

"Proverbs"

September 24, 2005 – Newton Community Church of God (Seventh Day) "All verses are from the 'New American Standard Bible' unless otherwise noted."



How many have read the Book of Proverbs in the last few months?

Proverbs are true and applicable to your life and they are not that hard to understand!

Everything is from Proverbs today: There are other verses in the Bible relating to these subjects that we will be discussing, but we will only read from Proverbs in this message. You may read the Book of Proverbs and say to yourself, that statement or saying will not work for me. Well friends, "Proverbs are not promises, but probabilities." Promises are something that will happen, but probabilities are something that will probably happen if you do certain precepts or rules, but are not guaranteed. For example look at Proverbs 10:27, *The fear of the LORD prolongs life, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.* This verse is generally true but not always, there are enough exceptions to indicate that sometimes the righteous suffer and the wicked prosper.

Proverbs were probably mostly written by Solomon during the tenth century B.C. and may have been added to and/or edited somewhere between 715 and 686 B.C according to history. Proverbs are optimistic in their statements and they are wisdom material.

I think Proverbs are simple, down to earth common sense sayings that gives us a lot of knowledge in one-liners or a few lines. In other words you don't have to read a book to get the message. Almost anyone should be able to understand and apply any of these proverbs to their daily life. In Proverbs there are instructions, precepts, warnings, wisdom, pitfalls, counsel, oracles, as well as contrast of the righteous and the wicked, on life and conduct.



Every word of Proverbs is good because it's the infallable Word of God. Today we want to review or go over some of these Proverbs.

The breakdown of the message today is; The Fear of the Lord, Wisdom, Tithing & Giving, God, Work & Laziness, Counsel, Are we Right, Planning, Are You Angry, The Poor, Friends, Commandments, Strong Drink, Surety or Pledge for Another, Eating of Food, Correction of Children, Words Spoken and God is Sovereign.

~THE FEAR OF THE LORD~

[1:7] *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

[9:10] *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

[8:13] *"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverted mouth, I hate.*



The fear of the Lord is the beginning of your relationship with God. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, the beginning of wisdom and this knowledge in turn will cause you to hate evil. We might call it “God-Smart” and certainly not secular or worldly smart. With this knowledge and wisdom you will be able to live a holy and righteous life.

~ WISDOM ~

[1:5] *A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,*

[2:6] *For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

[3:7] *Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.*

[3:13] *How blessed is the man who finds wisdom And the man who gains understanding.*

[3:35] *The wise will inherit honor, But fools display dishonor.*

[4:7] *"The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire wisdom; And with all your acquiring, get understanding.*

[8:11] *"For wisdom is better than jewels; And all desirable things cannot compare with her.*

[13:20] *He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.*

[15:33] *The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor comes humility.*



[23:23] *Buy truth, and do not sell it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding.*

[28:26] *He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But he who walks wisely will be delivered.*

USA TODAY reported on the front page of their September 01, 2005 issue that according to DNA matching that humans and chimps are almost a match¹. Supporting Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, they called it in the paper a "confirmation" of his evolution theory. Guess what? We are kin to the monkeys! When are they going to stop this nonsense? The Bible plainly and clearly tells us that we were made in the image of God. This kin to the monkey theory is not the kind of wisdom that the Bible teaches.

Your daily prayer should be for wisdom, not any wisdom, but Godly Wisdom and that in turn will give you the knowledge and understanding of the ways of the Lord.

~ TITHES AND GIVING ~

[3:9] *Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce;*

[3:10] *So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.*

[11:25] *The generous man will be prosperous, And he who waters will himself be watered.*

If your heart is right with God you will want to give; give your time as well as your



money. The Proverbs do not mention the word tithe, but there are plenty of other verses in the Bible that spells out the tithe. Tithe means ten or in other terms you should give at least 10% of your increase. Your increase would be

the first and gross of all your produce, not the last. It all belongs to God anyway. He is just letting us be the steward of our portion that He wants us to have. It's not yours, it's God's.

¹ USA TODAY, September 01, 2005, "Humans, chimps almost a match, by Steve Sternberg

~ **GOD** ~

[4:27] *Do not turn to the right nor to the left; Turn your foot from evil.*

[8:35] *"For he who finds me finds life And obtains favor from the LORD.*

[8:36] *"But he who sins against me injures himself; All those who hate me love death."*

[3:5] *Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.*



[3:6] *In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.*

It's all about God, it's all about Jesus Christ! We can only find our way through life by obeying and acknowledging God in all things. He will make our paths straight or He will lead us on the correct path.

~ **MONEY** ~

[10:22] *It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, And He adds no sorrow to it.*

[11:28] *He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like the green leaf.*

Money, there is nothing wrong with money. Money is one of the blessings that the



Lord has allowed us to have. As the Proverb said, "He adds no sorrow to it."

You will manage the money, the money will not manage you. He who trust in his riches and not in the Lord God Almighty will fall. You can't take it with you. [JOKE] You heard of the man that was going to take his money with him

when he died. On his bed while discussing the last wishes he told his wife that he was going to take the money with him when he died. He had gotten all his money together and put it in a large bag. He told his wife to put the bag of money in the attic and as he left this earth he would reach out and get the bag of money on his way up. Well, after a day or two the man died. After the funeral and several weeks later the wife thought of the money bag. So she went to the attic to check on the money and it was still there. She then thought to herself, I should have put it in the basement."

~ **WORK AND LAZINESS** ~

[12:11] *He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, But he who pursues worthless things lacks sense.*

[13:4] *The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, But the soul of the diligent is made fat.*

[22:29] *Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before obscure men.*

[28:19] *He who tills his land will have plenty of food, But he who follows empty pursuits will have poverty in plenty.*

[30:25] *The ants are not a strong people, But they prepare their food in the summer;*

There is no place in the Bible that tells us not to work. We are to work and we are to



do our share of work. There are plenty of things to do, but some people are just plain lazy. Don't be satisfied with handouts; work, be somebody, prosper in the name of the Lord.

~ COUNSEL ~

[12:15] *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.*

[15:22] *Without consultation, plans are frustrated, But with many counselors they succeed.*

[18:17] *The first to plead his case seems right, Until another comes and examines him.*

[20:18] *Prepare plans by consultation, And make war by wise guidance.*

[20:24] *Man's steps are ordained by the LORD, How then can man understand his way?*

[21:2] *Every man's way is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.*

[21:30] *There is no wisdom and no understanding And no counsel against the LORD.*

[28:5] *Evil men do not understand justice, But those who seek the LORD understand all things.*

We don't know it all, (sometimes we think we know it all) we need help in order to make the correct decisions. First, we are to seek God's help and we are to seek help from



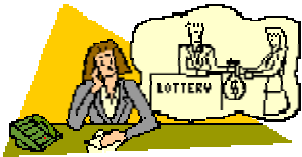
others. Maybe they are more knowledgeable in a particular area. Seek their help! Seek their input! Then when you have all the facts you can make the correct decisions as approved by the Lord.

~ ARE WE RIGHT ? ~

[14:12] *There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.*

[30:12] *There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes, Yet is not washed from his filthiness.*

We should do what the Bible says and what the Lord commands us. It may seem right in our eyes, but what does the Bible say: the final authority. As you know, apparently North Carolina is getting the lottery. The local Morganton News Herald² had a front page article on the passing of the lottery bill. It was a 24-24 tie, with some opponents for the bill were not in the senate at the time of the vote. Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue cast the deciding vote to bring the lottery to North Carolina. Governor Mike Easley had championed and was a proponent of the lottery since his election in 2001. The News Herald quoted our Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue as saying, "I did what I thought was right." Did you get that, the word I, "I did what I thought was right." She certainly didn't consult the Word of God. She did what she thought



was right in her own eyes. Read Proverbs 14:12 again. Our local school board chairman was also quoted in the paper saying, "The

lottery should be a good deal for everybody," "it's a windfall for all of us." The paper also on the same day interviewed six people and five of the six people interviewed said they were in favor of the lottery, "just point them in the direction so they can purchase a lottery ticket." Can you believe that 80% of the people on the street think a state lottery is okay? *There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.* [Proverbs 14:12] It seems to me that any time there is a problem, the people and government offices think if they have more money it will solve the problem. How far off base are they?

~ PLANNING ~

[14:15] *The naive believes everything, But the sensible man considers his steps.*

[14:16] *A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, But a fool is arrogant and careless.*

[16:1] *The plans of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.*

[2] *All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the LORD weighs the motives.*

² The News Herald, Wednesday, August 31, 2005

[3] *Commit your works to the LORD And your plans will be established.*

[4] *The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, Even the wicked for the day of evil.*

[19:21] *Many plans are in a man's heart, But the counsel of the LORD will stand.*

[21:31] *The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But victory belongs to the LORD.*



Our plans are not any good if we don't include the Lord. The Lord will probably have other plans for us. So pray and seek the guidance of the Lord. All our plans are in vein if God is not included. If our plans are in the will of the Lord, then we will be successful in what we plan to do.

~ ARE YOU ANGRY? ~

[14:17] *A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, And a man of evil devices is hated.*

[14:29] *He who is slow to anger has great understanding, But he who is quick-tempered exalts folly.*

[16:18] *Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.*

[29:11] *A fool always loses his temper, But a wise man holds it back.*

[29:22] *An angry man stirs up strife, And a hot-tempered man abounds in transgression.*

[29:26] *Many seek the ruler's favor, But justice for man comes from the LORD.*



Think before you jump! It may not be that important anyway! Let God take care of it!

Stay in the spirit of Jesus Christ and you will not have a problem next time that driver that cuts in front of you.

~ THE POOR ~

[14:31] *He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker, But he who is gracious to the needy honors Him.*

[21:13] *He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor Will also cry himself and not be answered.*

[22:2] *The rich and the poor have a common bond, The LORD is the maker of them all.*

[22:7] *The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower becomes the lender's slave.*

[28:11] *The rich man is wise in his own eyes, But the poor who has understanding sees through him.*

[28:27] *He who gives to the poor will never want, But he who shuts his eyes will have many curses.*

[29:14] *If a king judges the poor with truth, His throne will be established forever.*



We are blessed here in the U.S. We have plenty of food and even the poorest of us are among the richest people compared to the rest of the world. But it seems we still find time to complain and grumble. We are to help the poor. Have you noticed in Jesus' ministry that while here on earth He was ministering to the poor. What are we doing for the poor, the so called down-and-out? Continue to let Jesus be your example! Minister to the poor as Jesus did!

~ FRIENDS ~

[18:24] *A man of too many friends comes to ruin, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*



[24:28] *Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, And do not deceive with your lips.*

As the above says, "a friend sticks closer than a brother." This is a true friend, he or she doesn't run off when something happens, they stick next to you through thick and thin.

~ COMMANDMENTS ~

[19:16] *He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, But he who is careless of conduct will die.*

[28:13] *He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.*



[29:18] *Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is he who keeps the law.*

[3:1] *My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments;*

At the heart of serving God, I believe are the commandments of God. Some people say the law of God has been done away with. But how would we know how to act and what to do if there were no commandments from God? How can we obey Him if we don't know what the rules are? The commandments are the rules of God that we are to obey.

September 02, 2005, The News Herald had an article entitled; Meeting Starts Quietly, Calmly for Methodists Pushing For Gay Acceptance³. A group of United Methodist, meeting in Lake Junaluska want gays welcomed in all aspects of the church life. They are part of the ministry called, "Reconciling Ministries." This ministry wants to fully open the United Methodist Church to people of "all sexual orientations and gender identities." Denominational law prohibits "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" from serving in the clergy, a prohibition passed by Methodist General Conference in 1984. Did you get that; "denominational Law," it says, not God's Law.



I don't know how they can read the Bible and come to the conclusion that homosexuals in the clergy is okay with God. It's against the commandments of God. Of course, we are to love everyone, but the church is to be pure, the bride of Christ. We are to welcome homosexuals to Church for cleansing of the soul; for helping them come to learn that homosexuality is wrong and they can repent and be cleaned by the blood of Jesus. Pray for them.



~ STRONG DRINK ~

[20:1] *Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.*

[23:20] *Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine, Or with gluttonous eaters of meat;*

[23:29] *Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?*

[30] *Those who linger long over wine, Those who go to taste mixed wine.*

[31] *Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it goes down smoothly;*

[32] *At the last it bites like a serpent And stings like a viper.*

³ The New Herald, September 04, 2005, page A8, by Associated Press

[33] *Your eyes will see strange things And your mind will utter perverse things.*

[34] *And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, Or like one who lies down on the top of a mast.*

[35] *"They struck me, but I did not become ill; They beat me, but I did not know it. When shall I awake? I will seek another drink."*

[31:4] *It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Or for rulers to desire strong drink,*

In these verses in Proverbs, we are warned about the danger of strong drink. I have also noticed that only wine is mentioned in the Bible, not beer or other alcoholic beverages.



In most situations in the Bible where people drink wine and became drunk, caused sinful things to happen sometimes. I personally don't see any verses in the Bible that tells you not to drink wine. But I do not think it is healthy;

spiritually or physically to drink wine or any other alcoholic drinks.

I have seen people use some of the verses in the Bible that allows them to drink all the wine they want and even get intoxicated. But I have a theory; How much wine does it take for you to get drunk? Is it one glass or two glasses or maybe six glasses? Let's say that it takes six glasses to be intoxicated. Well, if you drink one, than are you one-sixth drunk?

I have been to church with people that took this drinking way too far. I can remember one example when we were looking for a new board member. This gentlemen's



name along with his wife were bought up as possible church board members. When one of the board members said that they saw them in a local restaurant a little high; if you know what I mean? As you

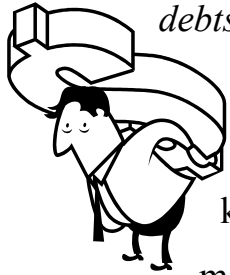
guessed, there names were dropped as possible board candidates. We are to be a witness, not a hindrance to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The other thing is, maybe you can drink that couple of drinks to help your stomach, but how about your Christian Brother. Can he stop at one drink?

~ SURETY OR PLEDGE FOR OTHERS ~

[20:16] *Take his garment when he becomes surety for a stranger; And for foreigners, hold him in pledge.*

[22:26] *Do not be among those who give pledges, Among those who become guarantors for debts.*



What is surety for another? That is when you sign a note or guarantee payment to another on the behalf of someone else. Not wise. How do you know that person will have the money to pay the debt or even if they have the money, will they pay the debt? If that debt is not paid, they will come after you for payment. Proverbs tells us not to put up surety or pledge for another.

~ EATING OF FOOD ~

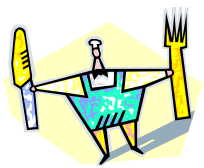
[23:1] *When you sit down to dine with a ruler, Consider carefully what is before you,*

[2] *And put a knife to your throat If you are a man of great appetite.*

[3] *Do not desire his delicacies, For it is deceptive food.*

[24:13] *My son, eat honey, for it is good, Yes, the honey from the comb is sweet to your taste;*

[25:16] *Have you found honey? Eat only what you need, That you not have it in excess and vomit it.*



The proverbs even have some advice for us in our eating habits. Consider what is set before you to eat as it says in verse 23:1. I take this in today's society for us to buy only and bring into your house a healthy mixture of foods. Do not have a great appetite for food it says. What does that mean? Don't eat more than you need to live and to sustain your body. The excess food the body cannot use, and it will turn into fat.

~ CORRECTION OF CHILDREN ~

[23:22] *Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old.*

[29:15] *The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.*

[29:17] *Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul.*

Children, listen and obey your parents as the Bible says. What are parents for? They are to guide you and keep you on the correct path. They do not want to steer you wrong. I see a lot of rebellion in children today. This rebellion carries over to the parents, putting a lot of

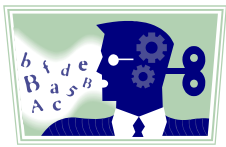


strain on the relationship of the parent and child. Do as the proverbs advises you.

~ WORDS SPOKEN ~

[25:11] *Like apples of gold in settings of silver Is a word spoken in right circumstances.*

[29:20] *Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.*



Learn to speak the words of wisdom in every situation. Be sensitive to the situation you are in and speak the words of encouragement or hope. Speak of Jesus to everyone.

~GOD IS SOVEREIGN~

[16:4] *The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, Even the wicked for the day of evil.*

[16:33] *The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.*

[21:1] *The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.*



As these verses tells us, God is sovereign and in control. All history moves under His control. There is nothing that happens in this universe that God doesn't control and knows about and allows to happen. Amen.

I have gotten information for this article from a number of different sources; internet, Bibles, dictionaries, and study materials from several different authors, etc. I do not take credit for these writings since there are many sources. In many cases, I did not keep up with this information in order to give proper credit. My comments and rewriting of the sources are in this article. I therefore cannot take full credit for this study. The full credit would have to go to Jesus Christ, the creator of all things. This is my own opinions based on my understanding of Scripture as the Word of God.



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