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| <h1>LESSONS FOR LIVING<br/>FROM THE PROVERBS</h1> |  |  |
| <h2>Session Three</h2>                            |  |  |

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| <h3>Recap Session Two</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In TRUSTING GOD we seek God’s direction for all decisions and actions, big and small.</li> <li>• TRUSTING GOD means stepping out in faith; our steps of faith are often shaky and uncertain, but God is directing us.</li> <li>• God shields and protects us all through our lives as we continue to trust Him.</li> <li>• Fear of man is the opposite of fear of the Lord and will lead us in the wrong direction.</li> <li>• Pride drives us away from trust in God.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Prov. 3:5-6</b></p> <p><b><i>Trust in the Lord with<br/>all your heart,<br/>And lean not on your<br/>own understanding;<br/>In all your ways<br/>acknowledge Him,<br/>And He shall direct<br/>your paths.</i></b></p> |
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|  | <h1>CONSCIENCE</h1> |   |
|  | Topic 5             | 3 |

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|  | <h1>CONSCIENCE</h1> | <p><b>Prov. 20:27</b><br/><i>The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, Searching all the inner depths of his heart.</i></p> |
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| <p><b>Romans 2:12-16</b><br/> <i>For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.</i></p> | <p><b>Romans 12:1-2</b><br/> <i>I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.</i></p> |
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| <p><b>Hebrews 9:11-14</b><br/> <i>But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?</i></p> | <p><b>Hebrews 10:19-22</b><br/> <i>Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.</i></p> |
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| <p><b>2 Corin. 3:15-16, 18</b><br/> <i>But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ... But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.</i></p> | <p><b>2 Corin. 4:16</b><br/> <i>Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.</i></p> |
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|  | <p><b>Job 32:8</b><br/> <i>But there is a spirit in man,<br/> And the breath of the Almighty<br/> gives him understanding.</i></p> |
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| <p><b>Some commentary ...</b></p> | <p>The conscience is the soul’s warning system, which allows human beings to contemplate their motives and actions and make moral evaluations of what is right and wrong. In order to work as God designed it, the conscience must be informed to the highest moral and spiritual level and best standard, which means submitting it to the Holy Spirit.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p> |
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|  | <p><b>GUARD YOUR HEART / MIND</b></p> <p><b>AVOID WORLDLY DISTRACTIONS</b></p> |           |
|  | <p>Topic 6</p>   | <p>10</p> |

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|  | <p style="text-align: center;">GUARD YOUR HEART / MIND</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AVOID WORLDLY DISTRACTIONS</p> | <p><b>Prov. 4:23-27</b></p> <p><i><sup>23</sup> Keep your heart with all diligence,<br/>For out of it spring the issues of life.</i></p> <p><i><sup>24</sup> Put away from you a deceitful<br/>mouth,<br/>And put perverse lips far from you.</i></p> <p><i><sup>25</sup> Let your eyes look straight ahead,<br/>And your eyelids look right before<br/>you.</i></p> <p><i><sup>26</sup> Ponder the path of your feet,<br/>And let all your ways be<br/>established.</i></p> <p><i><sup>27</sup> Do not turn to the right or the left;<br/>Remove your foot from evil.</i></p> |
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| <p><b>Prov. 15:3</b><br/><i>The eyes of the Lord are in<br/>every place,<br/>Keeping watch on the evil<br/>and the good.</i></p> | <p><b>Prov. 17:3</b><br/><i>The refining pot is for silver and<br/>the furnace for gold,<br/>But the Lord tests the hearts.</i></p> |
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| <p><b>Prov. 6:23-24</b><br/> <i>For the commandment is a lamp,<br/> And the law a light;<br/> Reproofs of instruction are the<br/> way of life,<br/> To keep you from the evil woman,<br/> From the flattering tongue of a<br/> seductress.</i></p> | <p><b>Psalm 119:105</b><br/> <i>Your word is a lamp to my feet<br/> And a light to my path.</i></p> |
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| <p><b>Luke 11:33-36</b><br/> <i>“No one, when he has lit a lamp, puts it in a<br/> secret place or under a basket, but on a<br/> lampstand, that those who come in may<br/> see the light. The lamp of the body is the<br/> eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your<br/> whole body also is full of light. But when<br/> your eye is bad, your body also is full of<br/> darkness. Therefore take heed that the<br/> light which is in you is not darkness. If then<br/> your whole body is full of light, having no<br/> part dark, the whole body will be full of<br/> light, as when the bright shining of a lamp<br/> gives you light.”</i></p> | <p><b>Psalm 101:3a</b><br/> <i>I will set nothing wicked before<br/> my eyes;</i></p> <p><b>Job 31:1</b><br/> <i>I have made a covenant with my<br/> eyes;<br/> Why then should I look upon a<br/> young woman?</i></p> |
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|  | Prov. 21:16          | <i>A man who wanders from the way of understanding<br/>Will rest in the assembly of the dead.</i>  |
|  | Prov. 27:20          | <i>Hell and Destruction are never full;<br/>So the eyes of man are never satisfied.</i>  |
|  | 1 Tim. 4:1-2         | <i>Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will<br/>depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and<br/>doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their<br/>own conscience seared with a hot iron.</i> |
|  | Titus 1:15           | <i>To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled<br/>and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and<br/>conscience are defiled.</i>  |
|  | Some admonitions ... |  |
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| <b>Words to live by ...</b> | <p><b>Psalm 119:9-16</b></p> <p><i>How can a young man cleanse his way?<br/>By taking heed according to Your word.<br/>With my whole heart I have sought You;<br/>Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!<br/>Your word I have hidden in my heart,<br/>That I might not sin against You.<br/>Blessed are You, O Lord!<br/>Teach me Your statutes.<br/>With my lips I have declared<br/>All the judgments of Your mouth.<br/>I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies,<br/>As much as in all riches.<br/>I will meditate on Your precepts,<br/>And contemplate Your ways.<br/>I will delight myself in Your statutes;<br/>I will not forget Your word.</i></p> |
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|  | <p><b>Joshua 1:8</b></p> <p><b><i>This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.</i></b></p> |
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| <p><b>Some commentary ...</b></p> | <p>The Book of Joshua begins with God's commissioning of Israel's new leader. God described Joshua's mission – to go in and possess the Land of Canaan. God hinged Joshua's success on three key factors: 1) God's own presence; 2) Joshua's personal strength and courage; and 3) Joshua's attention to and application of God's Word. God spelled out this third factor with some detail for it was to be the basis for all of Joshua's actions. God's Word was to be Joshua's constant conversation, continual meditation, and unswerving application.</p> <p>Biblical meditation begins with the thoughtful, lingering reading of God's Word. It progresses to familiarity and memorization. In order to "meditate on it day and night" the Book of the Law would have been <i>in Joshua</i>. The purpose has been achieved when meditation leads us to "be careful to do according to all that is written in it."</p> <p>"Then," God told Joshua, "you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success." Joshua found the ultimate measure of prosperity and success – knowing how God wants His people to live and then living that way. God repeatedly assured Joshua of His own presence "wherever you go." What greater measurement of success could there be than to honor the ever-present God with our obedience?</p> |
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| <h2>Summary ...</h2>  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We all have a conscience that is aware of God’s Law even before we come to know God.</li> <li>• After becoming a believer, our lives are gradually transformed by God’s Spirit to conformance with His Word and Will.</li> <li>• Our eyes are “windows to the soul,” and we are to take care in what we permit ourselves to see and observe.</li> <li>• Persistent and prolonged sinful behavior will deaden the conscience and render it useless.</li> <li>• God’s Word is our lamp and light to illuminate the paths of our lives. Reading, memorizing and meditating on God’s Word is our constant goal so that we can live a God-pleasing life.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Prov. 27:19</b></p> <p><b><i>As in water face reflects face,<br/>So a man’s heart reveals the man.</i></b></p> |
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|  | <p>QUESTIONS?</p> |                          |
|  |                   | <p>Favorite Proverb?</p> |

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| <h2>Tool to Interpret</h2> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the central concepts or persons being compared or contrasted?</li> <li>2. Identify figures of speech and rephrase without the figure (ex. “put a knife to your throat” from Prov. 23:1-3)</li> <li>3. Summarize the lesson or principle of the proverb in a few words.</li> <li>4. Describe the behavior that is being taught or encouraged.</li> <li>5. Can you identify examples elsewhere in Scripture that illustrates the truth of that proverb?</li> <li>6. How can you apply this lesson or principle to your own life?</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;">21</p> |
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| <h2>If time permits ...</h2> | <p><b>Prov. 23:1-3</b><br/> <i>When you sit down to eat with a ruler,<br/> Consider carefully what is before you;<br/> And put a knife to your throat<br/> If you are a man given to appetite.<br/> Do not desire his delicacies,<br/> For they are deceptive food.</i></p> <p><b>Prov. 21:1</b><br/> <i>The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord,<br/> Like the rivers of water;<br/> He turns it wherever He wishes.</i></p> <p><b>Prov. 21:31</b><br/> <i>The heart knows its own bitterness,<br/> And a stranger does not share its joy.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">22</p> |
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| <h2>Class Assignment</h2>   |    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set a goal to read through the Book of Proverbs at least once throughout this class semester.</li> <li>• Bring your questions for proverbs you have trouble understanding, or a favorite proverb that you would like to share with the class.</li> </ul> |    |
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| <h2>Possible Future Topics</h2> |                                |                      |                  |                              |
|                                 | Teaching sons and daughters    | Choice of Companions | Trusting God     | Righteousness vs. Wickedness |
|                                 | Integrity                      | Guard Your Mind      | Discipline       | Shine the Light of Christ    |
|                                 | Sexual Purity                  | Deceitful Tongue     | Diligent Worker  | Leave a Legacy               |
|                                 | Money Management               | Love Your Neighbor   | God's Protection | Virtuous Woman               |
|                                 | Avoid the World's Distractions | Truth                | Types of Fools   | Seeking Counsel              |
|                                 | God Hides Himself              | Sin of Pride         | Discernment      | Anger / Temper               |
|                                 | Honor Your Parents             | Revenge              | Conscience       | Repentance                   |
|                                 |                                |                      |                  | 24                           |

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