



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - Proverbs Study

Week 1 - Day 4

Approaching God

Read Psalm 37:21-24 - *The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously; those the LORD blesses will inherit the land, but those he curses will be destroyed. The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand.*

Prayer: God doesn't abandon us to stumble along the best we can by trial and error. Much of Scripture can be classified as "travel notes" - notation on life's journey as it is traveled in faith. Start by remembering in prayer that God gives generously and freely of both counsel and example

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Proverbs 2:1-22

Proverbs 2:1-22 - ESV - **1** My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, **2** making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; **3** yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, **4** if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, **5** then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. **6** For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; **7** he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, **8** guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. **9** Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; **10** for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; **11** discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you, **12** delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, **13** who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, **14** who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil, **15** men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways. **16** So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words, **17** who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God; **18** for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the departed; **19** none who go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life. **20** So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous. **21** For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with integrity will remain in it, **22** but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words. What words or ideas are repeated, related, compared, contrasted? What key themes stand out to you?

Daily Study Questions

At the start of this passage we are confronted with a paradox. Wisdom is something we should seek. Just as Wisdom cries out to us (1:20–21), so we are to cry aloud for wisdom (2:3). But after 2:3–4 calls us to the greatest of effort, likening it to searching for hidden treasure, verse 6 tells us that ultimately wisdom is a gift from God. This idea runs through the whole Bible. Philippians 2:12–13 calls us to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling” but immediately adds, “for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” The paradox itself is wise. If it were all up to us, we would labor under crushing anxiety and burn out. But if God only worked apart from us, we would lose all sense of initiative. The paradox gives us enough incentive and enough assurance to pursue the knowledge of God all our life long.

- Are you pursuing wisdom as you should? If you are, are you being as patient with God as you should? He gives out wisdom in his wise time.
- What 1 or 2 principles do you observe in this section?
- When in your life or the life of someone else have you seen this observation illustrated?
- How can you put this observation or principle into practice?
- Lastly, try to summarize your thoughts by rewriting your main ideas and observations into your own words in a sentence or two.

Close in Prayer:

"Lord, you give us the opportunity to do something and the desire to do it—so when it is accomplished we must admit it was all from you. Yet you require our utmost effort, and in that exertion we grow into the likeness of your son, Jesus. How brilliant you are, my God. Amen."

Tim Keller