

Let's Worship God

26th April-1st May 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 5:1-14 - Flee Temptation

Wisdom is the only thing we can use to avoid sin. If we try to rely on our own strength, good motives, or common sense, we will fail and fail miserably. Our sinful nature will be impossible to control when the right temptation hits us. But wisdom - knowing and doing what God wants out of a heart of love for Him - this will hold us back from sin. When we have the things of God constantly before our eyes, it puts a restraint upon us and causes us to rely on the Lord for the strength and power to resist temptation.

Not that temptation is always easily recognised. It almost always looks good, pleasant, enjoyable, but Solomon paints a graphic picture of the result of giving into temptation - any temptation. The end is bitter destruction and death. If we're trusting in our own judgement, our own desires, certain sins will seem very attractive and reasonable to us, then once we have formed a habit of sinning, we will not want to give it up. But where does unrepentant sin lead? Hell. To carry on sinning, oblivious of what God has to say about it, will result in eternal death. Is it any wonder that Solomon so strongly warns us against starting out on this road?

Solomon strongly warns us, not just about giving in to temptation, but even coming close to temptation. If we know that a situation, or a person, or a possession, or a film, or a song is going to make us really struggle with sin, we should avoid those things. We should not be so foolish as to think that we are spiritual giants when we're not. Know yourself; know what's going to really cause you to struggle to do what's right, and avoid it. If you don't, it could ruin your life.

Questions

1. What do we use to fight temptation? How does this help us?
2. How can we recognise temptation and sin?
3. What should we do about the things that tempt us?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would flee temptation.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths.
Proverbs 5:21

Praise: Psalm 31 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Proverbs 5:15-19 - Spiritual Adultery

When we aren't happy and content with the blessings we have, we start wanting what we can't have. Desiring something sinful springs from not being satisfied with what God has given us. So, if we want to keep from sin and pursuing what is forbidden, we need to learn to be happy and thankful for what we have. We need to learn to be content.

Solomon illustrates this point with a picture of marriage and adultery. Instead of pursuing others, a Godly husband or wife rejoices in what they do have - a Godly spouse is a special gift of our Heavenly Father, one that should be cherished. It is a gift that should be treated with purity and gentleness. Loving your husband or wife is the best guard against adultery. If you are busy treating your husband or wife the way you should and finding happiness with them, you have no time to look for marital happiness elsewhere.

But this isn't just a principle of marriage, it is a principle that can be applied to the whole Christian life. When we are busy and focussed on loving and serving God, when we find in God our satisfaction and joy, then we aren't going to have the time or desire to put other things or people in God's place. But the moment we start neglecting our relationship with the Lord, stop having private and family worship, stop reading God's Word, stop praying, we are going to look to other things or people for satisfaction and happiness. It is as if we are committing spiritual adultery.

Questions

1. What is a good way to avoid sin?
2. How should a husband and wife treat each other?
3. How can we grow in our love of God?
4. What happens when we neglect our relationship with God?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the husbands and wives in our congregation.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths.
Proverbs 5:21

Praise: Psalm 32 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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[Proverbs 3:5-6]

Wednesday - Proverbs 5:20-23 - God Sees

Solomon has painted such a good picture of the deadly temptations of sin on the one hand and the calm happiness found in loving God on the other, that we wonder who in their right mind would choose to leave the ways of God for sin. God sees everything we do, and that thought alone should stop us from following our sinful desires. But it doesn't. Why? Because men and women really don't live as if they think God exists. The knowledge that other people are watching us is often a powerful deterrent, one that keeps many men and women from doing all the sin they feel like doing. But the fact that God is watching seems to make no difference. Christians as well can be so careful of what they say and do in front of other people but completely careless of what they say or do when it is just God who sees. If we really believed and took in the fact that God knows our every thought, hears our every word, and sees our every action, would that not make us be extremely careful to do, and think, and say only what pleases Him?

But if the fact that God sees all we do is not enough to restrain the sinner, Solomon again reminds us of the devastating results of sin. A sinner brings all his trouble upon himself. His unrepentant sins trap him and entangle him and drag him down to Hell. Do we think that we can give up our pet sins whenever we feel like it? They have become a far stronger habit than we realise.

So is there no cure for our sin? There is hope - hope in the Gospel. Hope that when we turn from our sins and turn to Christ, our sins are forgiven and the Holy Spirit given to us to enable us to live like Christ.

Questions

1. How can we be more careful about what we say, think, and do?
2. What is the result of unrepentant sin?
3. What hope does a sinner have?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths.
Proverbs 5:21

Praise: Psalm 33 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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[Proverbs 3:5-6]

Thursday - Proverbs 6:1-5 - Security

Solomon has warned us against the dangers of those who try to lead us into sin. He now cautions us against entering into a partnership with a foolish friend. The specific warning is against putting up security for a friend - things like investing in their business, co-signing on their loan, or being their guarantee of payment. But in some cases in the Bible this is allowed and approved - Reuben and Judah tell their father Jacob to take their lives and their sons if they do not bring back Benjamin, and Paul tells Onesimus' owner that he will pay him whatever Onesimus owes him (Genesis 42:37; 43:9; Philemon 1:18-19). Sometimes making a promise and going into a business partnership can be an act of wise friendship, and we'll end up benefiting. So, what is Solomon referring to here? He is talking about hasty and foolish promises, unwise investments and agreements, to which young and inexperienced people are especially prone. Often we'll make a quick promise to help someone without thinking through all that is involved, or we'll encourage and support someone in doing something that is poorly done and will bring bad results. So, how do we avoid this? By thinking before we agree to do something. And if we do find ourselves trapped, Solomon advises us to go to our friends and ask them to release us from our promise. And if someone comes to you, then, asking to be released from a hasty promise they have made, it seems that the loving thing to do in most cases is to release them from that responsibility.

But we can rejoice that while God warns us against being a security for others, He has taken it upon Himself. He has given His word, His bond, His blood for sinners, a security that no powers of Hell can shake.

Questions

1. What is Solomon warning us about?
2. How can we avoid making hasty promises?
3. How has God been our security?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would think before we speak.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

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Proverbs 5:21

Praise: Psalm 34 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Proverbs 6:6-11 - Laziness

It is a sign of how low sin has brought us that we are told to learn from animals. The ant has no one to direct her, no one to inspect her, no one to call her to account, but she works hard storing up for her needs. But a lazy man just wants to make life easy for himself in the present moment. His life is wasted and poverty comes upon him. Maybe he twists God's words to excuse his laziness. He may say that we are not to worry about tomorrow. But God doesn't say we aren't to think about tomorrow. God provides and takes care of His people, but He uses means to do so, means like hard work.

But in even greater danger is the spiritually lazy man - the one who takes his salvation for granted and makes no effort to grow in his faith. Despite all the guides of his conscience, the Bible, ministers, and Christian friends, he ignores the things of God and does not think about how he will have to give God an account of what he has done. Being asleep in spiritual things is a sleep of death, and the longer we sleep, the harder it will be to wake up. No one but God can wake up those who are asleep spiritually, and we need to pray daily for the power of God to awaken our friends.

The Christian is warned here as well, against the dangers of laziness in their Christian life. If we say we believe, but can't be bothered to serve God, do we mean what we say? Laziness is a sin that affects every area of our life and grows in ways we don't even notice. We must resist it in all areas - bodily, mentally, spiritually, and work hard for God.

Questions

1. How might we excuse our laziness?
2. Who can wake up a spiritually asleep man? What can we do?
3. How can we avoid laziness in our lives?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would work hard for God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths.
Proverbs 5:21

Praise: Psalm 35 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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[Proverbs 3:5-6]

Saturday - Proverbs 6:12-19 - Sin

Solomon is painting a picture of the laziness of the sluggard on the one hand and the tireless activity of the wicked man on the other. The evil man makes every part of his body - mouth, eyes, feet, and hands, tools for doing wickedly. But it goes even deeper. His heart is the centre of his wicked plans and schemes - it is a heart that hates God, God's people, and anything to do with God. But this man or woman brings upon himself his own destruction. They have no hope unless the all-powerful God, whom they hate, changes their hard, dead hearts to living ones.

We tend to think that everyone is pretty much like us - they think like us, they feel like us, they act like us. Solomon is quick to point out that God is completely unlike sinful men and women. He does not take sin, any sin lightly. He does not ignore it, and He will not forget it. Solomon names seven sins God hates. These aren't just outward sins, but sins of the heart and the mind. And all these sins build on each other. They stem out of pride - thinking we know best, trusting in ourselves and our own judgement as better than God's. Wanting our way not God's way because we don't really believe God's way is best. This pride leads to lies, lies about how wise we are and how we don't need God. And these lies lead to action, sinful action - whether it's destroying somebody with our hands or our tongue because we think we know best. It's easy to look at this list and tick off each sin thinking, "Well, I don't do that." But is that true? Do we never think we know better than God? Do we drag our feet when it comes to sinning? Or do we jump right in? Are we not quick to be critical and destructive with our tongue out of a confidence that we are better than whoever we are destroying verbally? Are we really free of these sins the Lord hates?

Questions

1. What can change a wicked man?
2. How can we avoid the things God hates?

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

For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths.
Proverbs 5:21

Praise: Psalm 36 - 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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If you have any queries please contact - rpchurchscotland@gmail.com