

Let's Worship God

12th-17th 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 14:23-25 - Hard Work and Truthful Speech

Solomon is drawing a contrast in verse 23 between hard work and empty talk. Hard physical work provides food to eat and a roof over our heads, hard mental work results in increased knowledge - as we work hard studying we learn more and more. But most of all, hard work spiritually results in growth. When we work at faithfully reading God's Word, spending time in prayer, living our lives in obedience to Him, we grow and with that growth comes blessing, peace, and joy. But the foolish man is all talk. He is all talk when it comes to work, so he has very little, and what he has, he wastes. He is all talk when it comes to knowledge, so he learns very little. But worst of all, he is all talk when it comes to Christ. His faith never goes deeper than his lips. He may know how to say all the right things, but his actions tell a different story. Be careful that your Christianity is not all talk.

Verse 24 tells us that wealth is a blessing when honestly received and used to bring glory to God. When it is not used this way, it's not the wealth, but the sin of the man that should be blamed. And those who are wise will receive blessing - sometimes material wealth, but always spiritual wealth that is their crown. But the fool, living his life of foolishness, receives only more foolishness.

Every Christian has the huge responsibility of verse 25 - the responsibility to save lives by speaking truthfully. This doesn't just apply to testifying in court, to being honest in our dealings, but to speak the truth of sin and eternity and to be used by God's grace to save souls. The world is full of liars who deceive each other, telling them comforting falsehoods about life after death and a God who winks at sin. Uncomfortable though it may be, awkward though it may be, we are called to speak the truth because people's eternal lives are at stake.

Questions

1. How can we use what we have to glorify God?
2. What truth must we speak to others?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would faithfully speak the truth of salvation to others.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. Proverbs 14:34
Praise: Psalm 97 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Proverbs 14:26-27 - Fear of the Lord

The true fear of God described in verse 26 is holy, happy respect based in love. We fear God, we respect Him, because we love Him. We are assured of His justice and His goodness, and we trust in Him. The fear of man produces hesitation and weakness, but the fear of God produces boldness. It gives us confidence, to trust in God, to rely on Him, to respect Him, to love Him, to know beyond all doubt that we belong to Him, and to determine to serve Him. Abraham sacrificed his son in the fear of God, but fully confident that God was able to raise him from the dead if He willed. The fear of God led Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego with unshaken confidence into the fiery furnace. And the child of God, walking in fear of God, is confident in all situations that God is with him. Before we fled from God, now we flee to God. The sacrifice that has made an end of sin, the righteousness of Christ that covers us, and Christ's speaking on our behalf - this is the basis of our confidence. And for the children of God, He is their refuge.

Again verse 27 tells us of the benefits of the fear of the Lord. Not only does it give us confidence, not only is it our refuge and security, it is also a fountain of life. It results in eternal life, but it also makes this life on earth, richer, fuller, and more joyful. It turns us from sin and the paths of death. Our desires change, we want to fear God, to love and respect Him, we do not want to disobey or rebel against Him. If you don't find this attitude in yourself; if you are merely indifferent to God; if you secretly desire to sin; you should examine your heart and your life and see if you truly have a loving fear of God.

Questions

1. What does it mean to fear the Lord?
2. Why does fearing God make us bold?
3. Why does fearing God change our attitude toward sin?
4. What can you do if you don't fear the Lord?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would grow in your fear of the Lord.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

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Praise: Psalm 98 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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[Proverbs 3:5-6]

Wednesday - Proverbs 14:28-29 - Kings and Impatience

The Bible is a book for everyone - even kings are to treasure it and take verses like verse 28 to heart. A king can be a curse or a blessing to his people depending on whether he is led by his own whims or directed by God's Word. His people are the strength of his kingdom. Without them he has no money or help and is weak, and his enemies take advantage of him. His interests and his people's are one. The strength of his kingdom, the honour of his kingdom is in his people. How great then is the honour of our heavenly King in the countless multitude of His people! How glorious it will be when they all stand before His throne, each reflecting His glory, each with a crown to throw at His feet, and each with a song of praise for Him!

The world thinks very little of impatience or a quick temper. Have you ever heard someone say, almost with pride, that they aren't a patient person, or that it's not in their nature to be patient. Of course it's not in their nature - patience is a fruit of the Spirit and impatience is a sin. We're all naturally inclined to sinful impatience. But that doesn't make it right. And God doesn't see this sin the way the world does. Throughout the Bible a quick temper and an impatient spirit are described as giving in to the devil, grieving the Holy Spirit, going against the mind and example of Christ, inconsistent with being a Christian, and worthy of God's judgement. Surely then patience is proof of great understanding. But too often instead of being slow to get angry, we find a short way to wrath. The littlest things can set us off, and the results are often deadly. We must realise our own weakness in this area and pray that God would enable us to exercise self-control and a patient and loving spirit.

Questions

1. Where is a king's strength?
2. How is God honoured?
3. How can we learn patience?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for a patient spirit.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. Proverbs 14:34

Praise: Psalm 99 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Proverbs 14:30-31 - Kind Heart

Many will admit that religion is good for the soul. But they also think that the seriousness of faith injures the body. In fact the opposite is true. A heart free from destructive passions, and full of Christian habits is conducive to good health. Without drunkenness, without addictions, without sexually transmitted diseases, without anxiety, hatred, overwhelming grief, lust, how can you help but be healthier than those whose lives are ruled by sin and its effects. A heart at peace, a heart without selfishness, that rejoices in other's blessings and honour, will help us to flourish. But envy sickens. It is hurt by our neighbours prosperity. It is sick of hearing his praises and hates his virtues. It always finds something wrong with the person being envied. The man who envies often becomes literally, physically sick as his hatred and selfishness grow and fester inside of him.

Verse 31 drives home the point that the poor as much as the rich are made in the image of God. They are equal in God's eyes - sinners condemned to death and destruction unless they put their faith in Jesus Christ. Remember the Gospel was spread by poor fishermen. The Son of God Himself lived in a poor condition. So what reason could we possibly have to oppress the poor as though they were a lesser human being? To do so is to dishonour their Maker, to treat His work badly and to despise His commands. If we want to honour God, we need to not only refrain from oppressing, but we must also have mercy on the poor. It's easy to think in this day and age the poor are no longer oppressed, but think of the people who are; think of the men and women who get treated as less than a human being. Maybe they are elderly, disabled, homeless, drunk, an addict, or a teenager. We can't excuse the sin in their lives, but we need to remember that they too are made in the image of God and sinners like us.

Questions

1. How does envy destroy?
2. How does God see rich and poor?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would show love and kindness to all around us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. Proverbs 14:34

Praise: Psalm 100 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Proverbs 14:32-33 - Life and Death

The world thinks that all will go to heaven one day - that if the good they do outweighs the bad, they will be received into glory. But verse 32 paints a completely different picture. When faced with eternity, believers and unbelievers go to two different places. Maybe the unbelievers are “nice” people on earth, useful, and respectable. Maybe they are selfish and arrogant. Maybe they care only for their study or maybe they live for pleasure. Whatever they look like on the outside, they are all forgetful of God and condemned to hell. They are indeed brought down in their wickedness. They are dragged out of life, like a criminal to execution; torn away from their only heaven here, with no joyous heaven beyond. They wish they could stay on earth, but they cannot, they cannot live. They are driven from the world to eternal punishment and grief.

But the righteous dies freely. It is a glad surrender, not a forced separation. He can take death by the hand and welcome him, for he is looking homeward to his God. His death is full of hope. Through Jesus Christ, we enter the Kingdom, going to what we love, to our home, to our Saviour, to our rest, our crown, our everlasting joy.

Verse 33 describes where wisdom should be in our lives. It should rest in our hearts. As we read and study God’s Word, we should hide it in our heart, remembering it, thinking on it, and loving it. As we learn who God is, as we grow in our love for Him, it will flow from our heart into our actions. We will do what God says, we will serve Him, we will obey Him.

Questions

1. How can we avoid hell?
2. What happens when a Christian dies?
3. Where should we hide God’s Word?

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

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. Proverbs 14:34
Praise: Psalm 101 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Proverbs 14:34-35 - Wise Servants

In the same way that individuals will be blessed if they fear and love God, obeying His commands, the nation that fears and obeys God will also be blessed. And just as those who have no time for God will be destroyed, so too will the nation be judged that cares not about God, that has no time for God, that instead of making laws of obedience to God, make laws of disobedience to God. It is not policy, extent of empire, great conquests, flourishing trade, abundant resources - but righteousness - that exalts a nation. An ungodly man is an enemy to his country, for he brings shame and disgrace to it in the eyes of God. Do not be too quick to explain away unemployment, ill-health, war, poverty, earthquakes, fires, floods, famines, and terrorism as isolated events. God's judgement against sin comes in this life as well as the next.

Verse 35 spells out the benefits of a wise servant. He can bring glory to his king and help the spread of the kingdom. The king will delight in those who so faithfully serve him. But a shameful servant will bring upon himself the wrath of the king through his foolishness and disobedience. It is the same with the great King. All of us are His servants, bound to Him by the highest obligations. All of us have our responsibilities, our talents, our work, our account. Towards the faithful and wise servant who has traded with his talents, who has been diligent in his work - God is well pleased. But against him who causes shame, reflecting upon his Master, neglecting his work, and unprepared to stand before God - His wrath will be tremendous and eternal. What kind of servant are you?

Questions

1. How will a nation be exalted?
2. How does ungodly behaviour hurt our country?
3. What kind of servant should we be?

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

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. Proverbs 14:34

Praise: Psalm 102 - 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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