



Pastoral Commendations and Recommendations

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 and Proverbs 3:5-6

January 4, 2026

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction: In this message, your pastor offers you commendations and recommendations for your life in Christ.

Commendations for Hope Church

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 – ² *We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. ³ We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1) I commend you for your dedicated service to the ministries of our church.

2) I commend you for your commitment to being stretched and to changing for the sake of ministry and others.

Recommendations for Hope Church

Proverbs 3:5-6 – ⁵ *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

1) I pastorally recommend you seek to assess how much culture is impacting your ability to imitate Christ.

2) I pastorally recommend you take stock of your love of money, generosity, and financial ministry.

Response

Thank you, Father, for the faith and faithfulness of the congregants of Hope Evangelical Free Church.

Sunday Text Questions

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 and Proverbs 3:5-6

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Read the text aloud and discuss any significant observations or issues that need clarification together.

- 1) Most New Testament Letters have a section where the apostle commends (praises) and recommends (exhorts) the Christians to whom he ministers. What are your thoughts on one of your pastors giving you commendations and recommendations?

- 2) How does Paul commend the Thessalonian Christians in 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3? What things does he commend them for, and how is that a helpful example for your pastors to model toward you?

- 3) How has the ministry at Hope Church blessed you? Can you think of any examples where you have seen your brothers and sisters serving with faithfulness and compassion?

- 4) How should we understand the statement from Proverbs 3:6, “in all your ways submit to him [God],” and what does the application of that statement look like in the life of the Christian?

- 5) How would you assess the ways our culture and our consumption affect Christians today, including you? What, if anything, do you think you should do about it?

- 6) How can a Christian, both the rich and the poor, know if they have an inappropriate love of money, and what might their symptoms look like?

- 7) How is giving to the Lord, to his church, and the work of his Kingdom, a financial ministry to which every Christian has been called? Why is this important for your own soul?

Further study this week: Passages related to the message of this week's text: Hebrews 13:5 (Mon); 1 Timothy 6:10 (Tues); Matthew 6:24 (Wed); Ecclesiastes 5:10 (Thurs); Proverbs 3:9 (Fri).