

Let's Worship God

24th-29th 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 10:6-9 - The Paths of the Lord

It often seems like those who do what is right, who love and serve the Lord, suffer for it. But Solomon here says that the blessings they receive more than make up for it. Not only do the righteous receive blessings here on earth, they receive the blessings of eternal life with Christ and promises of a rich reward for serving Him faithfully. Their memory itself then goes on to be a blessing to others - their family, their neighbours, their friends, their congregation. Contrast this with the wicked man who may seem to have many good things, but doesn't have what matters most, and when he dies he is either forgotten or remembered mainly for evil that he has done.

If we truly love the Lord Jesus in our hearts, verse 8 tells us that we will accept commands. What commands? God's. If we love the Lord, we will want to do what He says, we will want to find out what He says by reading the Bible, praying, and worshipping Him. Our hearts will be open to hearing and doing God's will. But a fool, one who has no time for God, is too busy thinking and talking about himself to listen or do what God says, and as a result, he is walking down the path to his destruction.

A man of integrity is a wise man, a man who is fixed on doing what God says. And his path is secure. It isn't easy, there may be difficulties or hardships along the way of obeying God, but it is safe. It is a path under God's protection, full of God's promises, pleasing to God, and leading to eternal life. How could we choose any other way? But the world doesn't like it. It wants the easy path, the path that brings them pleasure, no matter how crooked and sinful. And in the end, all the evil that they do will be exposed - laid bare before all. But those who walk in God's ways will be secure.

Questions

1. Where can we find God's commands?
2. Why is God's path the safe one to be on?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would hide God's Word in our heart.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.
Proverbs 10:28

Praise: Psalm 55 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Proverbs 10:10-12 - Eye, Tongue, and Heart

The contrast in verse 10 is between one who brings trouble on others and one who brings it on himself. But how can a winking eye cause trouble? You've probably seen people do it - they say something seemingly harmless about someone then wink trying to imply all sorts of things that may or may not be true without actually saying it. They are slandering the one they are talking about and they are misleading and deceiving others by their body language. And as we saw yesterday, a chattering fool has no time to hear the things of God. Sometimes we are so busy talking and thinking about ourselves, we completely block God and other people out. The result will hurt ourselves more than anyone else.

Verse 11 talks about a situation only possible with believers. For only those who have trusted in Christ have received the Holy Spirit who enables them to do what is good and pleasing to God. Only the Holy Spirit can cause us to use our tongues for good, to encourage, to talk about Christ, to speak of the Gospel. The tongue is far too powerful for us to control on our own. The wicked man left to himself, without the restraining hand of God, will use his tongue for nothing but evil.

Verse 12 lays out a powerful contrast. Hatred is found in all sinful hearts. It continually stirs up trouble, creates trouble and keeps it alive, attacks the troubles of others, adds insult to injury, and resents the slightest thing, brooding over wrongs suffered. We all have the capability of being like this, and we need to set a watch upon ourselves and in place of hatred, practice love. Love covers, overlooks, speedily forgives and forgets, and assumes the best not the worst about others. We have been greatly loved, we should greatly love others.

Questions

1. How can we use our tongue for good?
2. How can we get rid of hate in our heart?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would grow in our love of each other.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.
Proverbs 10:28

Praise: Psalm 56 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Proverbs 10:13-15 - Storing Up Wisdom or Riches?

Solomon and his son illustrate verse 13 very well. Solomon speaks with such wisdom that the world hears and admires, but Rehoboam lacks this judgement and is punished by having the major portion of his kingdom taken away. The lack of wisdom, or rather the lack of a heart that seeks after wisdom, leads to terrible consequences. We can see it in our own lives and the lives of others when we look at the sinful choices we have made and the times we did things our way instead of God's. The consequences are there, maybe in broken families, maybe in broken health, but it is there.

It is no wonder that the wisdom of some comes out in what they say. They have stored up so much of the things of God in their heart and mind, that it spills out. Is this true of us? Are our minds so full of thinking about God and His Word and our hearts so full of love for Him, that we can't help but speak of Him to others? How can we fill our mind and hearts in this way? By reading God's Word, by worshipping God, and by praying that He increase our desire for Him. In contrast to the wise man storing up wisdom, the fool lives just for the moment. What he thinks, what he feels comes immediately out in what he says and gets him into trouble.

As we look at verse 15 we see a lot of truth. The rich use their wealth to protect them from many hardships and to gain many advantages. The poor often seem destroyed by their very life of poverty. But too often the rich are trusting in themselves and what they have with no thought of their need for salvation. The poor are often the ones who believe in Jesus. But both rich and poor have temptations and need God's grace to live rightly. The rich need to be poor in spirit, humble, and large in heart. The poor need to be rich in faith and content to possess the love of Christ.

Questions

1. How can we store up wisdom?
2. How should we treat the things we own?

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 hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.
Proverbs 10:28

Praise: Psalm 57 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Proverbs 10:16 - Work and the Christian

Work is the mark of a servant of God. All that we do is done to bring glory to God. This means whatever the job at hand, it is done the best we can with all our strength and all our heart. Why? Why does it matter to God if we work hard at tidying our room, peeling potatoes, changing nappies? How can these jobs possibly bring glory to Him? Because God works in us, by us, with us, through us. We work in and through Him. Our work, therefore, is His work. Everything we do, no matter how small, is part of the big picture. So, what's the big picture? Building the kingdom of God, working to make God's will done on earth as it is in heaven, bringing the earth back to what it was before the Fall. Are we going to achieve this big picture? Not in our lifetime. And not in the lifespan of this earth. But don't think for a minute that when the end of time comes all that you have done to God's glory here on earth has been for nothing. In addition to the influence you have had on other people and the growth in Godliness that has taken place in yourself, God promises in Revelation 14:13 "'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labour, for their deeds will follow them.'" This means that everything that you have done in your life to God's glory will become part of the new heavens and the new earth. This is the big picture.

So, going back to Proverbs, the reward of the righteous, their wages for loving and serving God is eternal life in heaven. Just remember, though, you've not really earned this, Christ has earned it for you and given you the faith and ability to claim this reward. But the wicked will only receive eternal death for the sin he has worked hard at doing his whole life.

Questions

1. How should we do the jobs in our life?
2. Why does God care how we work?
3. What will be the result of the work we do to the glory of God?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would work hard for the glory of our King.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.
Proverbs 10:28

Praise: Psalm 58 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Proverbs 10:17-19 - Listening and Speaking

If we want to know how to live, we have to be willing to listen to instruction, to pay attention to the discipline God sends us. If we shut our ears and our eyes to correction and determine to do what we think is right, we are turning our back on God and going down the road to destruction. And besides destroying our own lives, we are destroying our witness as Christians and confusing and misleading others. We need the discipline of God to keep us right.

Verse 18 describes a principle we see throughout the Bible. From Cain to Saul to Judas there are plenty of examples of men and women who hide their hatred with lying lips. There are also examples of those who slander others. God calls these people fools. Why? Often they seem to get away with it - they are the ones everyone believes, and they usually get something out of it. But they are fools because God sees what they are doing, and one day their lies will be stripped away and the truth laid bare.

But before we are too quick to chalk these two sins off our list, we need to examine our hearts to see if they are there. Are you always sincere when you are speaking to people you don't really like? For the sake of politeness, do you often say things that aren't even true? Do you really mean what you say? Or do you claim to care a lot for someone you really don't even like? Do you never make fun of them, cause them to look stupid or wrong, tell your guesses as though they were fact, or try to make yourself look better by telling of mistakes they have made? So, what's the answer? How can we avoid these sins? The key is in verse 19. Choose your words, think before you speak, hold your tongue.

Questions

1. How do people hide their hatred?
2. What is slander?
3. How can we avoid sinning in what we say?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would speak wisely and well.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.
Proverbs 10:28

Praise: Psalm 59 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Proverbs 10:20-22 - Speak Well and Work Well

The wisdom of keeping silent should always be connected with speaking well. We can use our tongue for good as well as evil, and it is sinful not just to say the wrong thing but to keep from saying the right one. We have the opportunity to encourage each other with our tongues, to speak of Christ, to share the Gospel, to pray with and for others to the King of kings - we have thousands of opportunities every day to do good with our tongues. What a blessing they can be to others - feeding them the things of God. But the foolish, wicked man will have none of this and in the end dies with nothing.

We have been told that the diligent man, the hard worker, will be blessed with wealth, here we see in verse 22 that it is the blessing of the Lord upon this hard work that brings wealth. Neither will be there without the other. The lazy man looks for wealth without work, the unbelieving man thinks that if he just works hard enough he will get his wealth, leaving God totally out of the picture, but the Christian understands that God blesses his faithful use of the tool of hard work. This keeps him busy, but also humbly dependent on God, knowing that unless what he has comes from God, it is worthless. The rich may receive their wealth as a blessing from the Lord, carefully using it in his service and for the good of others. The poor may enjoy the same blessing of God not in the form of wealth, but in contentment and the rich knowledge of a close relationship with the King, knowing that nothing can separate them from their God. God gives us nothing that can't be seen as a blessing. Even sorrow can be seen to be for our good. Drink this promise in - the Lord will not give us trouble - everything will be for our good.

Questions

1. How can we use our tongue for good?
2. How has God blessed you?

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 hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.
Proverbs 10:28

Praise: Psalm 60 - 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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