

# THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

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Chris Dew  
Message #2  
April 14, 2024

## HOW TO WIN AT \_\_\_\_\_

1. Last week, Pastor Chris challenged us to start a Bible reading plan and offered us the S.O.A.P. (Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer) method. He encouraged us to see what God does with this commitment to our relationship with Him. What have you done with that challenge?
2. Chris talked about how alone he felt when his dad passed away. When have you ever felt alone in life? What about that situation do you think makes you feel alone?
3. Do you have anyone who can help you "win" in the practical things of life? If not, do you think having that in your life would be helpful?
4. Have you considered that God is Someone you have access to who can supply you with practical wisdom?
5. Chris' message this week is how to win at \_\_\_\_ (blank). What is the "blank" in your life where you need help approaching it successfully?
6. Chris gave us five steps for winning in our "blanks." The five steps are: 1. Get a vision and make a plan; 2. Invite wise counsel; 3. Prioritize what matters most; 4. Have a holy pace; and 5. Keep the end in mind. What did Chris mean by getting a vision for your life? Do you have a vision in your life?
7. Action Step: Chris challenged us to think and pray about an area in our lives where we want growth and then write down where we want to be in that area in 1, 5, 10, and 20 years. Will you do that right now?
8. Read Proverbs 14:7 and 15:22. Prayerfully consider these scriptures. What is wise counsel? What makes someone a wise counselor?
9. Do you know of any "wise counsel" you can invite into your life and any "blank" areas? If not, what can you do to find wise counsel?
10. What are some forms of counsel? Is it just a person you talk to, or is it anyone you allow to speak into your life (on T.V., social media, in books, etc.)? Thinking of your own life, is the counsel you're allowing in wise? Is it building you up, increasing your faith, and leading you closer to God, or is it leading you in the opposite direction—away from God?
11. Action Step: Schedule time with someone who would be wise counsel in your "blank" area. Will you do this? How will you go about doing it?
12. Are you good at prioritizing things, or do you need work? What made you answer that way?

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13. Read Matthew 6:33. What does this say about what each of our number 1 priority needs to be? How are you doing with this?
14. Read Matthew 13:1 - 23; re-read verse 22. Do things in your life pull you away from God's priorities for you? What are they? What can you do about those things?
15. Action Step: When the loves in our lives are out of order, our lives will be out of order and in chaos. Take time to prayerfully prioritize your life. Write down precisely what should be most important in your life. What's your number 1 priority (hint: see Matthew 6:33)? Number 2? Number 3? Number 4? Number 5? What specifically can/will you do to prioritize those most essential things? What needs to go from your life or be bumped down in priority so you can focus on the most important things?
16. What's your pace in life? Do you think the pace at which you live your life matches God's original design for you?
17. Read Proverbs 14:23 and Psalm 127:2. What do these scriptures say about pace?
18. What is a holy pace (as opposed to a hustling or lazy pace)? What can you do to choose to live life at a holy pace?
19. Chris said to "keep the end in mind." What end do we need to keep in mind? Talk in your life group about the end we have promised to ourselves as followers of Jesus.
20. Read Hebrews 12:1 - 3. When we keep the end in mind, we can take a cue from how Jesus pushed through difficulties because He kept the end in mind. What things try to distract you from God's end goal for your life?
21. Action Step: Chris suggested we ask two questions to help us with this - Whose glory is what we are doing for? Whose good is what we are doing for? How do you answer those questions? Whose good and whose glory should you be living life for?
22. Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8. In these verses, Paul tells Timothy how to succeed in ministry in a challenging environment, but these words are also meant to guide us today. How is God talking to you through these verses about how you can win in life?
23. Do you know Jesus? Have you accepted Him as your Savior and Lord? If not, what keeps you from asking Him into your life? Will you talk to someone at the church about that?
24. What will you do with Chris's action steps in this message?