

Let's Worship God

7th-12th June 2021

Proverbs



trust

Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understand-
ing; in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.

[Proverbs 3:5-6]

Monday - Proverbs 11:12-13 - The Tongue

Proud and unloving words show that a man doesn't have wisdom - he is ignorant of himself, his neighbour, and God. For how can we enjoy making fun of others, pointing out their faults, if we really have the wisdom to see our own sins and shortcomings. Can we despise and get irritated with people if we understand that they are made in the image of God, just like us, and, for all we know, may one day be a member of Christ's Church? Can we look down on people if we truly believe that what makes us different has everything to do with what God has done and nothing to do with what we have done? A man of understanding looks at others with compassion and love, he prays for his neighbour, and he guards his tongue from saying anything hurtful or unloving, because he has grasped that he is no different from his neighbour.

Solomon continues on with advice for our tongues in verse 13. A gossip doesn't mind his own business, but he takes a man's name or good reputation and mucks about with them for his own pleasure. A gossip cares very little for the unhappiness that he brings to others. It is unsafe to be around a gossip because just as easily as he has told someone else's secrets to us, he will tell ours to them. Refusing to listen to gossip and guarding against repeating things told to us, or around us in confidence, will cause gossip to die away. Sadly gossiping is a big problem in the church. It comes from people who care so much about what is going on around them, but their own lives are a mess. If we want our friends to feel they can come to us with their worries, we must guard our lips. To betray someone's trust breaks all the ties of friendship, and when trust is lost, it isn't easily regained. A true Christian loves others as he loves himself and will just as soon hurt them as hurt himself by speaking when he should keep silent.

Questions

1. How does wisdom keep us from being proud?
2. How can we stop gossip?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would guard what we say.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Whoever is steadfast in righteousness will live, but he who pursues evil will die.
Proverbs 11:19

Praise: Psalm 67 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Proverbs 11:14-16 - Wise Advice, Actions, Attitude

Whenever we have to make a decision, it's only going to help us to ask the advice of wise people around us. Even when those we go to don't agree with each other, they present both sides of the situation, which helps us think through what we're going to do. The nation without wise advisers is like a plane without a pilot - in constant danger. The same thing applies to the Church - if all we relied on was one man and the way he understood the Bible, we'd be in trouble, but when we seek out Godly men who have gained much wisdom, we will go forward.

Solomon's second warning against putting up security in verse 15 is not meant to excuse selfishness or stop generosity, but to make us think. Other translations have the word "stranger" instead of "another" in this verse. The idea here is acting as surety for someone we don't know well, rashly entering an arrangement without thinking about it, and bringing harm onto our family. But there is one exception to this. Our Lord Jesus Christ acted as surety, and not for friends but for strangers and enemies. We could not pay our debts, so He paid them for us. And He did suffer, but He suffered willingly. What a great love He had for us!

In our world today, women want to be respected. Some want to be respected because they have worked hard and are at the top of their profession, others seek respect for raising a family and running a household well, and some want respect for the way they look and carry themselves. But once again God shows us that His ways are not ours. Whom does He say will gain respect? A kind-hearted woman. Bypassing all the accomplishments and appearances, God focuses on the heart attitude. A kind heart, a caring heart, a gracious heart. Men, these are the kind of women you should respect, and women, this is the heart attitude you should have.

Questions

1. Who was our surety?
2. What kind of woman should we respect?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all the kind-hearted women in our church.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Whoever is steadfast in righteousness will live, but he who pursues evil will die.
Proverbs 11:19

Praise: Psalm 68 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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[Proverbs 3:5-6]

Wednesday - Proverbs 11:17-19 - Kindness and a Sure Reward

True kindness does not come naturally to us. It is a fruit of the Spirit - something we develop as Christians. It is when our neighbour's troubles or difficulties go deep into our hearts and call out mercy and practical sympathy. It is loving other people before we love ourselves, caring for them, and serving them. A merciful man will always find a merciful God. But a cruel man destroys himself. When we put ourselves first, caring little or nothing for those around us, we will end up suffering for it as Cain, Joseph's brothers, and Ahab and Jezebel all did.

Again and again Solomon emphasises that those who do what is right will be far better off than the wicked. Verses 18 and 19 repeat this idea. Both God and Satan claim to reward their followers. But one of them is lying. The end result of the work of the wicked is disappointment. Satan doesn't keep his promises, he tempts men and women with easy pleasure and temporary happiness and hides the fact that they are destroying themselves and running down the path of eternal death. The sure reward of the righteous stands out in a bright contrast. The Godly man serves a Master who keeps His promises. We may not receive our full reward in this life - it may just be grace to bear and triumph over a time of trouble. It may be seeing men and women come to faith or the growth of faith in our own lives. But whatever we receive in this life, in Heaven we reap our sure reward. Not because we deserve it, but because God, by His grace, gives it to us. The righteousness we have is not our own but Christ's that wraps around us. God sees our loving obedience, and He will reward us. Let us then work to lay up treasures in Heaven.

Questions

1. What are some practical ways we can show kindness to others?
2. What reward does Satan give his followers?
3. What reward does God give His people?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would show kindness to others.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Whoever is steadfast in righteousness will live, but he who pursues evil will die.
Proverbs 11:19

Praise: Psalm 69 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Proverbs 11:20-22 - Contrast

The perverse and the pure are often contrasted as God looks at them. Perverseness is an abomination to God - those men and women who call wrong right and evil good He detests. But He delights in His people - He chooses them, He makes them blameless by paying their debt, He knows all about them, and He loves them and has given them an eternal inheritance with Him. But whenever man tries to fight against God, he always loses. God sees what he does, God remembers, and one day God will punish. When we watch the news and see wicked men and wicked actions go unpunished, we need to remember that their day is coming. When we watch the tv shows and movies that call things that are evil good, we need to remember that their day is coming. And when we hear of those who love the Lord Jesus Christ suffering for their faith, killed, mocked, tortured, chased, or when we see Christians struggling with disease and grief, we need to remember that their day is coming as well. A day when the wicked will be judged and the righteous go free.

Verse 22 seems a bit out of place, but it again is a contrast between a false appearance and true reality. Beauty is a gift of God, but it fades. If we don't have a beautiful heart, it matters very little what we look like. A beautiful appearance and an ugly heart just don't seem to go together - like a gold ring in a pig's nose. And just like the pig will run his gold ring in the mud, a beautiful woman with an ugly heart will end up dragging her beauty through the filth of sin. Without discretion, without understanding of right and wrong, all the good looks, brains, and accomplishments in the world are worthless.

Questions

1. What does it mean to be perverse?
2. What is discretion?
3. What happens to the beauty of a woman with an ugly heart?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for our young girls - that they would have beautiful hearts.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Whoever is steadfast in righteousness will live, but he who pursues evil will die.
Proverbs 11:19

Praise: Psalm 70 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Proverbs 11:23-26 - God's Money

The righteous man's desire is God's desire. He wants what God wants; he wants God's will to be done, and whenever God's will is done, it is good. If we believe in Jesus Christ, we are seen as righteous in God's eyes. Yes, we still fight against our sin, but our core desires have changed. No longer do we want our way, now, we want God's way. But those who have not turned to God in faith will only experience His wrath in the end.

Throughout these verses Solomon is showing us that God does not work the way the world does. The world says hold on to what you have tightly; don't give it away unless you can get something out of it. But God says otherwise. He blesses those who show grace to others. God gives His gifts freely, and His followers should do the same. And again God is no man's debtor - what His people gain for giving so generously is greater than anything they previously have. When we use all that we have for God, His work, and His people, we will reap a rich harvest. And it's not just money or things that God calls us to give generously, it can be our time, our attention, or our care. All these things can be used by God for building His kingdom and bearing much fruit.

A Christian should view their belongings, their wealth, their time completely differently from an unbeliever. He has a fundamental understanding that what he has does not belong to him - it belongs to God. He is just a steward, a caretaker of all that God has given him. Because of this, all that he does must be done God's way. And God tells us to care for others, to love others, to look out for their needs. Part of being a good steward is using wealth to help others and not hurt them. This is a point Solomon wants to drive home to the people of God.

Questions

1. When do our desires change?
2. To whom does all that we have belong to?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be good stewards of all that God has given us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Whoever is steadfast in righteousness will live, but he who pursues evil will die.
Proverbs 11:19

Praise: Psalm 71 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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[Proverbs 3:5-6]

Saturday - Proverbs 11:27-29 - Stewardship of Wealth and Families

All of us are born with a tremendous potential for good or evil. Man was never intended to be idle. Because we are born sinners, our natural tendency is to do much evil. But God can change our hearts and give us a great capacity for good. Every day we have multiple opportunities to do good, to use the talents God has given us for His glory. When we do this we often please others, but we always please God. God blesses our efforts as we strive to do what is right, but He also allows the wicked to achieve their goals - they find the evil, the rebellion, the sin they were looking for, but instead of bringing them pleasure, it just brings pain.

When it comes to understanding how a Christian should deal with money we need a lot of wisdom. We need to be able to look at our hearts and see our motives for what they really are. Having a lot of money, or owning a lot of things, is not wrong or sinful. But trusting in that money is. Whether it's expecting that money to save you from trouble, thinking that having it makes you a good or worthy person, or cutting into your time or obedience of God to take care of or get more money, you are sinning. It's not wrong to try to increase what you have, but you need to look at your motives. Why are you trying to make more money? If the answer isn't to honour God and serve Him with it, you need to rethink your priorities.

God wants us to take care of the things He has given us, and that includes our families. A family that is divided, where the members of it just stir up trouble, destroys all the good blessings that could have been theirs. Whether it's children rebelling against their parents or parents who have no care or concern for their children and their children's spiritual growth, they are destroying bit by bit the Godly inheritance they had.

Questions

1. How can we be a better steward of our money, time, and family?
2. What should be our motive when it comes to money?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Whoever is steadfast in righteousness will live, but he who pursues evil will die.
Proverbs 11:19

Praise: Psalm 72 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

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