

Proverbs:

Wise & Joyful living in a world opposed to God

"Get in line with what pleases God" Prov. 6:16-19

Good morning! Thank you for being here in worship! Before we dive into the book of Proverbs, I'd like to offer this blessing and prayer to the Lord on your behalf:

Blessing & Prayer:

I invite you this morning to join me in this praise and the blessing that it intends to bring to our hearts as we set our eyes on the Lord and his word:

Psalms 103:1-5 (ESV)

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
3 who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
4 who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
5 who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Introduction:

The heart of a godly father always seeks the welfare of his children, encouraging them to walk in wisdom and the instruction of the Lord. The writer of Proverbs 6, probably King Solomon, is filled with this same desire. He wants his sons to adhere to that which will most benefit their lives - practical spiritual truth. As I studied chapter 6 this outline comes to mind:

1. 6:1-5 **"Save yourself from foolish and incapable promises"**
2. 6:6-11 **"3 ways to overcome poverty"**
3. 6:12-15 **"The character of a worthless man/woman"**
4. 6:16-19 **"7 Things God hates"**
5. 6:20-23a **"Obey the commandments and listen to the teachings"**
6. 6:23b-35 **"The asinine attitude of adultery"**

Nearly all of these are set in negative tones. That's the wise way of setting a son's or a daughter's attention on what is best for them. They come to his children like spiritual "shock and awe."

For example:

Generally speaking according to **Proverbs 6:1-5** its foolish to “co-sign” loans to people you can’t trust to pay you back. Or “offer a pledge” for someone you don’t know, a stranger. What’s the answer? Get yourself free from those foolish kinds of financially burdened situations.

Generally speaking, a son who pays attention to the value of hard-work (but is not a workaholic) will overcome the potential danger of poverty. One who works for vacations and idleness will be shocked how fast his financial situation is ruined. This is especially true of the one who is not willing to work at all!

God has always valued the beauty and worth of a man’s character than the quantity of his material possession or fame. A son or daughter who rightly and intently works on their character, seeking to honor and glorify the Lord will be rewarded with God’s pleasure and favor. A wicked man, a worthless man or women, is more concerned about the pleasures and praise of things from this earth. The reward of this kind of attitude is revealed in **Proverbs 6:12-15 (ESV)**

12 A worthless person, a wicked man,
goes about with crooked speech,
13 winks with his eyes, signals with his feet,
points with his finger,
14 with perverted heart devises evil,
continually sowing discord;
15 therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly;
in a moment he will be broken beyond healing.

How do you combat that kind of attitude? God declares that there are 7 character traits that identify the worthless man or women:

Proverbs 6:16-19 (ESV)

16 There are six things that the LORD hates,
seven that are an abomination to him:
17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
and hands that shed innocent blood,
18 a heart that devises wicked plans,
feet that make haste to run to evil,
19 a false witness who breathes out lies,
and one who sows discord among brothers.

The character of a worthless person?

- Haughty eyes
- A lying tongue
- Hands that shed innocent blood
- A heart that devises wicked plans
- Feet that run in haste to do evil
- A false witness that breathes out lies
- One who sows discord among brothers

Adultery is probably the stupidest thing a man can do, especially if he thinks he can get away with it, without the Lord knowing! What’s the solution?

Proverbs 6:23-24 (ESV) 23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life, 24 to preserve you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.

One interesting fact about OT commands and teaching is that those who lived in the time of the OT we expected to keep the OT Law and its applications without the regular, internal, indwelling help of the Holy Spirit! At least not in the same way that those who live in the NT times were helped.

John 14:15-17 (ESV) 15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Helper**, to be with you forever, 17 even **the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, **for he dwells with you and will be in you.**

We, who live in the NT era, have been given a daily aid that was not given to those who lived in the OT. So, when we come to the practical matters of Proverbs and ask ourselves, “How do I Get In Line with What Please the Lord?” We turn to the help of the Holy Spirit and the revealed scriptures. For example let’s look at

Colossians 3:1-17 (ESV) 1 If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things** that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your minds on** things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 **Put to death** therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must **put them all away:** anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

12 **Put on then,** as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And **above all these put on love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Prayer:

“May the Lord grant us listening ears, seeing eyes, minds/hearts that receive and obey his instructions, that we may honor him daily and point others to his glorious name and see our joy in Christ increase! To the praise of Jesus name!”

What is it that the Lord loves?

- For the LORD loves justice - Psalms 37:28
- The LORD loves the righteous - Psalms 146:8
- Compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience
- Bearing with one another
- Forgiving each other
- Putting on Love
- Letting peace rule in our hearts
- Thankfulness
- Letting Christ’s words dwell in you
- Teaching/admonishing/praising