

Let's Worship God

29th March - 3rd April 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 1:1-4 - Proverbs

We are going to look at Proverbs for a few weeks. The notes will be taken from a commentary on Proverbs by Charles Bridges, edited for brevity and clarity. The book of Proverbs begins by telling us who wrote it - Solomon. Solomon is a man of wisdom because he prays for wisdom. When he becomes the new king of Israel, God speaks to him in the night and asks him what he would like from God. Instead of asking for good health, riches, or victory over his enemies, things most kings of the time would have asked for, Solomon asks for wisdom. God is pleased with Solomon's request and gives him not only great wisdom but many other blessings beside. So, one of the first lessons of Proverbs is that God is happy to give His people wisdom when they ask for it.

Solomon's wisdom is legendary throughout the world. On top of that, he is the son of David, the man after God's own heart, and the King of Israel, God's chosen people. All of which means his words deserve our respect and attention. But the book of Proverbs is more than Solomon's words and opinions. It is God's Word, God's Opinion, God's Instructions for men and women. In other words, this is God speaking to you, so pay attention.

The purpose of Proverbs is to teach wisdom. But what is wisdom? What is knowledge? What is understanding? Knowledge, understanding, and wisdom all build on each other. We can know in our heads what God teaches - we may know, for example, that the fifth commandment says we should honour our parents. Understanding the fifth commandment, though, is realising the practical implications of this in our life. But wisdom is actually doing it. Wisdom is knowing and living the way God wants you to live.

Questions

1. How can we be wise?
2. What is wisdom?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for wisdom in your life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7

Praise: Psalm 7 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Proverbs 1:1-6 - Listening

Solomon tells us that he is going to give us instruction on how to be wise, and with this wisdom comes understanding in how to be just and fair to others. This instruction in wisdom will help those who are easily deceived into thinking wrong is right. They will be better able to tell the difference. Training in wisdom is especially good for young people, full of energy and enthusiasm, wanting to do all sorts of things from the best of motives, but needing to be taught that God's work must be done God's way. Young people are so easily pulled in many different directions, but training in wisdom, practical instructions in Godly living, will keep him or her from being blown about by their emotions. Not just the young and the naive can benefit from Proverbs, but even those who are wise can get instruction. For a truly wise man is not one who thinks he is perfect, but who knows he still has much to learn and do.

But how are we to be taught wisdom? By listening. Listening to what God's Word has to say to us. The longer we listen, the more we'll see how much we need to listen, and the more we'll be ready to listen. This is why our ministers of God's Word are so valuable - God has chosen to use them to explain and teach us what His Word says. When we come to worship on the Lord's Day, it should be with an attitude of wanting to listen. When we open our Bibles in family and private worship or in our METs, it should be with an attitude ready to listen to what God has to say.

Questions

1. Why will wisdom help the young?
2. When do you have enough wisdom?
3. How can we be taught wisdom?
4. Where does God speak to us?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for ministers.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7

Praise: Psalm 8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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[Proverbs 3:5-6]

Wednesday - Proverbs 1:1-9 - Parents

What is the foundation of wisdom? Where do you start when you want to get wisdom? Solomon tells us that you start with the fear of the Lord. But what is the fear of the Lord? It is the loving respect and obedience the child of God gives his Heavenly Father. It is a desire to make God happy and a carefulness to do nothing that would displease Him. Wisdom begins with having a right heart toward God. And this is exactly why fools have no desire for wisdom. What is a fool? Well, Psalm 14:1 defines a fool as a man who says there is no God. A fool is one who has no interest in God, no faith in God. So, of course, a fool will not care how God says he should live. A fool has no time for God's definitions of right and wrong. A fool is not interested in wisdom.

Solomon now goes from stating the purpose and theme of his book to the actual teaching. Having said that wisdom, knowledge, and understanding begin with God, he moves on to those who usually are first in teaching us the things of God - our parents. Obviously, this is not always the case, but Godly parents are a tremendous source of wisdom. They are a blessing to those who have them, and they should be respected and honoured all our lives. If we want to be wise, we should listen to the teaching of those older and wiser than ourselves - this includes not only Godly parents, but those older believers in the church, who have a wealth of understanding that they could give us. This means that anyone can find within the church those who will be like Godly parents to them and should seek those people out. Parents and those older in the Christian faith have a huge responsibility as well to teach the things of God to others.

Questions

1. What is the beginning of learning wisdom?
2. What does it mean to fear the Lord?
3. Where do we first learn the things of God?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for older believers and Godly parents.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7

Praise: Psalm 9 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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[Proverbs 3:5-6]

Thursday - Proverbs 1:10-16 - Evil Company

Solomon, by his very use of the phrase “my son” and his words at the beginning of this chapter, seems to be emphasising that young people need wisdom. And when we read these verses about the dangers of evil friends, how can we help but agree? How many faithful men and women have had their hearts broken at seeing young people whom they have worked with and prayed for pulled away from the things of God by their unbelieving friends? If only Christians were as strong at pulling people towards God as unbelievers are at pulling people away from God!

Those who claim to have faith in Christ, especially those young people who claim to have this faith, will be tempted into sin. This is a fact of life. But Solomon gives us the key to dealing with temptation - do not give in. Simple, but not easy. If we do give in to temptation, we can't blame God, we can't even blame the devil. Satan can't force us to sin. Whether we give in or not is our choice, and the blame goes to us.

The temptation here starts out with a seemingly harmless request by sinful unbelievers for the young man to spend time with them. But step by step God reveals how one sin will lead to a worse sin which will lead to more sin. This is the way sin works in our lives and in the lives of others. It may look harmless at the beginning, but it ends in disaster.

So, is it safe to trust in our strong faith when spending time with unbelievers? Proverbs says no. It doesn't matter who we are, we aren't strong enough to constantly surround ourselves with those determined to sin. Does this mean we should only spend time with Christians? No, the Bible is full of examples of those who lived their lives surrounded by unbelief. What we're warned about is close, personal friendships with those who want nothing to do with God and are determined to sin against Him.

Questions

1. How should we deal with temptation?
2. Why is it so important what kind of friends we have?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for our young people.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7

Praise: Psalm 10 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Proverbs 1:17-23 - Wisdom of God

When we see danger, we try to avoid it. If a bird sees a trap, it will fly away. But we can be so blinded by sin, that we run right into the net Satan has set up. We just don't seem to see the danger of sin. An unrepentant sinner will not see Hell at the end of his life. When we sin, we are destroying ourselves, and we don't even realise it.

What can clear up our blindness? How can our eyes be opened to the dangers of sin? Wisdom. Knowing and doing what God wants helps us to see sin for what it really is. Wisdom clears up our confusion and shows us the way forward. Solomon paints a picture of wisdom here in these verses. But it isn't just a picture of some idea called wisdom. It is a picture of the Son of God, the ultimate Wisdom. Who knows God better than anyone - Jesus Christ. Who has obeyed God perfectly - Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is Wisdom. Solomon has explained that wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord. Now, through the inspiration of God, he is telling us that to be wise is to be like Christ.

But the response to Christ, the response to the Wisdom of God, is the same in Solomon's day as it is today. There are those who do not fear God; those who do not care what they say or do. They live as if there was no God and no eternity. Others take a great delight in attacking the things of God and in making fun of His people. And some just hate God and anything about Him.

But those who turn to Christ, who turn to Wisdom, repenting of their sin, will have the Holy Spirit poured out upon them and the things of God, the Word of God, made clear to them. They will grow in their love of God and their desire to live like Christ, and they will hate their sin.

Questions

1. Explain why Jesus Christ is the ultimate Wisdom?
2. What responses do people have to Christ?

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

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7

Praise: Psalm 11 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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[Proverbs 3:5-6]

Saturday -Proverbs 1:24-33 - Warning and Promise

Jesus Christ as the ultimate Wisdom calls to people. He calls to them through His Word, the Bible, through the world and circumstances around them that clearly proclaim the existence of God, through His ministers preaching His Word, and through their inborn knowledge they have in their heart that God exists. But men and women continue to refuse to listen, and they are warned here of the consequences of that refusal.

The day will come when Christ will stop calling and will begin to judge. On that day prayer will be useless. The sinner will get his own way - an eternity without God. He will harvest what he has planted. The fault is his. He has turned away from God - it doesn't matter what he has turned to. And every time we ignore God or neglect the things of God and fail to repentant, we are taking a step down that road to Hell.

But this chapter ends with a promise. Have you listened to God? Have you listened to the call of Jesus Christ, the call of Wisdom, and turned to Him? Then you are safe, where no evil can reach you. You are as safe as Noah in the ark and Daniel in the lion's den. The day of judgement will be for you a day of joy. Your life will be lived safely in Christ's arms and your death will take you to heaven and eternal life with your Lord and Saviour.

Questions

1. How does Christ speak to people today?
2. What will happen to those who refuse to listen to Christ?
3. What is the promise this chapter gives us?

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 fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7

Praise: Psalm 12 - 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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