

Let's Worship God

5th-10th 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 14:1-4 - An Abundant Harvest

A wife can be a blessing or a curse to her husband, but she can also help or hinder their household. A wise woman works well with her husband, doing things he has not the gifts to do. She trains her children in the things of God and is an example of Godliness to her friends and neighbours. But a foolish woman not only works against her husband, destroying his efforts to do what is right, she ruins her household through her carelessness and poor example. A wife has a lot of power to do right or to wreak havoc.

A life lived in obedience to God is a sign of someone whose heart is right with God. For out of the heart come our actions. In the same way, someone who does what is evil, shows a heart that hates God. If you say that you are a Christian, but you show no obedience to God in your life, it begs the question of whether you are really a Christian after all.

It's not just our actions and our hearts that are right or wrong, it's our words also. The words of a fool, one who hates God, will bring punishment upon him. In his pride he talks foolishly, but the wise man knows his sin and knows the mercy and grace of God that brings salvation.

Verse 4 seems a bit out of place. In the midst of this discussion of right actions, hearts, and words is a verse about animals. But there is a key principle here. Without work, there will be no food. God works by means, not by miracles. If we want a good harvest, we need to be good farmers. If we want to see men and women come to faith in Christ, if we want to grow spiritually ourselves, we must use the means, the tools, the oxen God has given us, and we must use them consistently and diligently. We must use God's Word, prayer, worship, praise, and fellowship with other Christians to reap a great harvest.

Questions

1. Where do our actions have their roots?
2. What 'oxen' has God given us to use?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would faithfully use the tools that God has given us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The backslider in heart will be filled with the fruit of his ways, and a good man will be filled with the fruit of his ways. Proverbs 14:14

Praise: Psalm 91 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Proverbs 14:5-7 - Flee Evil

A faithful witness is not moved by begging or bribes, promises or threats, to swerve from the truth. He is the man to trust. He will not lie. But a false witness has lost all idea of truth. He will tell lies without any urging merely for his own pleasure. He is the man to avoid. A faithful witness will tell people the truth about eternity; they will warn others of their need to be saved. But a false witness pretends that all is well because to say otherwise will cause embarrassment and trouble. Which are you?

The mocker in verse 6 is not truly seeking wisdom; he is not seriously and honestly looking for truth. He is doing what seems fashionable or necessary at the time, but he has no real sense of his need. He is proud, and the parts of Christianity that he does not understand or can not agree with, he discounts, assuming he knows best. But a true seeker is humble and broken, they realise they are sinful, they realise they can not rely on their own intelligence or strength any more, so they turn to Christ and rely on Him. And those who truly seek Him will find Him.

What is a foolish man? A man who lives his life as though there is no God - who does not care about Jesus Christ or the things of God. In other words, your friends, your neighbours, maybe even those in your family. Throughout the Bible we are told to flee from and avoid unbelievers, except where we are working to see them come to faith in Christ. If everything you did around your friends, neighbours, or family was done to show them the love of Christ and the truth of Christ, would you do anything differently?

Questions

1. Why does the mocker not find wisdom?
2. Where is the danger in having unbelieving friends?
3. What should be the purpose of our friendships with unbelievers?
4. What should be the purpose of all our relationships?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of unbelievers you know.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The backslider in heart will be filled with the fruit of his ways, and a good man will be filled with the fruit of his ways. Proverbs 14:14

Praise: Psalm 92 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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[Proverbs 3:5-6]

Wednesday - Proverbs 14:8-10 - Our Great Friend

A wise man or woman thinks through what they are going to do; they think through what they are going to say. They pray about it; they read God's Word to find what God commands and they seek wise advice from other Christians. But a fool rushes blindly ahead, convinced that his own way is right, and the end result of doing things any way but God's is always disaster, no matter how attractive it may seem at first.

We all know the kind of person described in verse 9. The man or woman who find it almost impossible to say they're sorry or admit they are wrong. Why? Why do they find it so hard? Pride. Pride keeps us from thinking we are ever really wrong. We see no need to say 'I'm sorry' because we believe we never make mistakes. But a true Christian realises they're a sinner, they know they sin every day in thought, word, and deed. They find it all too easy to believe and understand that they have sinned against someone, and they desire to love the other person and so make amends for what they have done. Christians should bend over backwards to show kindness to others, to make peace, to be humble.

We are all individuals; no two of us are the same. No one can really understand and feel the emotions of our hearts except ourselves. No matter how we try to describe and explain to others, they can never fully comprehend or feel our exact feelings. But there is One who can. Our Saviour and our Friend knows and has experienced suffering and joy. He knows what we are going through. He can understand it, and only by running to Him can we find lasting comfort. He is our God, and He loves us. He has the time to listen; He has the experience to understand; and He has the power to heal and encourage and give hope.

Questions

1. Why should you be able to say you're sorry?
2. Who can understand all you are going through? How can you speak to Him?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for Christ's love for us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The backslider in heart will be filled with the fruit of his ways, and a good man will be filled with the fruit of his ways. Proverbs 14:14

Praise: Psalm 93 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Proverbs 14:11-14 - A Temporary Home

The wicked, the foolish, those who want nothing to do with God, think that this earth is all there is, so they set up permanent residence here. They live for this world. But the believer knows that this life is temporary, that he is passing through. In a sense, he builds no house, but sets up a tent. Do you think that way? Do you realise that your life is just a journey, that you are not here to stay, that something more important comes later? Because when death comes, the things we have grasped for ourselves will be snatched from us, but all we have done in service of God will be blessed.

Verse 12 follows right on from verse 11. The wisdom of the world may tell us that to accumulate things, or popularity, or health, or intelligence is the right way to go - the way of success. But the end result of focusing on the things of the world more than the things of God is death. No matter how happy they seem to make men and women, the things in this world can not satisfy, and as verse 13 describes those who seem to have it all are often hiding an emptiness and sadness.

In the end those who have not followed God with all their heart, soul, strength, and mind will be repaid for their faithlessness, for their love of the world above God, for their disobedience. But those who have lived their lives faithfully serving God, who have put Jesus Christ at the forefront of all they do, who love the Lord with all their heart will be rewarded.

Questions

1. How can we see this life as temporary?
2. If this life is temporary, what should be our motivation for doing anything?
3. Are those who lay up treasures here on earth ultimately happy?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would see life as not belonging to us but to God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The backslider in heart will be filled with the fruit of his ways, and a good man will be filled with the fruit of his ways. Proverbs 14:14

Praise: Psalm 94 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Proverbs 14:15-18 - Thinking

Two men are contrasted in verses 15-18 - a man who rushes ahead and a man who thinks ahead. Some people believe anything and everything. You know the type - the man or woman who thinks that Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and New Age teaching are all true; they think all roads lead to God, and they are willing to believe anything except the fact that Christianity says it's the only way to God. They are quick to jump on every bandwagon that passes. They are naive, but they are also disobedient. The prudent man believes every word of God, and it is against this belief that he tests everything else. A Christian is not meant to be cynical or untrusting, but they are to examine all that is said and done by the unchanging standard of right and wrong contained in the Bible. If what someone says agrees with God in the Bible then we can agree with them, but if it doesn't, we need to see it as foolishness. The prudent man thinks about everything he is doing, everything he is hearing, and he tests it all by the Word of God.

When the wise man or woman has evaluated the decisions he has to take, the advice he hears, by the Word of God, he avoids the sinful option. His respect and love for the Lord means he wants nothing to do with any evil. But a fool cares not for what God thinks, and follows any impulse that comes into his head.

The man who acts without thinking gets angry at the drop of a hat and does foolish things. It is then a small step from rushing ahead without caring what God says to deliberately disobeying God. And those who deliberately scheme to do what is evil and wrong are hated even by other unbelievers. Pride and foolishness leads to more foolishness. Neglect of God leads to disaster. But those who seek after what God says are given more and more understanding of who God is and how He wants us to live.

Questions

1. What should we test all things by?
2. How can we grow in our knowledge of what God wants us to do?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would test all things by God's Word.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The backslider in heart will be filled with the fruit of his ways, and a good man will be filled with the fruit of his ways. Proverbs 14:14

Praise: Psalm 95 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Proverbs 14:19-22 - Doing Good

At first verse 19 is hard to believe. How often are Godly men and women honoured by evil men? But there have been cases in history where this has happened. Joseph and Moses are both honoured before unbelieving Egyptians, Saul honours David, and the magistrates honours the apostles. But even more than the times this happens on earth is the fulfilment that will come in eternity when those united to Christ will be exalted over all the wicked.

Verse 20 is a sad but accurate picture of reality. There are exceptions, but too often the poor, instead of being pitied and cared for, are hated and neglected by those who live around them. But the rich are not really to be envied for though they have many friends, these friends care very little for him and much more for his money. But Jesus is the friend of both poor and rich, caring for their souls, seeing past their external appearance to their internal need. And we are to be like Him. Verse 21 goes on to emphasise this fact. Our duty is to be kind and caring to others, no matter who they are or what they can do for us. The love we should show to those around us - our neighbours - is a love that is unselfish, sacrificial, giving up time, money, energy, for those who may not appreciate it, a love that speaks of Christ as Saviour and Lord, a love that cares for others with no thought of return.

As we have seen those who plan evil reap disaster, but those who show Christian love to others, who actively think of ways of doing good to others, find that God is pleased, that their Saviour loves them and will bless them.

Questions

1. How will the righteous be viewed in eternity?
2. How can we do good to our neighbour living next to us?
3. What kind of love should we show to others?

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

The backslider in heart will be filled with the fruit of his ways, and a good man will be filled with the fruit of his ways. Proverbs 14:14

Praise: Psalm 96 - 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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