

glance at a few thoughts from the book of Proverbs, but I hope it inspires you to pick up the book this week and have a read for yourself.

Begin by inviting The Spirit to speak through these words into the practical areas of life you are facing. Take those thoughts and apply them to how you live, trusting that your Dad knows best. Trusting that your heavenly Dad wants what is best, so that you might grow into all he has dreamed possible.

Let us pray. Jesus, today we invite you to send the Spirit, that as we hear Father's words of wisdom, that they speak to us, and give us direction. Speak to how we use the money we have. Speak to us about our relationships and how to grow them and keep them healthy. Speak to us about our work, and the attitude you would see grow in us. Jesus, speak to us so that in our everyday life we can be living out your wisdom. Amen.

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## Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

16 September 2018

## WISDOM FOR LIVING

Proverbs 1:20-33



I enjoy flicking through the book of Proverbs, having God fill my mind with his wisdom for life. Our heavenly Father deals with all areas of life; so that we might get the best out of life.

I think all Father's want what is best for their children and seek to share their insights with them. I know my Dad did, but unfortunately I didn't always listen; woops!

In the book of Proverbs our heavenly Father is seeking to share his wisdom for living life to the full with his children. I'd encourage you to sit down and read through Proverbs and highlight in your bible the issues your heavenly Father is seeking to speak to you at the present.

He speaks about how we go about making a living; "Those too lazy to plough in the right season will have no food to harvest." (Pr 20:4) I like this proverb where we learn from ants. "Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones. Learn from their ways and become wise! Though they have no prince or governor or ruler to make them work, they labour hard all summer, gathering food for the winter. But you, lazybones, how long will you sleep? A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest – then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber." (Pr 6:6-11)

Who ever thought we could gain wisdom from ants!

"The Lord detests the use of dishonest scales, but he delights in accurate weights." (Pr 11:1)

Father is encouraging us to be like himself; to work honestly, not ripping people off, but making the most of the day. Other people might only worry about the bottom line; how much they can make, your Father is concerned about you, so you grow as a person of integrity and honesty.

Our Father speaks to our hearts; "A fool is quick-tempered, but a wise person stays calm when insulted." (Pr. 12:16) "Hot-tempered people must pay the penalty. If you rescue

them once, you will have to do it again.” (Pr. 19:19)

Thank God our heavenly Father isn't a hot-head. He doesn't fly off the handle, but stays calm and always seeks to do what is best for us. That doesn't mean he never gets angry. Dad gets angry at the right time and in the right way, so that we might grow and not destroy ourselves. If you just blow

your stack like a bull in a china shop, what will the outcome be?

God's story isn't one of destruction, but one of bringing life out of chaos. That's the creation story. That's Jesus story. And Dad wants that to be your story as you join him.

Our heavenly Father also speaks about how we use money. "Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender." (Pr 22:7)

"It's poor judgment to guarantee another person's debt or put up security for a friend." (Pr. 17:18) "If you help the poor, you are lending to the LORD – and he will repay you!" (Pr. 19:17) "Don't wear yourself out trying to get rich. Be wise enough to know when to quit." (Pr.

'Love prospers when a fault is forgiven...'

23:4)

Our Father blesses us with money so that we might be a blessing, just like him. He uses his wealth to bless us, as an expression of his love. He doesn't want us trapped, the slave of others.

That's one lesson I learned from my Dad; save your money, and then buy. Don't go into debt unnecessarily. Don't go into debt to feed greed.

"Discipline your children while there is hope. Otherwise you will ruin their lives." (Pr. 19:18) "Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it." (Pr. 22:6) "Don't fail to discipline your children – it won't kill them, it'll save them." (Pr. 23:13)

I must admit that as a child I didn't enjoy discipline, but now I look back and I'm thankful that my parents loved me enough to speak into my behaviour, so that I could grow and mature into a person who seeks actively to follow Jesus. Outside of that discipline I would certainly have grown to be selfish, thinking the world revolved around me and that I deserved it.

Maybe I could have ended up like this; "Wine produces mockers; alcohol leads to brawls. Those led astray by

drink cannot be wise." (Pr. 20:1) "Mockers are proud and haughty; they act with boundless arrogance." (Pr. 21:24)

Father what's his children to grow to maturity in the way they live life, so; "If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise. If you reject discipline, you only harm yourself; but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding." (Pr. 15:31,32)

Our Father also gives us wisdom on how to work our way through conflict. "The first to speak in court sounds right – until the cross-examination begins." (Pr. 18:17) Have you ever found that to be true, that you need to hear both sides of the argument to really know what's going on, and then invite

God to give you the wisdom to ask the right questions.

"Only simpletons believe everything they're told! The prudent carefully consider their steps." (Pr. 14:15) I think this applies to me when buying things, I seem to take at face value what's

'Flipping a coin can end arguments...'

being said to me and not go and check it out.

Here's an interesting way to solve an argument; "Flipping a coin can end disputes between powerful opponents." (Pr. 18:18) Flipping a coin is the equivalent of 'casting lots' which was a common way for the Hebrew people to seek God's answer. It wasn't random, but asking God to decide, and

then taking the result as his answer.

That might take a bit of faith; that God would intervene and give his answer because of his love for the two of you. But as Father's children, we can be sure that he is passionately involved, so we're not leaving things up to fate, but up to him.

Here's an interesting one on quarrelling;

"Starting a quarrel is like opening a floodgate, so stop before a dispute breaks out." (Pr. 17:14) Did you know; "Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish." (Pr. 18:13)

Here's one last thought from Dad; "Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends." (Pr. 17:9)

Obviously this has just been a quick