

Commit Thy Works unto The Lord

Proverbs 16:3

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“Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.” – Proverbs 16:3 (Cf. 3:5, 6).

Solomon is always very, very concerned with just where our hearts, and so our concentration and priorities will lay. This is one of very famous verses in Proverbs that people call to mind when they are thinking along the matter of being what God wants for them to be. He tells us, basically three ideas for us to grab hold of here:

1. Believe that what we DO is very important both to honoring the Lord and to ordering and defining what Solomon defines as our “thoughts”.
2. Believe that our “works”, as defined here, need to be committed to the Lord, as the Bible speaks of ordering them, in order for them to be of any profit to either He and/or us.
3. It IS possible to control and establish our thought life.
4. Along that line, we need to take real and definite care that our “works” are “aimed” in serving the Lord and not self.

With that in mind, let’s seek to think our way through this powerful verse that Solomon lays before us...

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Interestingly, the word translated “Commit” speaks of setting an object in a rolling motion, rolling away from the point of view. Due to the grammatical form of the verb, there no definite time statement that is a part of the verb. Related to how you and I think of the application of the verb to us, it is in the second person singular and is in the imperative voice, meaning we should take it as a command. What we draw from this is that in order to see to it that our thoughts are established in a way that pleases the Lord, we must COMMIT our works to Him. This is a very useful way of thinking of things as it establishes a mechanism that can be used to head us in that direction.

We note that Solomon is careful to specify that it is “your works” that have this effect on our lives. It is not just “working”. The form of “you” here is one that definitely attaches it to the word “works”. It is the works of those who are looking to have their thoughts established that should seek to “roll” their works toward the Lord.

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He goes on and connects this first phrase with a second phrase using a coordinating conjunction that shows the result of the first phrase laid out in the

second. He says that it is our “thoughts” that are affected by this action of which we have already spoken. A “thought” speaks of what we know as the process of moving through conclusions or creative processes in the mind. We tie information info together. The Hebrew works implies this kind of use, weaving, reckoning, devising and similar types of descriptions. The point is that as we “work” along, and our works are serving to the purposes of God, our mental evaluating processes are formed and developed in positive and godly directions.

Just to do some summing up, we want to rethink our interpretation. The word here rendered “commit,” used only in two other places (Ps. 22:8; 37:5), means, literally, “roll,” or “devolve.” The “works” are actions or courses of action in contemplation. The “thoughts” are designs and hopes in connection with those works. The promise is that such shall have a sure basis and result—shall not be frustrated, shall not disappoint in the end.

There are, as always, some illustrations in Scripture to enlighten what we are saying:

- Eliezer, laden with a heavy responsibility, devolved it upon God, and, under His guidance and blessing, discharged it faithfully and well.
- Jacob, in heaviness and fear, drew nigh unto God, and his hopes were more than realized.
- Ezra, committing himself to God’s protection on a perilous journey, found the hand of God upon him for good (Ezra 8:21–31).
- Nehemiah bespoke the blessing of Jehovah upon his enterprise from the beginning, and it prospered accordingly.
- No important step was taken by the Apostles without being first committed unto the Lord (Acts 1:24; 6:6; 13:3, etc.).

Just to finish up and think of the matter of application. –

- Responsibility is the price of reason, and cannot be devolved by its possessor upon others.
- There is a sense in which “every man must bear his own burden” (Gal. 6:5).
- Our spiritual anxieties and duties no brother can entirely relieve us of. Even God does not offer to make us irresponsible. But yet, if I commit the keeping of my soul to Him *in well doing* (1 Pet. 4:19), surely my best hopes concerning it shall be established (2 Tim. 1:12).
- And so with all temporal matters. I cannot divest myself of my duties and responsibilities in life, and yet I may cast all my care upon God (1 Pet. 5:7).
- The key to the promise of our text lies in those words of the Apostle, “*in well doing.*” As long as I am really striving to “walk in the light,” I may commit my spiritual hopes, and fears, and plans, and purposes, with sure confidence of a safe issue, to God’s hands.
- And if my spiritual matters, how much more those which concern the present life only?

- Two things deter men oftentimes from acting upon this advice. Either they are not sure that their plans are according to God's will, or they deem them too trivial for so important and Royal an Ear. But let me *form* no plans till they have first been brought in embryo before Him who gives *preventing* as well as *furthering* grace.
- Next, having gained His sanction, let me trust Him as a child its mother, with all that follows. How much needless anxiety might the Christian thus save himself! "We which have believed *do* enter into rest" (Heb. 4:3).

Oh that trust in God may be "the rest of my care, the calm of my tempest," and the fulfilment of all good desires!
