

Let's Worship God

21st-26th 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 12:18-22 - Right and Wrong Speech

Who has not felt the piercings of false, unkind, inconsiderate talk. Many speak so viciously who would be afraid to strike someone or use a knife against them. Our Lord Jesus Christ compares words spoken in anger and hatred to murder. (Matthew 5:21-22) But this same little tongue that can wound, is also powerful to heal. Wisdom can guide us in the use of our tongues, showing us when, how, and to whom to speak. We can use our words to speak of Christ, to tell of salvation, to worship God, to praise Him to others, to comfort the sad, encourage the tired, build-up other Christians, the list could go on and on. As we think about how God wants us to talk, using His Word where He speaks to us to guide us, we are using wisdom in our speech. And our speech is what will ultimately last, not the quick lies of others.

Solomon again traces the principle of deceit to its source - the heart. Even small children don't need to be taught to lie, it comes naturally to them. Those who plot evil, though, find that the results are never what they expected. Instead of the quick and easy pleasure they planned for, their time is full of trouble. These deceitful hearts and evil plans come out in lying lips. And a lie takes many forms - it can be falsehood, exaggeration, changing bits of the truth to make it sound better, giving a wrong impression, misleading others, or just being careless with the truth. We have to train our children, we have to train ourselves to be scrupulously honest, honest in heart, honest in word, honest in deed, because the Lord detests lying lips. Christians are to speak of peace, peace between man and God through Jesus Christ the Saviour, and their hearts are full of joy because of what the Lord has done for them. No harm befalls them, but everything that happens, even the hard things, are for their good.

Questions

1. What does Christ compare hateful words too?
2. How can we train ourselves to be more honest?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be honest in all we say and do.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight. Proverbs 12:22

Praise: Psalm 79 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Proverbs 12:23-25 - Speak, Act, Feel

Knowledge is a gift of God to be used wisely. Certainly when it comes to speaking of Christ and His work on the cross, or telling of the good things God has done for us, we are not to keep silent. But there are many truths found in God's Word, that we wouldn't want to pour out to someone all in the one go. People need time to take things in. We should not tell about what we know because it makes us look more intelligent, instead of a real desire to help someone else. Circumstances sometimes require us to keep silent. Is this lying? No, for we are not always obliged to tell everyone the whole truth. We must not lie, but we do not need to speak to everyone all that we know all the time. This is exactly what the fool does.

In verse 24 Solomon says again that diligence, hard, faithful work, is the ordinary path to advancement. Do you have to be a Christian to work hard? No, many unbelievers work very hard, and sadly, many Christians are lazy. But whether they admit it or not, when anyone works hard they are obeying God in that area. Now, they may not have the right motives - it may not be true obedience, but they are, whether they like it or not, following God's rules.

Verse 25 speaks of something we can all relate too. Who hasn't had an anxious or heavy heart at some point? Who hasn't been encouraged by the kind words of a friend? But what happens when we can't think of what to say? Often just our presence can be a comfort or our prayers with and for them. God's Word is full of comfort to the anxious and sad, and as we read it we can mark promises or verses that could help us or others in hard times. We can then "comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." (2 Corinthians 1:4)

Questions

1. What is the path to advancement?
2. How can we comfort other people?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for those struggling with grief, sickness, or heavy burdens.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight. Proverbs 12:22

Praise: Psalm 80 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Proverbs 12:26-28 - Eternal Reward

If you'll look at the footnote to verse 26 you'll see that another translation of the first part of this verse is, "A righteous man is a guide to his neighbour." This actually seems to be a better translation of this verse, and it fits in better with the second half of the verse. How are we guides to our neighbours? The way we live our life, the things we speak to them about, should all point them to Jesus Christ, to God's Word, and to the way God wants them to live. But the wicked man will just confuse and tempt his neighbour through his example and his words to greater sin.

Verse 27 paints a graphic picture of the stupidity of laziness. Even when a man is temporarily roused to action, he quickly lapses back into his old ways. Isn't this a good example of those who make a profession of faith in Christ in a moment of strong excitement? They begin to live the Christian life and even make some progress. But the continual effort required, the killing that must be done of deep-rooted sinful habits, the difficulties in his new path, the temptation to take life easy and try to live as a Christian later - all these hang as a weight upon him. Instead of resisting the weight through earnest and persevering prayer, he gives up, content to lose Heaven if it costs so much effort. But the Christian who wholeheartedly loves God, treasures his faith, treasures his God, treasures God's Word, and is willing to work hard to maintain and honour those treasures. Here in verse 28 is the promise of God. Eternal life belongs to the righteous. But who among us is righteous? How can we hope to claim this promise when God's Word clearly tells us we are sinners? Our hope is in Jesus Christ, through trusting in Him our sins are transferred to Him and His righteousness to us. So when God sees us, we are wrapped in the righteousness of Christ.

Questions

1. How can we guide our neighbour?
2. How can we be righteous?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for what Christ has done for us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight. Proverbs 12:22

Praise: Psalm 81 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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[Proverbs 3:5-6]

Thursday - Proverbs 13:1-4 - Tongue and Deed

Like it or not, we have to learn things the hard way, through discipline and bearing the consequences for our actions. We aren't perfect and in order to learn, we need to be corrected. But the proud man hates correction. He thinks he is always right and needs no rebuke.

Wisdom also means speaking well. If a Christian is walking with God, his tongue will pour out what is Godly. He will be using his words for good, and even if it has little or no effect on those around him, he himself will be encouraged and strengthened by the fruit he is bearing through his speech. The unfaithful also bear fruit by their speech, but it is not good. The violence that they love and encourage returns upon their own head.

Because of the tremendous results that come from the use of our tongue, we have to guard it, for our own good, let alone the glory of God and the good of others. Think before we speak; consider our words, their substance, tone, time, place, and audience. How much more do we sin by speaking than by keeping silent! It takes strength to reign our tongues in, and daily we should be praying for that strength and asking forgiveness for when we have failed to guard our tongue.

Verse 4 is another contrast between the lazy and diligent. The lazy man wants the rewards of hard work without doing any work. He wants to be wise without study, and rich without effort. He may even desire to be a Godly man, to forsake sin and enjoy the happiness of God's people. But he has nothing, because he has desire without effort. He would gladly be a Christian, if it cost him no trouble. How often have you heard somebody say, "I wish I could believe like you do", but their soul continues on the same. If you're going to work hard at anything, work hard in at loving and obeying God. To expect blessing without diligence is to deceive yourself.

Questions

1. How can we guard our tongue?
2. How can you work harder at serving God?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight. Proverbs 12:22

Praise: Psalm 82 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Proverbs 13:5-7 - Lasting Treasure

Notice that verse 5 doesn't say that a righteous man never lies. They do sin, they do lie, but they hate what is false. The child of God, though always a sinner, hates sin. And just because a man doesn't lie, it doesn't mean he is righteous. He may be acting out of selfish motives or fear of others. But true faith changes our attitudes toward sin - we hate it, we don't avoid it because we have to, but because we want to. We start to see things the way God sees them. But how often even in the church is this characteristic of a Christian obscured! Strict truth is sacrificed to politeness, falsehood implied or insinuated, and the truth is exaggerated.

If only the repetition of verse six would drill it into our heads that sin leads to destruction and righteousness to life. If we really believed that, wouldn't it motivate us to stop sinning and be more obedient. The fear of man, the reluctance to do what is right, the desire to have our way, the temptations of sin - all would pale in comparison to the fear of God. Not that our obedience saves us, rather it is a loving response to Christ saving us. It is His work that brings us into heaven, not ours. But the man who has trusted in Christ is kept safe in this life through living obediently.

Verse 7 can also be translated this way: "There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches." There are men and women who are wealthy beyond imagining in money or popularity or success, but they have no faith in Jesus Christ, and when they die, they stand before God with nothing. There are those who have given all they have in loving service to God, barely noticed by the world, but they have an immense treasure beyond the reach of decay or theft. Which are you?

Questions

1. What is the Christian's attitude toward sin?
2. How can we be rich in the things that will last?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would fight against sin in our lives.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight. Proverbs 12:22

Praise: Psalm 83 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Proverbs 13:8-10 - Bright Light

Money can help you in hardship and danger, but if money is a defence, so also is the lack of money. The poor man often goes unnoticed; he escapes many a danger that destroys his richer neighbour. So, whether rich or poor, our life, our happiness cannot depend upon money. A man's riches may ransom his life, but what will ransom his soul? Only the blood of the Son of God, the riches of heaven poured out for sinners.

What are the lights Solomon is talking about in verse 9? They are the life of a person who professes faith in Jesus Christ. Those with true faith have a light that burns brightly with obedience and love. But how much more glowing is the light of the Church with the combined shining of all her members. This light is a blessing to all around her. But some make profession of faith, but do not truly believe in Christ or trust in Him. They put forth no real strong or enduring light and in time will go out. Does your life shine brightly, or is it merely a flicker, soon to disappear?

Solomon accurately traces quarrels to their proper source in verse 10 - pride. We think we're right, we think we have it all figured out, and we are prepared to argue and fight with any who disagree. We may hide our pride under other things, but it is usually there and comes to the surface whenever anyone disagrees with us, offends us, insults us, criticises us, or just seems to be a better person in some way than us. Instantly on the defensive, we attack. So, what's the solution? Prayer and humility. Pray for strength to resist quarrels, to see yourself for who you really are - a sinner saved by grace, and to love others no matter how they treat you. Then you will begin to develop the attitude that is willing to listen to others, to take advice, and to grow in wisdom.

Questions

1. How do we shine brightly?
2. How can we avoid quarrels?

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

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight. Proverbs 12:22

Praise: Psalm 84 - 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
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