

The Way to Wisdom

By Pastor Andy Straubel

I began the year 2020 with a new series on the book of Proverbs. Inspiration for the series came as I watched the news a few weeks ago. It seemed like every segment highlighted some type of foolish behavior, hardly newsworthy, but not surprising. It seems that common sense isn't as common as it used to be.

The book of Proverbs is a call to find wisdom, or better yet, to develop skills for living. A proverb is a "word before." It is as if God is saying, here are the tools you are going to need to live the life I intended you to live. A proverb has been defined 1) as an expression of truth that is easy to remember; 2) makes a point; and 3) calls for a decision. We have proverbs in English, "A penny saved is a penny earned!" Or, "A stitch in time saves nine." The book of Proverbs is written from the perspective of a father or mother giving practical advice to their young and inexperienced son in an effort to protect him from the seductive elements of the world. Wisdom is depicted as a beautiful and noble queen standing in a crowded plaza lifting up her voice to those passing by (1:20). "My son [emphatic] if sinners entice you, do not consent. If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason...do not walk in the way with them (Proverbs 1:10, 11, 15). In verse 10 the "if" is better understood as "when." In other words, the enticement by sinners to do bad things is not just a possibility; it is a probability. It is going to happen! So, don't be surprised!

Solomon knew by experience the evils of his day, and he writes to warn others because of what he had learned. Proverbs speaks about friends, enemies, the rich, the poor, the wise, the foolish, the young, the old. It speaks of parents and children, blessings and curses,

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Restoring Hearts Ministries



Recently members of Windsor Chapel joined with Restoring Hearts Ministries of Trenton to minister to those in need. They handed out food, including coffee, hot chocolate, tea, soup, hot breakfast sandwiches and granola bars. They prayed with those who asked for prayer, and spent time talking with the people who sought out their assistance. The volunteers also handed out provisions like hats, gloves, clothes, blankets and hygiene bags. Windsor Chapel members are invited to join RHM on Saturday, February 29. If you are interested in participating or would like to be added to the RHM email group please text Steven Bassett @ 609-346-1127 or email hensoma.onebody@gmail.com.

“The Way to Wisdom,” continued...

love and hate, the tongue, self-control, self-deception, flattery, hypocrisy, laziness, substance abuse, lust, sex, “the strange woman,” the heart, the ear, the eye, and folly. There is something in Proverbs for everyone.

In Proverbs 2:5 Solomon holds out a glorious promise through a series of “if...then” statement found in Proverbs 2:1-4; *“My son, if you receive my words...if you call out for insight...if you seek it as silver..., then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.”* What a promise! And yet the word “if” is of great concern. Some may read or hear and yet NOT receive the words being given. This is a scary thought.

To get the year started off right my challenge is to read a chapter in the book of Proverbs every day. There are thirty-one chapters in the book. Read one chapter each day. With a receptive mind and an open heart, you will better understand what it means to be wise. May we make it our ambition to experience God more fully as we unlock and discover the book of Proverbs. James 1:5 says, *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”* That is my prayer for you. That is my prayer for me.

Restoring Hearts Ministries

You’re invited to join members of our chapel family and participate with Restoring Hearts Ministries (RHM) on Saturday, February 29, from 8:45 am - noon. We will meet at the RHM Mission Home, located at 30 Iowa Avenue, in Ewing, and drive to Trenton at 9:00 am to offer food, hot drinks, sleeping bags, clothing, the Gospel, and prayer. You do not need to bring anything except your willing heart. Contact Steven Bassett at 609-346-1127 for further information.

Congratulations to Ken and Cindy Bills on the birth of their new granddaughter Harper Grace Louise Headley.



Harper was born January 14, 2020. She weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 18” long. Her parents are Ruth and Chris Headley

Harris Ministry Clothing Giveaway

Set aside clean and gently used clothing (including coats and shoes) for men, women, children and infants for the Harris Ministry President’s Day Clothing Giveaway. Clean bedding and towels are also needed, but no furniture, please. Please place your donations in the chapel back hall by Sunday, February 16. The Harris Ministry greatly appreciates your contributions to this important outreach.

Financial Update

(Through December 31, 2019)

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want...”

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$288,689	\$285,000
Expense	\$279,762	\$285,000

Windsor Chapel has sent \$39,286 to our missionary partners this year. That’s 14% of your giving!

Perisseia

Our women's growth group has begun its Winter Series on Redemption. All women are welcome to join us Thursday evenings, 7:00-8:30, in the Chapel House.

No commitment or preparation is required. For more information, please contact Cindy Bills (cynthialbills@gmail.com; 609-275-8557).

Men's Breakfast

Join us on Monday mornings, from 7:00 to 8:00, at the McDonald's on Brunswick Circle as we study "Empathy for the Devil: Finding Ourselves in the Villains of the Bible." How do we guard against the sinfulness within our own human hearts and the world? We learn not only by following moral exemplars—we also need to look at the warnings of lives gone wrong. In this fictionalized narrative, author JR. Forasteros reintroduces us to some of the most villainous characters of Scripture. Contact Scott Bruno (609-213-9545) for more information. The food, fellowship and study are great!

New 11th Hour Classes

Our 11th Hour adult classes will begin on February 9. Please join us as we seek to grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord with one another:

I Samuel - The women will be taking an in-depth look at I Samuel to understand this crucial segment of Hebrew history and how it applies to our lives of faith now.

Teachers: Janet Berrill and Cindy Bills

Discipleship Essentials 2 - Men will be finishing the book, "Discipleship Essentials," by Greg Ogden, downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Through this study we will deepen our knowledge of essential Christian teaching and strengthen our faith.

Teacher: Pastor Andy Straubel.

Elder's Corner

By Ken Bills

Shakespeare famously wrote, "What's in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." The recent birth of our granddaughter reminded me that parents tend to see it differently when it comes to naming their children. Choosing a name for a child can be a big decision, with many competing considerations. Cindy and I decided to use family names as middle names for our children, reflecting their human inheritance. For first names, we used the names of biblical characters who we admired and whose names had meanings we valued, claiming for our children a biblical heritage and expressing for them a desire that they would someday find their meaning, identity and purpose in biblical truth. But there is no one right way to name a baby. Some parents want the name to be unique, reflecting the unique individuality of the baby, while others choose a beautiful name as an intended blessing to baby, or a strong name as a statement of hope as to who the child will become.

In the Bible, we see many examples of naming and names. God entrusts Adam with the responsibility for naming all the animals, which seems to reflect both humanity's God-ordained dominion over creation and its responsibility to care for His creatures. The Bible also reflects in places a view that a name often tells something about a person's nature. When God tells Abraham, "*No longer shall your name be called Abram ("high father"), but your name shall be Abraham ("father of multitude"), for I have made you father of a multitude of nations,*" God is both expressing His lordship over Abraham and also giving him a name that foreshadows Abraham's pivotal role in God's plan of salvation. (Genesis 17:8).

Jacob, as another example of a significant
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name, grabbed the heel of his older twin brother, Esau, at birth. In Hebrew, the name Jacob sounds like the name for heel. God had told Jacob’s mother that the older brother would serve the younger; the name Jacob carries two meanings: “may God protect from behind” and “he who grabs the heel.” And so Jacob’s name foreshadows both Jacob’s usurpation of his brother’s privileges as the older brother and God’s protection of him.

Most famously, in the New Testament, an angel tells Joseph that Mary “*will bear a son and you shall call his name Jesus (“God saves”), for He shall save his people from their sins.*”

In the book of Revelation, there is an intriguing and puzzling statement: “*To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.*” (Revelation 2:17b). There is a myriad of questions about the meaning of that verse. But one implication seems to be that to the believer who perseveres, God will give him/her a new name known only to God and the believer. This has implications for us even now.

We belong to God. He knows each of us fully and completely. He knows what we have done and who we have been; but even more, He knows exactly how we have been knit together, who He is making us to become in Him. And He loves us deeply and powerfully. The name He has for each one of us reflects our essential nature as only He knows it. At this moment, only God knows that name. One day He will share it with us, and we will finally realize how deeply we have been known and loved all along. Our private and exclusive God-given name will manifest the intimate relationship that we will enjoy with our Creator. This is the intimate and personal relationship that God wants to have with us, beginning now and growing toward its full culmination.

Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

The Not-So-Basics of Body Life

God is a God of relationship. He is the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in relationship within the Godhead. We are created in His image, for relationship, with Him and with one another. The middle chapters of Genesis record God calling Abraham to become the father of many nations and to become the father of His people, the nation of Israel. The Old Testament Law reflects God’s love for His people and His desire for them to love one another well. As they fail to do that, we read later in the Old Testament about God scolding His people through His prophets for oppressing the weak and vulnerable.

The New Testament underscores God as a relational God as the Father sends the Son to live among us, to save us, and to show us what the love of God looks like in the warp and woof of daily life. Jesus walked in and among sinners, welcoming the weak and needy. He also trained and empowered His disciples to serve others even as He was serving them. He sent them out in pairs because ministry is hard, and we need one another as we go about fulfilling the Lord’s purpose for us.

“One another” verses in the New Testament are varied and plentiful, illustrating the importance of nurturing life among members of the body of Christ. It is only as we practice these “one another” passages that we grow strong in faith, become who the Lord created us to be, and fulfill His purposes for us, both individually and corporately. Like it or not, we

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are so dependent on relationship that we are not able to fulfill God’s purposes for our personal, individual life without practicing and experiencing the “one anothers.”

There is one “one another” passage I would like to bring to our attention. In his letter to the Galatians, the Apostle Paul writes, “*Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.*” (Galatians 6:2) And then, in completing his thought, Paul admonishes his readers—just three verses later: “*For each one will bear his own load.*” (Galatians 6:5)

The apparent inconsistency in our English translations is resolved when we investigate the actual Greek words that Paul used. The word for burden in Verse 2 carries the connotation of a particularly heavy and difficult burden, while the word for load in Verse 5 carries the connotation of an expected responsibility. And so we understand that Paul is exhorting believers to take responsibility for themselves and also help brothers and sisters who are struggling with unusually difficult loads. This seems quite reasonable, and we tend to nod at this truth and move on.

But even though we can readily understand this passage, I am less sure that we follow Paul’s instructions as well as he would like. It is simply not that easy to always distinguish reasonable personal responsibility from an unreasonably difficult load. Indeed, there is a good bit of subjective judgement involved for all concerned. What is unbearable or overwhelming for one person may be routine for someone else. And, when we add other factors—perceptions of expectations, personality, life experience—it becomes even more complex. Do we persevere, or ask for help? Conversely, do we encourage a brother/sister to persevere, or do we offer to help?

There is no formula or flow chart to answer these questions. I would like to suggest that we consider a “both and” approach rather than an “either or.” In other words, we can honor Paul’s words even in the uncertainty that attends them. We can encourage a struggling brother and sister to persevere in faith even as we do what we can to help with their load. And, we can ask for help even as we walk in faith through a challenging time.

In order to do this, we must develop an essential godly characteristic: humility. In our contemporary American culture, it is easy to want to do it ourselves, on our own strength. Coupled with our prideful sin nature, it can be exceedingly difficult to ask for help. Our pride fuels self-focus so that we can miss the needs of others. And when we do see a need, our pride and self-reliance can make it difficult to see someone in need of help without feeling somehow superior. And when our offers to help fuel our pride and elevate our opinions of ourselves, we move far away from Paul’s intent. Finally, as we cultivate a spirit of humility, we become more able to be genuine in our need and in needing the needs of others, which brings us back to relationship building. Although we may never achieve the perfect balance of personal responsibility and burden sharing, humbly and actively exercising both proclaims the love of Christ to the world and blesses His body—us—with ever deepening relationships.

Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557 or clbills@verizon.net) to continue the dialogue....

Correction

Please note the email address included with last month’s article about ordering “God’s Amazing Journey and Faithfulness,” directly from Ron and Char Bystrom, was incorrect. The correct address is chartbystrom@gmail.com.

Speechless

By Janet Berrill

I recently read the book "Speechless," by Duane Miller. Duane was a pastor who was giving a sermon on January 14, 1990, when he started to lose his voice due to the onset of the flu. He finished his sermon in the first service and barely croaked his way through the second service of the morning. But at the time of the evening service his throat hurt so bad that he felt unable to preach so a deacon stepped in and gave the sermon. This was just the beginning of a lengthy, very painful ordeal Duane would go through. Although he recovered from the flu in a week's time, his voice did not return. The following three years brought visits to doctor after doctor where he underwent test after test to figure out what was wrong with his throat. Not only was he unable to speak above a hoarse whisper, but he said there was a constant pressure in his throat making it painful to talk and swallow. The prognosis was dim, doctors could not figure out what was wrong and eventually predicted he would lose his voice altogether and not be able to speak.

Three years after preaching his last sermon Duane had hit rock bottom. Medical bills; unemployment; the prospect of being permanently mute, unable to ever sing or preach again, two things he loved to do; plus the constant pain he was in; left him despairing of life. Then, on January 13, 1993, while teaching a Sunday School class using a specially designed microphone so people could hear him, God miraculously healed Duane's voice. (You can listen to a recording of this by going to youtube.com and searching for "Duane Miller video.") It was an incredible miracle! Duane's voice and throat were completely healed. When he returned to his doctor, the doctor was unable to find any evidence that there had ever been a problem. Even the extensive scar tissue was gone, and according to the doctor scar tissue *never* disappears! When he returned to his speech therapist, she was so amazed at his recovery that she decided to test his singing vocal range. To her astonishment, Duane was able to hit notes that a man his age should not be able to sing (E flat above high C). God had not just healed Duane, he had given him a new throat with no trace of the old one left behind.

Imagine Duane, after having experienced this miraculous healing and receiving a new throat, living as if he still had his old sore, hoarse, painful throat. Imagine him speaking only in a hoarse whisper when he did speak. Imagine him continuing to use the special microphone when he spoke so people could hear him instead of using his full voice to make himself heard. Imagine him not singing or preaching and still being depressed at the thought of never preaching again. Absurd, you say – I totally agree! God gave Duane a new throat. It would make no sense for Duane to live as if he still had his old throat.

For those of us who have received Jesus as our Savior, God has done a miracle in our lives as well, one that is more significant than the new throat He gave Duane. The Bible says that before we accepted Jesus we were dead in our sins, but once we accept Him we are alive in Christ (Colossians 2:13). We were once dead, and now we are alive! We were once a slave to sin, and now we are free (Romans 6:6-7)! 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*" You are a new creation!

If you are a new creation, does it make sense for you to live like your old self? Just as it would have been ridiculous for Duane to live as if he had not been given a new throat, it is ridiculous for us not to live as the new creation that we are. So why don't we? I think it all comes down to unbelief. Do we really believe we are who God says we are?

To be continued next month.

If you have any items or information you would like to share in the newsletter, please e-mail:

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