

Let's Worship God

18th-23rd October 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 30:21-23 - A Topsy-Turvy World

Verses 21-23 - Agur is now mentioning things that just don't seem to fit, they are out of place. The first is when ignorant, foolish people rise to power. He is not talking about those who through hard and good work rise to a high position, but those who are put into positions of power and leadership who seem completely unqualified and total disasters. The second thing that doesn't seem to fit is a fool, a deliberate sinner who is prospering on the earth. We know from other passages in God's Word that even though wicked men and women may seem to do well on earth, none of us would want to trade places with them after their death when they stand before a holy God to give an account for what they have done. The third thing out of place is an unlovable woman who is married. This really seems strange. Why would you marry a woman you don't love? How could a woman who is unlovable get married? But as we have seen throughout this book, men and women often make foolish decisions when it comes to their spouses - decisions based on lust, appearance, greed, and emotion, rather than on the Word of God. These decisions result in misery for everyone concerned. The last thing he mentions is much like the first - fools being promoted over the wise. In fact all he says relates to the question of why the wicked prosper. Surely that's not the way the world is meant to be. But with the Fall, everything got turned on its head. Sinners often succeed and wise men suffer. But God throughout His Word reminds us that He is in control, He sees all, and He will judge all. So no matter how out of place things here sometimes seem, God will turn it all right side up in His time.

Questions

1. What is Agur listing in these verses?
2. Why do the wicked succeed?
3. What does God teach us about this in His Word?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is in control of all things.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30

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

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Tuesday - Proverbs 30:24-33 - Lessons All Around

Verses 24-28 - Everywhere God teaches us by His works as well as by His Word. Agur gives us four examples of these works. Each of these creatures works without stopping at their job; they don't use their weakness as an excuse. We are made to bring glory to God - do we work tirelessly at this, or do we make every excuse under the sun. The ant prepares for the winter in the summer; do we prepare for eternity in this life? Do we use the good times in our life to come close to God, so we can better face the bad times? The conies know to take refuge and shelter in the rocks; do we know to take refuge and shelter in the Lord Jesus Christ, more secure than any rock? Like the locusts the Church should be united, concentrated, well-disciplined, everyone at their job, everyone helping each other, all working together to see Christ glorified. And the lizard teaches us patience and perseverance in all we do. Our faithful efforts to bring glory to God will be used by Him.

Verses 29-31 - The stately creatures described in these verses teach us that how we do something is as important as what we do. Christians should be obeying God, but they should be obeying God with a cheerful and loving spirit. A right attitude needs to go along with right actions

Verses 32-33 - If you have a foolish thought, Agur is saying here to stop it before it gets to your mouth. Words will only increase the sin, give it more power, and be more hurtful to others. We need to hold back the expression, when we can't prevent the thought. To not restrain ourselves and just let ourselves go will bring out a world of trouble.

Questions

1. What can we learn from the animals in these verses?
2. Why is our attitude so important?
3. How should we deal with sinful thoughts?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's wise creation.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30

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

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Wednesday - Proverbs 31:1-7 - Helping Others

Verses 1-2 - We really don't know anything about King Lemuel except that he is given the great blessing of a Godly mother. She calls her son the son of her vows, but it can also be translated 'the answer to my prayers.' If we want to see our children loving and serving the Lord, then we need to be, like this lady, much in prayer for them. Even if you have no children, there are children in the congregation that need your faithful prayers.

Verses 3-7 - Solomon has given us his father's wise advice; Lemuel gives us his mother's. She warns him against the dangers of no self-control whether in the area of women, or drink, or power. She gives him rules of love and self-denial which come down to this: instead of using good things just on your self, selfishly indulging your every wish, give out your luxuries to those who really need them. In other words, use the blessings God has given you to benefit others. Seek out cases of poverty and misery, so that you can use what you have to help them. This is what Christ has done for us. Our conscience is loaded with guilt; our heart is heavy with a burden we can not bear or get rid of. When we are told of God's love to sinners; the forgiveness and ransom found for us; the welcome we will definitely have, it gives us exactly what we need to forget our misery. We need then to go and share this great gift with others who are suffering. Like Lemuel we need to seek out those we can help by giving them the good news of the Gospel.

Questions

1. What blessing did Lemuel have?
2. How can we care for children?
3. What has Christ done for us?
4. What is the greatest thing we can do for someone else?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30

Praise: Psalm 12 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Proverbs 31:8-10 - Far Above Rubies

Verses 8-9 - The king must use his authority to protect those who can't protect themselves. No case should be beneath his attention. When we look at Jesus, our King, we see that He stands on earth before His accusers, unjustly condemned, and no one opens their mouth to speak for Him, to defend Him. But when it comes to us, we are justly condemned, but our great King, the Lord Jesus Christ, speaks on our behalf, making our defence, paying our debts. We should remember His love and forgiveness, so we can grow more like Him.

Verse 10 - This verse leads to the main section of the chapter. Lemuel's wise mother has warned him against evil women and given him Godly rules for government. She now sets before him the picture of a virtuous woman, that gift from the Lord. It is a poem of 22 verses, written like Psalm 119 in that each of the verses starts with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It describes a wife, an employer, and a mother. So rare is this treasure that a challenge is given to find a virtuous woman. Abraham sends to a far away country to find this blessing for his son. Perhaps one reason it's so rare is that it is almost never sought. Too often we search for appearances, wealth, or accomplishments, not for virtues; for outward things instead of internal character. When this gift is found, it is priceless. No treasure on earth is comparable to her.

Questions

1. What is the job of the king?
2. What has Christ done for us?
3. What is the main part of chapter 31 about?
4. How valuable is a Godly woman?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the Godly women in your life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30

Praise: Psalm 13 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Proverbs 31:11-27 - The Virtuous Woman

Verses 11-12 - The price of the virtuous woman has been told. Her different characteristics are now given. The first lines describe her as a wife. Her faithfulness, oneness of heart, and affection makes the heart of husband to trust her. A faithful wife and a trusting husband are a blessing to each other. He knows he can trust her to do a good job with the things she is responsible for. He has no suspicions or jealousies; no temptation to seek money or pleasure elsewhere; no need to leave his happy home. She loves him, so she wants to make herself more worthy of his trust instead of taking advantage of it. She looks for ways she can do him good. She has an unconditional love - it's not based on what he has or hasn't done, but imitating Christ, she loves selflessly. Her relationship with her husband is like Christ and the Church. Her trials are his; his cause is hers.

Verses 13-27 - This is the picture of a Godly woman who does good works - a Mary and a Martha. Notice that this isn't a woman shut away from the world in a convent, but a woman actively involved in the real world, a woman wise but not mean with her money, a woman full of energy for others, a woman who puts others before herself and isn't afraid or annoyed to work hard on their behalf. She is an economically productive part of the household as is her husband. Her work is also high quality and done with her whole heart. She cares about her appearance - though this isn't the most important thing in her life. She takes care of those she is responsible for - looking after their physical and spiritual needs. She also cares for those outwith her household - anyone whom she can help. And all of this is done with a caring and loving attitude and a strong, trusting faith in her good God.

Questions

1. Why can this husband trust his wife?
2. What kind of attitude does this woman have?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the married couples in the congregation.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30

Praise: Psalm 14 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Proverbs 31:28-31 - The End

Verses 28-31 - You can picture this woman, well on in years, her children grown up, perhaps with families of their own and trying to train them as they themselves have been trained. Their mother is constantly before their eyes. Her guidance, her wisdom, her loving discipline, her holy example are remembered. How could they stop thanking God for this great blessing. Her husband praises her as well. Their relationship is grounded in the fear of the Lord, something of more lasting value than appearance. At the heart of this woman is her love and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ - all these good fruits grow from her relationship with Him

And so we come to the end of Proverbs. There are a few key points we find throughout this book. First - our outward behaviour flows from our heart, and to change anything, the heart must first be changed. Without a right heart, we are just hypocrites, but faith, grounded in the heart, works its way out in how we act and puts everything in its proper place and proportion. Secondly, we learned that true happiness is found in godliness. Faith is a joyful thing. Holiness is happiness, solid, permanent, and enjoyable. Thirdly we are taught again and again what real good is. It is always centred in God. To find Him is life. To fear Him is wisdom. To trust Him is happiness. To love Him is real treasure. To neglect Him is certain ruin. We naturally put ourselves at the centre of life, but the way of life is to put God in the centre. Finally, we see in Proverbs that our faith should be complete and consistent. It should affect every thought, word, and act, consistently and faithfully. Who can do this? Who can live the way God wants? Do not despair. If you belong to God, He will give you the strength and ability to follow Him in the way of wisdom.

Questions

1. What is the most important thing about the Proverbs 31 woman?
2. What have you learned from Proverbs?

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

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30

Praise: Psalm 15 - 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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