



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - Proverbs Study

Week 4 - Day 4

Approaching God

Read from the Hymn - *Let us Love and Sing and Wonder* by: John Newton

Let us love the Lord who bought us, pitied us when enemies, called us by his grace and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes: he has washed us with his blood, he presents our souls to God.

Let us sing, though fierce temptation, threaten hard to bear us down! For the Lord, our strong salvation, holds in view the conqueror's crown: he who washed us with his blood, soon will bring us home to God.

Prayer: Take a minute to quiet your heart and become aware of the Lord's presence. Ask God to help you see his grace and love towards you as you read through this hymn from John Newton. Spend some time meditating on the eternal perspective we are meant to have in Christ and how that can give you assurance in the midst of life's difficulties today.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Proverbs 23:19-35

Passage Introduction: Sayings of the Wise - Part 3

The end of this proverb is about hitting rock bottom. This exposition on the folly of drunkenness presents a painfully comedic image of the drunkard deluded about his self-harm. The drunk is a staple of comedies, but addiction is a tragedy. The delirium tremens (23:33), the injuries from falls and fights (23:29) are depicted here in sad detail. All addicts start with just one drink, so how can any drinker avoid the trap?

Proverbs 23:19-35 - NIV

19 Listen, my son, and be wise, and set your heart on the right path: **20** Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, **21** for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags. **22** Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. **23** Buy the truth and do not sell it—wisdom, instruction and insight as well. **24** The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him. **25** May your father and mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful! **26** My son, give me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways, **27** for an adulterous woman is a deep pit, and a wayward wife is a narrow well. **28** Like a bandit she lies in wait and multiplies the unfaithful among men. **29** Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? **30** Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine. **31** Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly! **32** In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper. **33** Your

eyes will see strange sights, and your mind will imagine confusing things. **34** You will be like one sleeping on the high seas, lying on top of the rigging. **35** “They hit me,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt! They beat me, but I don’t feel it! When will I wake up so I can find another drink?”

Daily Study Questions

When wine becomes more than a good food but something one gazes at and lingers over for its qualities, it has become almost sexual in its allure. Drink (or any other food) can become a deep consolation, a way to find relief from anxiety. The insatiable need sharpens over time, but the addict is helpless. “When will I wake up so I can find another drink?” Overcoming addiction is never simple and takes a lifetime. But St. Paul was right when he pointed to the ultimate consolation we need. “Do not get drunk on wine. . . . Instead be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18). Being filled with the Spirit means seeing Christ vividly and joyfully (John 15:26, 16:14). That is the joy that makes it possible to cast other consolations aside.

Keller, Timothy. God's Wisdom for Navigating Life

- Addiction can take many forms. What do you do to handle stress, anxiety, and unhappiness?
- 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?

Close in Prayer: Lord, let me take my woes and sorrows to you—not to food and drink, not to sexual release, not to video games, not to late-night viewing. “Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.” Amen.

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty - Benjamin Schmolck