

Let's Worship God

28th June - 3rd July 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 13:11-13 - Hope Fulfilled

Wealth, gained dishonestly through theft or lies or used dishonestly, will dwindle away. Over time God will take this wealth away, and the owner will be left standing before God with nothing but disobedience to show. But God blesses those who faithfully use His money that He gives them as stewards. As we are faithful in the little things, God gives us bigger things to be faithful in. And little by little our faithfulness, our responsibility, and our blessings grow.

Who has not felt the sickness in their heart that Solomon describes in verse 12, when something we have hoped for and longed for is denied to us. The disappointment almost chokes us, and we suddenly realise how much we wanted it. But have you never felt that great joy that comes when you receive what you've longed for. After you've prayed and prayed and prayed, often for years, and finally your prayer is granted, and sheer happiness wells up in your heart, and you feel as though you've got a new lease on life. Praise be to God that though we go through many griefs and disappointments in life, our greatest hope will never fail us - our hope of eternal life in Christ, of sins forgiven and fellowship restored. This hope is indeed a tree of life.

Verse 13 again points out the folly of going your own way, or refusing to listen to advice, of thinking that you know it all. How much worse is this kind of attitude when it comes to the things of God. Refusing to listen to God's instructions, go your own way instead of God's, and you'll find the cost is higher than you can bear. But those who seem to be paying a high cost right now for following Christ are actually investing in a treasure-filled future. Which way will you go?

Questions

1. How do we increase our responsibilities?
2. What great hope do we have?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the hope we have in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded. Proverbs 13:13

Praise: Psalm 85 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Proverbs 13:14-16 - A Wise Man

The words of the wise can benefit many. But who are the wise? Those who love God, who know and do what He says in His Word. So, are you wise? Could your words help others. Could you teach others through what you do and what you say about the Lord Jesus Christ? Could you be used by God to turn them from the traps of sin and death? Could you learn from other Christians how to grow stronger in Christ, how to avoid the temptations of sin? There is much we can learn from the wise, and there is much we can do with the little wisdom we have.

Often those who are wise are respected even by the world. They recognize that a man has good judgement, good understanding, he does things well, and they give him more responsibility. But those who are unfaithful and untrustworthy are despised even by those who use them. The way of sinners is a hard path - the continual warfare with a guilty conscience, the lack of peace, the sting of sin, the certainty of destruction makes all the seeming attractiveness of sin fade.

A prudent man uses what he has learned. He doesn't just read his Bible, go along to MET, sit in worship, and promptly forget everything he hears. He takes it to heart, he thinks about it, he works out how it applies to his life, and he puts it into practice. He uses his knowledge - knowledge received from God's Word - in all he does. But the fool shows that there is nothing going on inside his head. He does not think before he acts. The laws of God don't even cross his mind. He acts according to what he wants at that moment, not according to knowledge, and he shows himself for who he really is.

Questions

1. How can we use our words to be a tree of life?
2. What should we do with what we learn from the Bible?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would take God's Word and apply it to our life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded. Proverbs 13:13

Praise: Psalm 86 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Proverbs 13:17-19 - Message, Correction, Desire

A messenger proves his character by how he deals with the message. A wicked messenger betrays his master's trust, tries to hurt him, and falls into trouble. But a faithful messenger brings and receives a blessing. These words seem like a nice, obvious truth, until we apply them to ourselves - then they frighten. For we are messengers, servants of God sent with the message of the Gospel. Are we careless of this message? Do we neglect it? Do we betray our master's trust by never delivering the message? Or are we faithful in telling others of Christ, bringing healing words to a hurting people? What kind of messenger are you?

The correction of God is a blessing. That may be hard to understand as no one likes being corrected, disciplined, or punished. But it is a blessing. It turns us from the sinful path we are heading down, and all the consequences of that sin. Men and women who recognise that God's discipline is a good thing, saving them from the dangers of sin, will find that others respect them for learning from their mistakes. But those who do not learn will soon be turned over to their sin and will race down the path of destruction bringing shame and often material but always spiritual poverty upon them.

Just like in verse 12 we can see in verse 19 the great blessing of getting what you long for. But only those who put their trust in God ultimately get their desire. For their desire has become God's desire. They want what God wants. But the sinner, who has not turned to Christ, desires only his sin, and nothing can make him turn from it short of the powerful work of God in his heart. It matters not that he is never content; it matters not how joyful and at peace the Christians around him are, he wants to sin.

Questions

1. What message must we take to others?
2. Why do people refuse to learn from their sin; why do they hold tight to it? What makes them change?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded. Proverbs 13:13

Praise: Psalm 87 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Proverbs 13:20-21 - Friendship and Blindness

When it comes to our friends the question is not, will they influence us, but what kind of influence will they have? Those friends who are wise, who love and serve Christ, will spur us on to keep Godly habits, to forsake sin, and to press forward in the work of our Lord. This is the blessing of living in a Godly family, the blessing of membership in the church. What a huge responsibility we have when it comes to choosing our friends! Close association with unbelievers will have a negative effect. After time we get used to the sin around us, we stop feeling out of place, we start to lose our respect of God, and we forget about the Gospel. Our natural inclination is to sin, so with no encouragements otherwise, and plenty of examples of sin around us, our life as a Christian is forgotten. Now the Bible teaches that Christians can't shut themselves away with other Christians in some isolated place. We do have to live and work amongst unbelievers. But the people you spend the most time around are going to have the biggest influence in your life. What kind of influence will it be?

Verse 21 describes the blindness of sinners. Even when they think they are safe, evil pursues them. But they don't see the danger. They think no one has seen, no one will hold them to account, and they focus on the present. But their momentary pleasures cost them eternity. The misfortune given to the sinner is his just due, but the prosperity of the righteous is a gift of grace. We have not earned this gift - it is God's love for us, undeserving though we are.

Questions

1. How do our friends influence us?
2. How can we avoid the negative influence of unbelievers?
3. Why doesn't a sinner see the great danger he is in?
4. Do we deserve prosperity?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would choose our friends well.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded. Proverbs 13:13

Praise: Psalm 88 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Proverbs 13:22-23 - An Inheritance of Prayer

Often in Proverbs we find general statements that do not necessarily speak of everyone. Look at verse 22. Many believers have no inheritance to leave, or no children, or no grandchildren, and many unbelievers have wealth that passes down through several generations. But while we should work to provide for our children's children, there is one sense in which this verse can apply to everyone. For there is one inheritance we can leave our children, whether our own or the covenant children of the church, and that is an inheritance of prayer. How much of the growth we experience is part of the faithful prayers of our ancestors we'll not know until eternity. But think of those who had a grandmother or great-grandfather praying for them, perhaps even before they were born. Think of how many have been kept from following the paths of sin through the faithful prayers of their mother or father or others in the church. We all might have inherited prayer, and we all can lay up this inheritance for others. But the wealth of the sinner will fade away and the righteous will inherit the earth.

Verse 23 has a deeper application than just a statement of the misuse of good things. There are many in the church who have great talents, great gifts, great abilities. Even the smallest church might yield a rich harvest, but far too often these gifts are squandered, neglected, or used unwisely. We must look to our own lives and determine if we are using our gifts to the best of our ability, and we must pray for and encourage our leaders to direct the gifts of the church wisely and well for a good harvest.

Questions

1. What inheritance can we leave our children?
2. How will this benefit them?
3. What gifts has God given you? How are you using them?
4. How can we encourage our leaders to lead us?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for our covenant children.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded. Proverbs 13:13

Praise: Psalm 89 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Proverbs 13:24-25 - Discipline

Among all the theories of education, how often is God's system overlooked? Discipline is one of its main characteristics; not harsh, severe cruelty, but a wise and loving, faithful practice that seeks to train a child to humbly obey God not himself. Men and women often don't discipline their children because they say they love them. God loves His children, but He disciplines them because He loves them. To spare our child from discipline is really to act as though we hated them. We are turning them over to their worst enemy, allowing them to develop habits and attitudes that will only bring them grief. We are training them to be the worst kind of sinner - one who thinks he should always get his way. The discipline of our children must begin with self-discipline. We love them, but we must love them wisely. Often we don't discipline them because it's too much effort. Far easier to give them what they want and keep them quiet than to deal with the tantrums and work involved in discipline. All parents are different and children have different personalities, but all are sinners. All choose at first the path of sin. Do we want this? We pray for their conversion. But prayer without teaching is a mockery, and teaching implies discipline. So, to love our children we discipline them. And we must begin early, for rest assured Satan begins when they are still an infant. The habit of disobedience must be stopped when they are young because the older they get, the harder it is.

Verse 25 speaks about contentment. The contentment we have in Christ - our deepest longings and needs are satisfied. The unbeliever is never happy, never satisfied, never content. The closer we walk with our Lord, the more we experience contentment, and when we let our relationship with Him slide, we begin to feel dissatisfied with the things in our life.

Questions

1. Why must we discipline our children?
2. How can we be content?

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 despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded. Proverbs 13:13

Praise: Psalm 90 - 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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