This trust is "in the LORD"
      iii. This trust is total, in that you have complete faith and trust in Him.
      iv. This reveals itself in making decisions in according with His revelation and plan.
   b. Do not lean on your own understanding
      i. Leaning is another term for trusting
      ii. Understanding refers to having insight about a thing.

1. This insight is gained through personal observation, experience, and reason.
2. Thus, when one leans on this, they are making a decision on a course of direction based on their best guess.

iii. Our plan according to our reason.

c. We have two options:
   i. We can trust in ourselves
      1. Limited in our understanding and perception.
      2. Limited in our available information.
      3. Limited in our ability.
   ii. We can trust in the LORD
      1. Unlimited in His understanding and perspective
      2. Unlimited in information.
      3. Unlimited in ability.
d. In all your ways acknowledge him.
   i. To acknowledge means to "know," figuratively it refers to doing something God's way.
   ii. This is in reference to all your ways
      1. Life activities
      2. This would include family, finances, job, hobby, health, etc.
   iii. Thus you choose to follow the Lord's way.
e. The LORD will be at work
   i. Straight refers to right
      1. Can refer to a path that is free of dangers and obstacles
      2. Also refers to a "right" or "righteous" path
      3. The path authorized by God.
f. We must rely upon the Lord in order to walk His path, which would be the one we would choose for us if we were God.
a. Illus.—Driving back from Mario's graveside, Jeff and Hartie overriding the GPS
b. Application
   i. The encouragement here is that we trust the LORD to direct us before we get in danger.
   ii. But what do we do if we have taken a detour.
   iii. What if we have already gotten off the path

Conclusion

- We want to live life and follow a pathway that will give us long life, well-being, fulfillment, and peace.
- The only way to truly do that is by remembering, relationship, and reliance upon the Lord.
- When we find ourselves off of that pathway, it is because we forgot His Word.
- We neglected our relationship with Him.
- We leaned on our own understanding.
- We need to repent and return to trusting Him.