

Let's Worship God

17th-22nd 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 9:1-6 - The Feast

These verses are very similar to the parable of the marriage feast that Jesus tells. Wisdom is making a feast and sending out servants to invite the guests. This is a picture of the Gospel. Christ offers a feast to the world, and His people are sent out to invite men and women to come and believe and enjoy the good things of God. The house built by Wisdom is the Church. It is built on the pillars of truth, the Word of God, with Jesus Christ Himself as the cornerstone. It is Christ's sacrifice, His blood shed for His people that makes this feast possible. It is in His Church, through the preaching of His Word, and the teaching of the Gospel, that men and women can feast. And the invitation goes out, not to the wealthy, intelligent or powerful, but to all - to the ignorant who do not see the danger they are in, to the naive who do not understand what God requires, to the sinner who needs a Saviour. They are invited to come and eat the bread of life and drink the wine of the Gospel.

Our job as servants of Christ is to invite people to this feast. We are to speak of the wealth of our Master and tell sinners that they are welcome to come to Him. There is a great feast set before us all, and we do not need to be worthy or deserving to come. We just need to trust in the invitation of the Lord.

But to enter the Church of God and eat of His feast, the path of the simple must be left behind. Foolishness, sin, must be turned from. We can't carry on the way we way we were and still enter the house of Wisdom. You can't walk down the street and go into someone's house at the same time. You have to leave one to do the other. If we accept the invitation to trust in Christ, we must leave our sinful lives behind.

Questions

1. What is Wisdom's house?
2. What is our job as Wisdom's servants?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that our family and friends would put their trust in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. Proverbs 9:10

Praise: Psalm 49 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Proverbs 9:7-9 - Rebuke

The messengers of the Gospel, the messengers of Wisdom, must use discrimination in telling their message. What do we mean? There are different kinds of unbelievers out in the world. There are some who are just ignorant - they know nothing about Jesus Christ or the Bible. There are some who just don't care and don't bother to listen - they just want to be left alone. And then there are some who openly hate the things of God, rebel against them, and mock all who speak of them.

In a sense we feel sorry for the mocker - he hates God, he hates his life, and he leads a miserable existence. But Solomon tells us to be prudent in dealing with him. We need to choose our moments. If what we say is going to do more harm than good, we should hold our tongue. We should avoid irritating someone unnecessarily, but wait for the right time and opportunity to speak. Sometimes a sad, serious silence is more effective when you're dealing with one who has no time for God.

But we can't use prudence as an excuse to hide behind because we're afraid to rebuke sin and confess Christ. Every sinner is not a mocker, and we can't let opportunities go by to speak of the Gospel because we're afraid of what the reaction might be. Men and women around us are rushing headlong into a lost eternity, and Christ calls on us to speak of salvation to them.

A wise man will appreciate and encourage someone telling him what he's done wrong. He will not want to continue in sin, and he will be thankful to those who point it out. But this is hard. No one likes criticism. To humbly receive correction requires much prayer, self-denial, love, and sincerity. But when the person giving and the person receiving correction are focused on Christ, they will end up closer than before.

Questions

1. What should we do if correcting someone would just make things worse?
2. How should we deal with correction?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would take the loving correction of our Christian friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. Proverbs 9:10

Praise: Psalm 50 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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[Proverbs 3:5-6]

Wednesday - Proverbs 9:10-12 - Consequences

Verse 10 repeats what Solomon has said in chapter 1 verse 7, and this should emphasise it's importance. Wisdom begins with a heart right towards God. A heart that fears God, that respects Him, that loves Him, that wants to please Him. When we love God, we will want to do what He says. And this is wisdom. To know God, to know about Him, to understand what He says in His Word, to see how He views sin, and to read about how He wants us to live will give us understanding. When we know more about God, we will better understand what to do to please Him.

Those who follow after God, who pursue Wisdom, who fear the Lord and want to do what He says, they will have rich blessings. Their lives here on earth will be valuable and full. Not perfect lives, there is still sin in them and in the world. But the Christian will have blessings in this life, blessings of hope, love, joy, peace, contentment, blessings of God's Word to guide them, the Church to teach them and give them Christian friends, and the privilege of praying to the Ruler of the universe and having Him listen to you as a Father would to his child. And then there is life eternal added on to this life. These blessings can not compare with all the riches of unbelievers.

The consequences of our actions, good or bad, primarily affect us. We can't make God better by doing good, He is already perfect, and we are unable to harm Him by doing what is wrong. The good we do, the wisdom we have, may help the church, may help others, but it primarily helps us - we become better Christians, better people. The evil that we do, the sins we commit hurt nobody as much as they hurt ourselves, for it is our own relationship with God we are wrecking and our future we are destroying.

Questions

1. Where does wisdom begin?
2. Who primarily benefits from our good or bad actions?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the rich blessings God gives us in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. Proverbs 9:10

Praise: Psalm 51 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Proverbs 9:13-18 - Sin Calls

Solomon has painted a picture of Wisdom calling out to us with a gracious invitation of salvation. In contrast to this, we see Foolishness or sin also calling out to men and women with an invitation that may seem lovely on the surface but leads to destruction. The call of sin is pictured as a call to adultery, and everytime we sin, it is as though we are committing spiritual adultery. We are not being faithful to our Lord God - we are putting something else in His place, even if it's just wanting our way rather than God's.

The call of sin is loud, we hear it all around us - in the paper, on TV, on the radio, as we ride the train, or talk to our co-workers. In our country that no longer has any desire for the things of God, we are daily met with a barrage of invitations to sin - loud, persistent, and deceptive. The call of sin is shameless - it sees nothing wrong with what it wants to do. When we remove God from the highest place in our hearts, when we stop looking to Him to know what's right and wrong, we become our god. We decide what's right and wrong, and if it makes us feel good or seems okay, we see nothing wrong in what we do, no matter what God has said about it. This is the sin of Adam and Eve - instead of obeying what God says, they choose to decide what is right and wrong. They decide to play God. And the secret sins that we hold close to our heart, that we are so reluctant to give up are not really secret. All is open before the eye of God, and all must be answered for. It doesn't matter that no one else on this earth knows - God does.

Two feasts set out for men and women, two voices calling, but two very different results. Wisdom brings life, but sin brings death.

Questions

1. What is sinning like adultery?
2. How can we resist the call of sin?
3. Are any of our sins secret?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would resist the call of sin.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. Proverbs 9:10

Praise: Psalm 52 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Proverbs 10:1-2 - Parents and Treasure

The chapters before have contrasted Godly wisdom with foolish sinfulness. Now, for the rest of the book we see the practical applications. Wisdom is knowing and doing what God wants, and here are the practical things God wants us to do. As before we begin with the parent-child relationship, for it is here that many first learn the things of God. Solomon emphasises the value of giving our children a Godly education, of training them up to know and serve the Lord. To see our children and young people choosing wisdom, loving and serving God, should bring great joy not just to their parents but to the whole church. And to see a child or young person choosing the path of sin and foolishness brings grief both to their parents and to the church. In both cases, we should be driven to pray relentlessly for the preserving of our children from evil, for their salvation, for their increasing love and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. We have the precious promise that as our children are faithfully trained up in the things of God, as we read them God's Word, pray with and for them, and discipline them to obey God, that they will embrace God. But this lays a huge responsibility on all of us - not just parents, but all in the church have a responsibility to encourage and help parents. And when we see our young people drifting away from the church, we need to examine if we have been faithful in keeping the promises we made at their baptism.

The greatest earthly treasures are worth nothing if we are God's enemy, for in the end we die and what becomes of our treasures? They can not save us from God's judgement. But to have the righteousness that comes from Christ means that whatever we have or don't have during our life, we are rich in the one thing that matters most.

Questions

1. Where do many first learn about the things of God?
2. What can we do for our covenant children?
3. What is the one thing that matters most in this life?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for our children and 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 wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. Proverbs 9:10

Praise: Psalm 53 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Proverbs 10:3-5 - Laziness and Diligence

Verse 2 is a powerful promise to all of God's people. God promises that His people will never lack anything they need. Think about this. Does this mean that no Christian has ever starved to death, or frozen to death, or died from poverty. No, they probably have. But sometimes what a Christian needs most is to be taken to be with God. But whether we have a lot or a little, whether we are suffering or rejoicing, we will not lack any good thing. In Christ we have all we need to be content, to be satisfied, to be full.

One of the tools that God uses to provide for His people is hard work. The world we live in is full of examples of lazy men who bring poverty upon themselves, who deceive their families and their employers, and waste what God has entrusted to them. But when we want an example of how Christians should treat work, we just need to read through the Bible. Adam and Eve worked in the Garden before sin entered the world. After the Fall, work became more difficult and unappealing to sinful men and women, but it remains a gift from God, and throughout the Bible we see instances of God blessing those who work hard at the job He has given them to do. So whether our job is taking care of children, being a student, tidying our room, running a company, working in a shop, or peeling potatoes, God wants us to work hard at it - to do it with all our might.

God also wants us to think ahead when we are working and plan for the future. Whether it's storing up knowledge, building relationships, working with young people, drinking in the things of God and His Word, providing for your family - there are plenty of opportunities to think ahead. But if you don't see the big picture, if you waste the blessings you have now, you'll be faced with a time when you have nothing.

Questions

1. Why should we work hard?
2. What blessings has God given you that you can use for the future?

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 wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. Proverbs 9:10

Praise: Psalm 54 - 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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