

Proverbs 15:9 – The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,  
but He loves one who pursues righteousness.  
Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own  
understanding.

LORD, I really don't want to ...

The LORD tied together Proverbs 15:9 and Proverbs 3:5 for me this past week as He led me through my resistance to His plans for me. The two verses do not seem to go together at first, but when I consider my ways versus His – yeah they sure do.

I've been struggling with my hopes versus God's plans. I do not want to go back into corporate work. I did it for decades and my true desire is to contract my services from my home – something I had hoped to have in place by now. God knows that; He knows my desires. However, with bills to pay, including debt accumulated from going to school for three years, the creditors come first – by whatever honest means. ... which is where Proverbs 15:9(b) comes in - "pursuing righteousness". It is obvious that paying bills and resolving school debt is righteous and right to do, and as a friend told me recently, do it *first*.

[2 Kings 4:1-7](#) tells the story of the poor widow with debt. She approached Elisha for help and, through a miracle, he enabled her to fill many barrels of oil to sell to clear her debt. She worked to secure the oil he supplied, rounding up empty vessels from the neighborhood, pouring out the oil, and selling it for money. (I'm willing to bet it was top-grade oil too!) She paid her creditors *before* making provision for her family. Elisha directed her to put the left over money to use to increase her livelihood, not to store it up. The widow did not question his methods for paying her bills. She trusted in the LORD's ways with all her heart, leaning not on her own understanding. Never could she have envisioned such a result!

Of course, I want to pay my bills, and since God is my provision and my hope, it is up to Him to supply the method (or miracle) by which I may fulfill one of the fundamental laws of my faith -

- to render to all their due,
- to pay every just debt,
- to give everyone his own,
- and this not of constraint, but willingly and without grudging.

(Matthew Henry, Blue Letter Bible)

God hears my "LORD, I don't want to ..." go back into corporate work. (Could I have some cheese with that whine?) Nonetheless, I trust Him to provide the way that I may fulfill my responsibilities and pursue righteousness at the same time.

How great is that!