

The Broadmoor Bulletin

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Truth and Trust

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Proverbs 3:5, 6

God's promise of help is given to those who are willing to trust Him. We all need God's guidance with equal urgency, but not all of us are willing to respect God's judgment. At those times when His instructions point to a different path than we would follow if we went by our own judgment, it is often hard to yield to Him. But those who seek God must make the choice to yield, and they do so in the confidence that God's wisdom will stand the test of time. It has never failed that test in the past.

If we've made any serious attempt to obey God, then we've surely discovered that His instructions can sometimes seem counterintuitive, at least from our earthbound viewpoint. What are we to do in such situations? The consistent answer of the Scriptures, of course, is that we must demonstrate "faith." But faith is often misconceived. It is not a blind leap in the dark, and it does not require the setting aside of all reason. When we make the choice to trust that God knows what is best, we are putting our confidence in a God who has over and over again *proven* His trustworthiness. Our "leap" is anything but "blind," our eyes being wide open to what God has openly revealed of His character and His purpose. Nothing in the world would have seemed more counterintuitive than for the Son of God to be sent to the cross (**Matthew 16:21-23**). But that sacrifice having been made and its surprising results now being obvious, there should never again be any doubt about either the wisdom or the benevolence of God's will.

When Solomon said, "Lean not on your own understanding," he did not mean that we should deny our own reasoning powers or our ability to comprehend truth. It was God who gave us our rational minds, and He intends us to use them constructively in our relationship to Him. But compared to His knowledge, our information is lacking and our perspective is limited. For that reason, when there is a conflict between God's wisdom and our own -- and therefore a clash between God's *will* and our own -- we are wise to "acknowledge" Him in all our "ways."

Any man who understands his own foolishness is already a little wise.

Jewish Proverb

Gary Henry

"Let There Be No Strife"

When contention arose between the herdsmen of Lot and the herdsmen of Abram, "Abram said to Lot, 'Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren'" (Genesis 13:8). God's friend Abraham knew that brotherhood demands the cessation of strife. I fear that some brethren today believe that brotherhood demands incessant strife.

Some practical measures for keeping peace include the following:

1. **DO NOT START A QUARREL!**

Proverbs 17:14 says, "The beginning of strife is like releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts." While it is true that there are principles of truth that must be defended, argued and contended for (Jude 3, Philippians 1:17), MANY quarrels among brethren are over things that have not even been revealed in Scripture. Others involve judging hearts and motives by appearance, instead of judging with righteous judgment (as Jesus instructed in John 7:24). This kind of strife should be nipped in the bud! We must simply "avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife" (2 Timothy 2:23).

2. **DO NOT SPREAD TALES!**

Nothing fans the flames of strife more effectively than gossip. Conversation that is seemingly well-meant can provide fuel to a fire that would otherwise die out. When a brother begins a conversation (or e-mail message) by asking, "Do you know what brother so-and-so said about you?", he may mean well, but what follows is usually combustible! "Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases" (Proverbs 26:20).

3. **LOVE YOUR BROTHER.**

"Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins." (Proverbs 10:12). It is amazing how easy it is for folks to tolerate the faults of their loved ones, family, longtime friends, etc., while at the same time refusing to tolerate similar or lesser faults in those outside their circle of friends. If we could learn to show love, without prejudice or partiality, we might find a lot less to pick at in others (cf. 1 Timothy 5:21).

4. **FORBEAR.**

The instructions given in Ephesians 4:1-3 for "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" include "forbearing one another in love" (KJV). According to Strong's Dictionary "forbearing" means to "put up with, bear with, endure, suffer". Some have the idea that they "don't have to put up with" anything from a brother in Christ. Nothing could be further from the truth. Even if you are being unjustly mistreated, "putting up with it" and taking it patiently is one of the truest marks of a follower of Christ (cf. 1 Peter 2:20-21). Suffering real or imagined injustice from a brother is a sad excuse for causing strife. It's an excuse Abram would not use, and neither should we. We might learn to be more forbearing if we would stop and realize how much we need others to "put up with" us! "Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them." (Matthew 7:12).

Steve Klein

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;

Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Hear, my son, your father's instruction

And do not forsake your mother's teaching;

Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head

And ornaments about your neck.

Proverbs 1:7 - 9

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

Introduction: The key verse of Proverbs is found in 1:7: **“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”**. The verses in Proverbs about God establish the basis for this godly reverence for Him. In this lesson, we explore with Solomon and other wise men why God should be feared.

Lesson aim: To show why all men should reverence God.

Why men should fear Him. He is:

1. Creator of all

3:19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens.

20:12 The hearing ear and the seeing eye, The LORD has made both of them.

2. Watcher of men

15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.

29:13 The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: The LORD gives light to the eyes of both.

3. Tester of hearts

15:11 Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD, How much more the hearts of men!

17:3 The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, But the LORD tests hearts.

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

4. Ruler of our destiny

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

16:9 The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

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

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

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

16:3 Commit your works to the LORD, And your plans will be established.

5. Provider of man's needs

15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

10:3 The LORD will not allow the righteous to hunger, But He will thrust aside the craving of the wicked.

6. Judge of man

15:25 The LORD will tear down the house of the proud, But He will establish the boundary of the widow.

Blessings of fearing 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.

115:33 The fear of the Lord is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor comes humility.

2:5 Then you will discern the fear of the Lord, and discover the knowledge of God.

14:2 He who walks in his uprightness fears the Lord, But he who is crooked in his ways despises Him.

15:16 Better is a little with the fear of the Lord, Than great treasure and turmoil with it.

16:6 By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, And by the fear of the Lord one keeps away from evil.

19:23 The fear of the Lord leads to life, so that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.

10:27 The fear of the Lord prolongs life, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.

14:26 In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, And his children will have refuge.

10:29 The way of the Lord is a stronghold to the upright, But ruin to the workers of iniquity.

31:30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

Conclusion & warning:

23:17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, But live in the fear of the LORD always.

1:20-33 Wisdom shouts in the street, She lifts her voice in the square;

At the head of the noisy streets she cries out;

At the entrance of the gates in the city she utters her sayings:

“How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded?

And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing and fools hate knowledge?

Turn to my reproof,

Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you;

I will make my words known to you.

Because I called and you refused,

I stretched out my hand and no one paid attention;

And you neglected all my counsel and did not want my reproof;

I will also laugh at your calamity;

I will mock when your dread comes,

When your dread comes like a storm

And your calamity comes like a whirlwind,

When distress and anguish come upon you.

Then they will call on me, but I will not answer;

They will seek me diligently but they will not find

me,

Because they hated knowledge

And did not choose the fear of the LORD.

They would not accept my counsel,

They spurned all my reproof.

So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way and be satiated with their own devices.

For the waywardness of the naive will kill them,

And the complacency of fools will destroy them.

But he who listens to me shall live securely and will be at ease from the dread of evil.”

Johnny Felker

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