

Wednesday Night, Survey Service: Week 53
Proverbs 24-31 / Ecclesiastes 1-5, Ephesians 1-5 (5:14)

Proverbs 24: A little sleep

Key Point:

The wise person considers his or her ways carefully, seeks justice, is not envious, is consistently humble, so he or she, in general, will be blessed in contrast to the lazy fool.

Key Verse - Proverbs 24:33 - 34 (NLT)

A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest— 34 then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber.

Proverbs 25: If your enemy is hungry

Key Point:

Humility, speaking well, and taking care of even your enemies leads to blessing.

Key Verse - Proverbs 25:21 (NLT)

If your enemies are hungry, give them food to eat. If they are thirsty, give them water to drink.

Proverbs 26: Don't answer a fool

Key Point:

Wisdom is not just words because the foolish and the lazy can quote things but don't follow through. False words and lies will end up destroying the liar.

Key Verse - Proverbs 26:4 – 5 (NLT)

Don't answer the foolish arguments of fools, or you will become as foolish as they are. 5 Be sure to answer the foolish arguments of fools, or they will become wise in their own estimation.

Proverbs 27: Know your flocks

Key Point:

We don't know what tomorrow holds so it's better to be a good friend, don't be complainer and attend to your own business.

Key Verse - Proverbs 27:23 (NLT)

Know the state of your flocks, and put your heart into caring for your herds,

Proverbs 28: Don't conceal your sin**Key Point:**

People who walk in wisdom and act in wisdom will be blessed.

Key Verse - Proverbs 28:13 (NLT)

People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.

Proverbs 29: Fools rage or laugh**Key Point:**

Stubbornly continuing to be ruled by emotion, desire, immorality and a lack of discipline will destroy you.

Key Verse - Proverbs 29:9 (NLT)

If a wise person takes a fool to court, there will be ranting and ridicule but no satisfaction.

Proverbs 30: Give me neither**Key Point:**

There are many humble but mighty things in our experience that should remind us of the foolishness of self-exaltation.

Key Verse - Proverbs 30:8 (NLT)

First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs.

Proverbs 31: An excellent wife**Key Point:**

We are wise to avoid sexual immorality, addiction to alcohol and indifference to the poor. A great wife can benefit a man more than great wealth.

Key Verse - Proverbs 31:10 (NLT)

Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is more precious than rubies.

Ecclesiastes 1: All is vanity

Key Point:

Life is an endless cycle that passes us by, so without an eternal perspective, everything we do or seek after is essentially meaningless.

Key Verse - Ecclesiastes 1:2 (NLT)

“Everything is meaningless,” says the Teacher, “completely meaningless!”

Ecclesiastes 2: Nothing better

Key Point:

There is no pursuit of fortune, fame or fun that can give ultimate meaning in life because death overtakes us all no matter what our station or accomplishments are in this life. Simple pleasures God affords us are the best we can expect.

Key Verse - Ecclesiastes 2:24 (NLT)

So I decided there is nothing better than to enjoy food and drink and to find satisfaction in work. Then I realized that these pleasures are from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 3: That is his lot

Key Point:

Simple pleasures and contentment in this life are all we should aspire to experience because God will judge and our fate is in His hands.

Key Verse - Ecclesiastes 3:22 (NLT)

So I saw that there is nothing better for people than to be happy in their work. That is our lot in life. And no one can bring us back to see what happens after we die.

Ecclesiastes 4: Two are better than one

Key Point:

If we get our eyes off of what is eternally valuable and set our hearts beyond the simple pleasures God affords us onto things like fame and fortune, then our fate would be better if we were dead or alone because we gain nothing.

Key Verse - Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NLT)

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.

Ecclesiastes 5: Guard your steps

Key Point:

We should not allow ourselves to be so covetous that we become demanding toward God. Instead, we need to fear Him, obey Him, enjoy the simple pleasures He provides because ultimately HE gives any meaning to our lives.

Key Verse - Ecclesiastes 5:1 (NLT)

As you enter the house of God, keep your ears open and your mouth shut. It is evil to make mindless offerings to God.

Ephesians 1: Saved by His blood

Key Point:

In Jesus we have forgiveness and redemption, which was God’s will from the first, so that we might praise Him so in the moment we have God’s great resurrection power working in us.

Key Verse - Ephesians 1:7 (NLT)

He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

Ephesians 2: Saved by His grace

Key Point:

All human beings (Jew and non-Jew [Gentile]) can be saved only by the undeserved favor of God (grace) through Jesus. Our faith in Jesus means we are in close relationship with God by faith, not keeping the old Jewish law.

Key Verse - Ephesians 2:8 (NLT)

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

Ephesians 3: Gentiles are part of this

Key Point:

It was a mystery in the past, but God planned all along that both Jew and Gentile would be saved through faith and now that is accomplished in Jesus so we shouldn’t lose heart under persecution.

Key Verse - Ephesians 3:6 (NLT)

And this is God’s plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God’s children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4: Put on the new self

Key Point:

Because we are saved we should put off the old self that was dominated by the flesh and live according to the new person that is saved in Jesus, filled with kindness and a forgiving heart.

Key Verse - Ephesians 4:11 – 12 (NLT)

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

Ephesians 5: Be wise: wives and husbands

Key Point:

There is an order in the church and the home so each man should love His wife as much as Jesus loves the church and each wife should honor and respect her husband.

Key Verse - Ephesians 5:15 – 16 (NLT)

So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. 16 Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. 17 Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.