



**Lean Not
Proverbs 3:1-10
Message from Pastor Martin Hawley
October 1, 2017**

Idea: We don't just need information. We need God.

Introduction:

Life is mostly about decisions: choices. Our decisions are paths we choose. Every choice/path has an outcome/destination, consequence/reward.

The problem is, choices are **now**, and outcomes are **later**.

If we only knew the future, it would make decision-making much easier, but we don't. We can't.

What if you had access to someone who did? What if you had access to someone who had been around so long that he had catalogued all the possible choices and their probable outcomes based on the experiences of millions of people over the course of thousands of years?

Read: Proverbs 3:1-10

What's keeping you from acknowledging God in **all** your ways?

In which "way" is it most difficult to acknowledge him?

Here's something interesting: Do you know what happened to the wisest man in the world? His **heart** drifted from devotion to God. Still wise, but disconnected relationally, and it ruined his legacy. It split the kingdom. Wars were fought because of his unfaithfulness.

Being wise, being smart, wasn't enough! He didn't acknowledge God in "all" his ways. He learned on his own **very good** understanding.

This explains what we see every day: How do smart people make such bad decisions and end up on such ridiculous paths with such dead-end destinations?

Being smart isn't enough.

**Pride eventually overrides wisdom.
Arrogance eventually overrides discernment.
Self-importance overrides common sense.**

Your insistence on leaning on your own understanding – fueled by your pride – will eventually take you down a path toward a destination that was never part of your dream.

Apart from God, we eventually choose a wrong path. The creature doesn't do well apart from the Creator.

We don't just need information. We need God.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In **all** your ways acknowledge him, and he will make it clear which path to choose.

NEXT STEPS:

- ☐ **Memorize: Proverbs 3:5-6.**

NEXT WEEK-Destinations: Attention Deficit Disorder

But what is it that influences direction? What is it that starts us on our course, either for the places we want to go or the destinations we'd rather avoid? If we could determine what this is, then we could change our course upstream and save ourselves a lot of time, money, and heartache. Discover what this is and how you leverage it to reach the destinations God desires for you.

- ☐ **Meditate: What's keeping you from acknowledging God in all your ways?**

- ☐ **Meditate: In which “way” is it most difficult to acknowledge him?**
- ☐ **Read the Bible and Submit.**
- ☐ **Return next week for Destinations, Part 4: Attention Deficit Disorder. .**