

The Wisdom of Proverbs

By Jean LaRosa

In January, which seems so long ago, Pastor Andy began teaching a series from the book of Proverbs. This inspired my husband and me to begin a Bible Study in Proverbs together. We chose one in the Bible app called, "The Wisdom of Proverbs." Now that we are living in the days of Coronavirus, these lessons have taken on new significance for me in our current circumstances. Here are a few themes that are speaking to me right now.

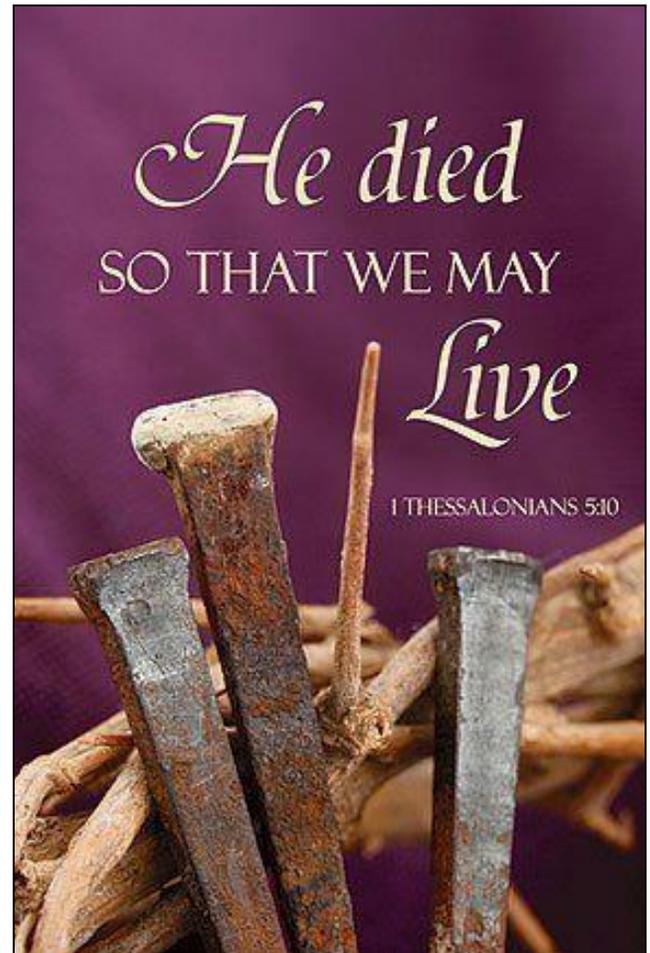
Wisdom and the Fear of the Lord

Wisdom and the fear of the Lord are inextricably linked. *"Indeed, if you call out for insight, and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."* (Proverbs 2:3-6)

We all need wisdom now more than ever, as we have decisions to make about how to care for ourselves, our families, and those we love. These are anxious times, but Proverbs 19:23 says, *"The fear of the Lord leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble."* This doesn't mean that believers will not be affected by this crisis, but we have an anchor that allows us to rest content even during days of being confined at home.

Trusting in God is Better than Trusting in Yourself

Sometime early in my Christian faith, someone told me that I needed to have a "life verse." I chose Proverbs 3:5-6 and later found out that many others had that as their life verse as well. I like the way Proverbs 3:5-7 reads in the NLT: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not*



depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil."

Proverbs 28:26 reminds us, *"Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe."* I need to train myself to ask God for wisdom instead of barreling through the day at 90 mph in my own strength. Trusting in God doesn't mean being passive. It means we seek His counsel, recognizing that He controls all outcomes, and then do what makes sense, kind of like the ants. One Sunday in January, Pastor Andy taught us about all the different kinds of ants there are. Proverbs 30:25 tells us, *"Ants are creatures of*

Continued on page 2...

“The Wisdom of Proverbs,” continued...

little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer.” God has given the little ants enough wisdom to gather food while it is available and store some for their future needs. I don’t think this means that we are to put our trust in material things or in our ability to provide for ourselves. That can evaporate in an instant. It just means we are to keep busy doing what God would have us do. One of the descriptions of the wife of noble character in Proverbs 31 says, “*She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.*” (Proverbs 31:17). I love this image of a strong woman working hard to provide for the needs of her household. She is ready for anything.

Prudence is a Virtue

Prudence isn’t a word that is commonly used. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines prudence as:

- The ability to govern and discipline oneself by the use of reason.
- Sagacity or shrewdness in the management of affairs.
- Skill and good judgment in the use of resources.
- Caution or circumspection as to danger or risk.

Prudence sounds like a virtue we could all use right now. Proverbs 22:3 reminds us, “*The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.*” We are reminded of danger and the need to take refuge every time we look at the news, and see images of beaches crowded for Spring Break, while we hunker down and take refuge in our homes. Forays into the outside world have become matters of careful consideration—do we really need that item now? Can it wait?

But prudence also means managing yourself and your emotions well. Proverbs 4:23 cautions us, “*Above all else, guard your heart,*

for everything you do flows from it.” It’s worth thinking about how we are supposed to guard our hearts. For me, it has a lot to do with monitoring inputs. What sources of content am I allowing in? I have a tendency to be anxious—am I making that worse by obsessing over the latest news? God’s peace is still there to be found even in this chaotic time, but we have to be willing to seek it.

Kindness and Generosity are their Own Reward

One of the things that distresses me about this epidemic is thinking about how hard it will be for those with fewer resources. There are many who will be without a job at least temporarily, and without the resources to stock up at the supermarket. There will be many opportunities for those of us who have more to share with those who have less. Proverbs encourages us to share God’s heart for the poor and disadvantaged:

- “*Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.*” Proverbs 19:17
- “*The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.*” Proverbs 22:9

So many verses in Proverbs make it clear that God is deeply concerned about people without resources and power.

Although events are hurtling forward at a dizzying pace, and we don’t know what tomorrow will bring, we do know the One who knows all things, and He is trustworthy. “*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.*” (2 Corinthians 1:4)

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
2 Timothy 1:7

Elder's Corner

By Ed McQueen

Dear Windsor Chapel Church Family,
It's a joy to greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. On Sunday my family gathered to watch Pastor Andy's message and sing some hymns. It was a welcome step towards normalcy to sit down at 9:30 and hear the Word from a familiar face. My children were a little surprised when they realized they weren't being dismissed for Sunday School, but after getting over the pain of not seeing the Taylors on the computer, they agreed that Pastor Andy is pretty great, too!

Indeed, it was a terrific message on Sunday, and now as much as ever I can use every reminder to lift my heart to heaven where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. There is no dearth of voices to hear from in this time of crisis, but it is still the message of the Gospel alone which has the power to impart eternal healing to our soul. Man's greatest need is not to prolong his days on earth — though we all take responsible steps towards that end — rather, his greatest need is to be reconciled with the loving God whose wrath he has incurred and to walk in daily obedience to the call of the Christian.

Understandably, this is a time when most are fearful in some fashion or another. Not knowing what the near future holds is unnerving. Just as we are intentional about learning the latest economic and public health developments, I encourage us to be just as intentional about letting the Word of God remind us wherein life's true priorities lie. Meditate on passages such as Matthew chapter 6. Throughout the Bible, God speaks directly to the situation we are enduring, providing Christians an outlook through which we can best process the rapidly developing changes we face. The knowledge of God, His sovereignty, His unfailing mercy and the

eternal reign of kingdom provide for us a fortress as it were, able to withstand the strongest of buffets.

This is a time for the church to draw near to God. We need each other's prayers now as much as ever. Similarly, our church needs our financial partnership as much as ever. Our budget contains virtually no buffer, so it's important that as much as God gives us the ability, we continue our giving as usual. This morning I gave online for the first time and I have to say it was easy. A few points about the process:

- You can access our giving page by selecting the "[Give](#)" tab on our website homepage.
- At first I had trouble loading our giving page, but I tried a different web browser and it worked fine. Many times these types of problems are resolved by using a different device or browser.
- You have the option of creating an online account to make future giving easier, but you don't have to.
- You have the option of giving with a credit card or bank account.
- Our online giving platform utilizes Vanco Payments, which serves 30,000+ clients and processes \$13.1 billion in transactions per year.
- Vanco Payments also offers a mobile app called GivePlus (Give+). It is available through Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store. Instructions for giving through the app may be found in the [FAQ](#) section of the Give+ website (giveplushelp.vancopayments.com)

Of course, you may always mail a check to Windsor Chapel, 401 Village Road East, Princeton Junction, New Jersey 08550.

Continued on page 4...

“Elder’s Corner, “continued...

Our continued giving will ensure that Windsor Chapel remains strong in the midst of a difficult time.

Allow me to conclude by observing that we are a family, and family looks out for one another. I’m routinely in awe as I learn the ways that our members support one another behind the scenes. If you or someone you know needs help with anything during this time, please let someone know. Without fail, everyone I’ve spoken with has expressed eagerness to lend a hand wherever our church body may need it.

On Sunday morning we heard, “*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way... The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*” (Psalm 46) Together, in God’s grace, we will make it to the other side of this trial, and when we do, may we turn back to give Him praise.

Financial Update

(Through February 29, 2020)

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

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$35,086	\$24,167
Expense	\$42,293	\$24,167

Windsor Chapel has sent \$6,548 to our missionary partners this year. That’s 19% of your giving!

*For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.*

Matthew 6:21

The New Reality of Virtual Church

By Pastor Andy Straubel

Most churches are now challenged to adapt to the new reality that we are unable to physically meet. But that doesn't mean we cannot fellowship. The church is NOT cancelled; it is just meeting in a different form. Welcome to the new reality of virtual church.

On Sunday mornings at 9:30 a message will be brought from the Word of God. It can be viewed online at the Windsor Chapel Facebook page, and soon will be available on YouTube and our website.

Small Groups will be using Zoom for 11th Hour Sunday School. The women’s Zoom will start at 10:30 am. They will continue their study of 1 Samuel. To participate, email either Janet Berrill (jberrill@verizon.net) or Cindy Bills (cbills@verizon.net) indicating that you want join the discussion. They will use your email address to send an invite. A link will be sent to your email address before the meeting. You merely click on the link to enter the discussion. On Sunday, April 5, at 11:30 am, men will begin their Zoom meeting to continue their study of “Discipleship Essentials.” Men need to contact Pastor Andy at andrew.straubel@gmail.com to receive their invite.

The UPLIFT Team

The Uplift ministry will continue to support any and all who are in need of prayer. You may contact:

Scott Bruno (609) 213-9545

Steve Masticola (908) 655-2152
or steve.masticola@verizon.net (willing to skype)

Marquita Kimmel (609) 707-0626 (self-proclaimed “night owl”)

Cindy Shaw (609) 306-7562 (please text or email first to set up a time, clshaw3@comcast.net)

Steve Bassett (609) 346-1127 (please text to set up a time to call or Skype)

Amy Kasternakis (609) 516-1753 (available by phone or Face time, please text to set up a time)

Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

Spring Growth

Indeed, indeed, indeed, these are challenging and bewildering times. It is the rare person on the planet who has not been affected by the Coronavirus in some way. And while it is frequently pointed out that we are all in this together, the virus and the accompanying restrictions have the potential to push us apart figuratively as well as literally. This pandemic has generated a wide range of reactions: skepticism, frustration, fear, grief, anger, despair, resignation, anxiety, and then some. For life to be so suddenly and so dramatically changed is jolting, and most of us are, at the very least, disoriented as we navigate this “new normal.”

Without minimizing the stress, strain, and struggle that most of us are facing, I would like to point out that living within our current limitations gives the Lord a unique opportunity to do some amazing redemptive work in us. As the women in Perisseia have been discussing, redemption is not simply about Christ dying for our sins so that we may eventually join Him in heaven. Redemption is the warp and woof of our lives as our Lord continually works to transform our minds, build our character, and make us ready for heaven.

Pastor Andy wisely asks, “What do I do/How do I behave when I don’t get what I want?” In these times of restrictions, very, very few of us get everything we want. And how we respond to this current state of affairs reveals a good bit about what is going on in our heart and the type of people we are becoming. It is when we don’t get what we want that our heart issues can be exposed. And although this doesn’t

feel good, it is precisely how the Lord can do His powerful redemptive work: when our comfort zones disappear, and our usual quality of life standards can’t be met, and our strategies for feeling good about ourselves cannot be accessed, it is easy to become impatient, frustrated, and angry. Since many of us have more time at our disposal than we had just a few weeks ago, we can use some of this time to come before the Lord, ask Him to help us recognize the sin and selfishness that drives our negative reactions, confess, and ask Him to help us conform more to His character by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In a very widely known passage, the Apostle Paul reminds us that God works everything for good for those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). Some of that good may be uncomfortable for a time. But even as God hates the fall and its consequences, His commitment to redemption remains a constant, comforting, and inexorable truth. He invites us, as His people, to come to Him as our moment-by-moment Redeemer in this troubling season.

We do not know how or when this pandemic will end. But we can be encouraged that if we embrace the Lord’s working in us and accept the exposure of our sins and weaknesses, we will come out of it as better people, closer to our Lord and with a greater capacity for both love and joy.

There are all sorts of dire predictions about what the post-Coronavirus world will look like. To be honest, I am concerned about that. But it is encouraging to bear in mind that just as the Lord uses this season of contagion for our good, He will use the next season as well. And if we allow Him to do His work in us now, we will be better able to participate in proclaiming His goodness to a hurting world in the days, weeks, and months to come.

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

Fundamental Belief

By Janet Berrill

Wow! That's all I can say when I think about how the world has changed in such a short time. When talking about the world changing, we usually talk about generations or decades, but now we are talking about the world changing in weeks or even days. I am amazed when I think about how different the world was when the last Chapel Challenge newsletter was mailed. The state of things today is nothing I ever would have predicted happening – ever: nearly all retail businesses closed, travel restricted, people told to stay home for an unspecified period of time, people wearing masks and gloves in the grocery store, social distancing, etc. I truly believe that life as we knew it before 2020 is gone forever; because of this pandemic the world will be different economically, socially, politically.

But in the midst of all this unprecedented change there is at least one thing we can hang our hats on that will never alter: truth of who God is. In Exodus 34:6-7 Moses is on Mount Sinai and God comes down in a cloud, stands with Moses and proclaims who He is: *"The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin."* That is how God describes Himself. And the prophet Jeremiah reminds us that God is all powerful, *"Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."* (Jeremiah 32:17) This is who He was then, this is who He is now, this is who He will always be. God does not change.

Unlike me, God was not surprised by the pandemic. He who knows all things knew it was coming. And God is still who He says He is. The pandemic has not changed God. The world may change, our circumstances may

change, our life may change, but God never will. He will always be compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, loving, faithful, forgiving, and all powerful.

As I try to wrap my head around what has already happened and what might happen in the future, I hold on to the unchanging nature of God. I trust in His goodness as the pandemic continues to spread. I trust in His goodness as the future of so many businesses hang in the balance. I trust in His goodness as many people suffer financially. I trust in His goodness as the healthcare system struggles to keep up. Despite all that may seem negative, God is still and always will be compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, loving, faithful, forgiving and all powerful.

Why do I keep emphasizing this point? Because what we fundamentally believe about who God is, is critical. It will shape how we view the events that are taking place. Will we view them with fear and despair or with trust and hope? If we take God at His word and believe He is who He describes Himself to be, then we can trust Him and not fear, we can have hope that He will work good out of what He has allowed to happen so that we do not despair. Psalm 25:3 says, *"No one whose hope is in You will ever be put to shame."* If you choose to believe God is who He says He is and choose to trust Him in the darkest of circumstances, you will not be disappointed but will discover a new depth of the goodness and faithfulness of God.

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

Susan Seiboth at

susan@quiltingsquare.com

Dorothy Soi at

dsoi@windsorchapel.org

Chapel Office (609) 799-2559

www.windsorchapel.org