

- WELCOME TO -
MAURICE REFORMED CHURCH

...FOLLOWING GOD, LOVING OTHERS...



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The background image is a photograph of a dirt path that stretches from the bottom of the frame towards a horizon. The path is flanked by tall, dry grass. In the distance, on the horizon line, a small cross is visible against a bright, orange-hued sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

A STUDY OF PROVERBS
THE PATH OF WISDOM

AUGUST SERMON SERIES WITH PASTOR JEREMY

DAILY DEVOTIONALS
WEEK OF AUGUST 9-15

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

THE PATH OF WISDOM | STUDY OF PROVERBS

PROVERBS 7-8 — THE CHALLENGE OF STAYING ON THE PATH

#1. The wise way to act

a. T_____

b. K_____

c. B_____

d. W_____

#2. The foolish way to act

a. P____ y_____ i____ t_____ s_____

b. B_____ t_____ L_____

#3. Wisdom is....

a. F_____ t_____ b_____

b. T_____

c. A_____ e_____

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

PROVERBS 7 | RIGHTEOUSNESS SAYS KNOW GOD'S WORD. SIN SAYS NO ONE WILL KNOW.

This week on our journey we are looking once again at the two roads of wisdom and folly. Wisdom is marked by obedience to the word of God, while folly is marked with sin and temptation. Join me today in looking at the two different interactions with wisdom and folly.

Solomon starts out the chapter by inviting his son to keep the words and commandments that the dad is passing on. It reminds me of the passage in Deuteronomy about how the parents are to pass on the truth and bind it on their bodies and talk about it all the time. Here we are reminded to keep the truth in our hearts and physically present with us. We are also invited to take wisdom and insight as familial and intimate relationships. We are to desire them and long for them.

Solomon then talks about the other choice. The choice of folly is to be seduced by the adulteress. This adulteress makes the young man feel special by saying how hard she was looking for him specifically. She promises pleasure and brags about all the beautiful and expensive things she has. She continues to lure him to the path of sin and folly with her seductive words. Solomon warns his sons that this is the way of death, just like the path of folly.

In this passage I am reminded that sin and temptation is actively at work. Temptation wouldn't be tempting if it didn't look good, sound good, feel good, and so on. We need to be aware of the places and situations that tempt us to sin and stay away from them. This young man purposefully went to the street where this woman was. Yes, temptation is real, but we can be protected by it by staying on the wise path and not veering toward the foolish path.

"I Will Follow" - Chris Tomlin

What temptations do you fight? How can you avoid something that tempts you? You have a choice to make!

What are some things you no longer do or places you no longer go because of temptation or sinful behavior?

Lord, keep us from evil. Keep our eyes and our heart firmly in Your truth.

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

PROVERBS 8 | LOVE WISDOM, HATE FOLLY

This chapter is full of love and blessings. First, we see that wisdom as well is not staying silent. No, wisdom is raising her voice so people can hear what she has to say. Wisdom will always speak truth and can always be trusted. Wisdom can be seen in prudence, knowledge, and discretion. Prudence is a word that I am not too familiar with, so let me define it for us. Prudence is the ability to make good decisions in the moment. Wisdom helps make wise choices and we can find this wisdom when we seek for it.

There are just a few verses about folly in this chapter. Verse 13 gives us another picture of folly/sin when it talks about how the fear of the Lord is hatred of evil which is pride, arrogance, and perverted speech. If we find ourselves prideful, arrogant, or speaking inappropriately, then we can be sure that we are walking the path of folly, for wisdom is hatred of these things. The chapter ends with a reminder that walking in folly is detrimental to our lives.

Wisdom is not something that just appeared, but it was around since the beginning. Wisdom comes from God, God has always been and God will always be. That means that wisdom/truth does not change from generation to generation. What was true will always be true. Today I am hit with the clear reminder that walking in wisdom and truth will be a clear division from the things of sin like pride, arrogance, and perverted speech. I love clear examples like this to help us understand what path we are on.

SONG:

"No One But You" - Hillsong

KIDS QUESTION:

Does wisdom or truth change? Why or why not?

YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:

Why might people want “truth” to change? What do you do when you find yourself on the path of folly?

PRAYER:

Lord, thank you for the clear separation of sin and truth.
Teach us to walk in Your truth daily.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

PROVERBS 9 | WHICH VOICE WILL WE LISTEN TO?

In this chapter we see a word picture of wisdom and folly. First, wisdom invites people into her house for a meal. This meal is made up of meat from her own flock and wine from her own grapes and she has set her table to prepare for the coming of her guests. At this meal the guests are invited to eat bread and drink wine, which reminds us of another meal that is prepared for us and where we find life.

Next up wisdom shares some insight for our own hearts and how to interact with others. Do we find ourselves being defensive when someone corrects us with the truth? If we find ourselves defensive, then it might be a sign that we are living in folly. This is also a good reminder that if we approach someone that is in a bad mood, it may not be the time to speak truth because they are not in the right mindset to receive it. Yes, the truth is still true, but as we see in these passages, it will just leave us hurt by their defensiveness. When we recognize that someone is wise then we can share discernment and wisdom with them in joy.

Folly is described next. She too is inviting people into her house. She is loud and proud and yelling from her doorway. The word used for her water is stolen and the bread that she serves is given in the secret place. Much privacy and deception is used in describing folly. She takes what is not hers and acts like it is and she believes that things done in darkness are better. We know from the word and probably from experience that things done when we are alone or in the dark when we think no one else can see can be foolish.

Wisdom is public and communal, while folly invites us to being alone and private. God created us to be in a relationship and folly knows that we are weaker when we are not in community with other believers. Today I want to invite us to be wise in how we communicate and when we communicate with others. It doesn't change the truth, but it will change the interaction.

SONG:

"House of the Lord" - Phil Wickham

KIDS QUESTION:

If you chose wisdom, would you choose community or would you choose to be alone? Explain your answer.

YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:

What can you do if you find yourself struggling alone?

Who are the people you can go to?

PRAYER:

Lord, we know that the enemy wants to keep us alone and private. Lord, give us wisdom to remain in community, especially when we are struggling.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

PROVERBS 10 | THIS AND THAT

Proverbs 10 starts the part of the book that many of us initially think of when we think of Proverbs. These chapters include this and that type statements. What I mean by that is that each verse or possibly a small section of verses will contain action of wisdom and actions of folly. It's nice to have them set up in proximity so that we can see the clear contrast between a wise action or idea and a foolish one. We will pick out some of those phrases as we look at these chapters in the days to come.

The first passage I want to talk about today is verse 12. Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses. This truth is spread throughout all of scripture. We are told in the New Testament that love covers a multitude of sins. This doesn't mean we are okay with sin and look over it, but that even in sin we extend grace, speak truth in love, and don't allow bitterness, anger, or frustration to control our responses or action in the situation.

The next verse is number 28. In this verse we hear that the hope of the righteous brings joy. Our hope is found in Jesus Christ and in Christ we have the hope of eternal life with Him. It is with this truth and hope that we can be filled with joy even in the midst of a difficult situation. The wicked expect either nothing in the end or that their perceived good deeds will be enough. That thought process will lead them to a place where they perish, not just in this life, but in the life to come.

What was a Proverb that stood out to you? Send me an email or a text and share your thoughts and p

"Living Hope" - Phil Wickham

Tell your family what you learned in Proverbs about wisdom and folly. How will this affect the way you live?

Share other proverbs that stood out to you in this chapter with someone else. What did you learn?

Lord, all our hope is in You. On our own we are helpless and hopeless like sheep without a shepherd. Thank you for the eternal hope.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

[PROVERBS 11](#) | QUIET, COMMUNITY, AND GIVING

The problem in writing the devotions like this is that sometimes I like too many verses in a chapter. Today I would like to start in verse 13. In this verse it talks about how a slander will reveal secrets (it's possible that we could also use the word gossip). We live in a world that wants to know and sometimes demands to know everything and we all know people who are more than willing to share anything and everything at the cost of the character of others. Sure we pass it on as a prayer request or a concern, but secretly we just want to share that person's shortcomings with someone else. The wise actually are able to keep things covered and can be trusted with important information.

The very next verse talks about the need for community. When making difficult decisions it is dangerous to go forward solely on your perceived knowledge. It is better to seek counsel from others and to walk firmly in a well thought out and discussed idea. None of us are the smartest person in the world and so the input and thoughts of others is integral to walking in wisdom.

Finally, we see that finances are talked about multiple times in the chapter. The verse that stood out to me was verse 24. Verse 24 says something that, on the surface, doesn't seem to make sense. If you give freely then you become richer and if you withhold giving you suffer want. Again, this Proverb is not just seen in this book, but it is repeated throughout the word of God. God loves a cheerful giver, test God and see if He will not fill your silos and so many more. God is the one who gives all things to you and you and I cannot outgive God. So, as God prompts you to give, then give.

What are some verses that stood out to you? Again, text or email me and share what God spoke to you today.

["Give Your Best To The Master"](#) - Baptist Music Virtual Ministry

Is it good to go to someone to help you make the wise choice? Who can you go to?

Who do you have around you to help you understand wisdom and walk in the way of the Lord?

God, thank you for giving us a body of believers who can equip, empower, and encourage us to walk in Your truth.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

PROVERBS 12 | DISCIPLINE, SPEECH, AND A GOOD WORD

This chapter starts off with a bang. Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid. Wow! This verse again invites us to check how we respond to correction. Are we always quick to justify and defend without even truly listening to what the other person had to say, or do we invite the possibility for change? I hear this over and over again that we are human and we make mistakes, but how often do you and I walk through discipline and change because of it? Wisdom leads us to repentance, humility, and walking in the truth.

This chapter talks a lot about our speech and verse 22 specifically talks about lying lips. God calls lying an abomination and He knows the power and pain that has been caused by the Father of lies. Scripture says that when we lie we are speaking like Satan for that is how He communicates. Instead we are invited to act and speak faithfully and be a delight to the Lord.

The last verse that stood out to me in this chapter is 25. In a world full of anxiety and worry, we need to be reminded of the importance of speaking life into others. We may never know what situation is pulling them down, but a good and wise word can help. God tells us to cast all our cares on Him and to pray about all things when we are anxious as well. Between prayer and hearing a good word, our minds can be taken off of those things that cause us anxiety and on to the truth that is before us.

Once again feel free to share which verses connected with you this week and why. I love to hear from you guys and see what God is saying to you.

"Hold On" - Katy Nichole

What words did you use this week to encourage someone? Do your words and actions affect how others see “wisdom” and Christ in you? Shine for Jesus each day!

What do you do when you feel worried or anxious?
When has someone spoken a good word to you at just
the right time? How can you be prepared to speak a good
word to others?

Lord, grant us wisdom with our words. May we not speak lies and be ready to speak a good word when needed.

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