

2023.11.07 Family Worship lesson in “the Proverb of the day”

Proverbs 7:1–5

“Fatherly Instruction at the Heart of Life”

1 My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you.
2 Keep my commands and live,
And my law as the apple of your eye.
3 Bind them on your fingers;
Write them on the tablet of your heart.
4 Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,”
And call understanding your nearest kin,
5 That they may keep you from the immoral woman,
From the seductress who flatters with her words.

Pastor teaches his family a selection from “the Proverb of the day.” In these five verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that parents are to give God’s covenant children God’s own Fatherly instruction to be their heart’s counselor and companion for life.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Proverbs 7, verse 1, through 5. These are god's words. My son, keep my words. And treasure my commands within you. Keep my commands and live. And my law as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers. Write them on the tablet of your heart. Say to wisdom.

You are my sister. And call understanding your nearest kin. That they may keep you from the immoral woman. From the seductress. Who flutters with her words? So far the reading of gods inspired and inherent word. One prerequisites to understanding versus one through five. Well hours is the reminder that Um, A godly father is To give his children not merely his own instruction.

But the instruction of the lord. That the words of god in scripture, communicating to us the mind of god. Uh, By the spirit of god. Form. The. Foundation and the chief shape. Of a parent's instruction. And that all of a parent's other instruction is under whatever the bible teaches.

So that we are not trying to shape our own households as we wish But we are yielding to god as those who belong to him and recognizing our children. As also covenantally. Belonging to him. So not only As his creatures. But as His own covenant people. Being obligated to him.

This is something of course that is. Tied together, well, throughout the book of proverbs Uh, where The instruction of a father is equated with the wisdom of god, not because of a father is as god to his children. But because the father is under God and therefore Gods emissary.

To his children. And so, what we are to do with The words of a godly father who speaks and teaches and leads in this manner. Is not just to learn from them and remember them, and have them as one among many inputs. In. Um, into how we think and how we live.

Uh, but we are to keep them. We are to treasure them. Uh, within us. This means. That we see the words of god, in particular in the bible. And if we're doing this rightly, we will treasure the instruction of a godly father in particular. When we see it also from the bible, So that the Bible, most of all is the authority.

But god's, good providence to us. Then placing us under greater obligation. Uh, remember that just as a sin is, made more heinous if it is against grace, or against knowledge, or against good that god has done unto us. So contrapositively, A righteousness, is more obligatory. Uh, by how much grace and how much goodness and how much instruction God has given to us her shun.

To us. And so we receive the words as god's. Mercifully, giving us. A path of life. Those things that are not earned by us, they are not a works principle. The law of god comes to us within the administration. Of. The covenant of grace, it comes from a god who has redeemed us.

It comes from a god who has himself earned the blessing that he gives to us, therefore not by earning but by promise. And one of the ways that he blesses us as he gives us good instruction. By his spirit. And then he graciously works in us by his spirit to give us obedience to that instruction and then he graciously gives us the happiness and blessedness and good life, that comes even through the mechanism of walking.

According to that instruction. There is not a work's principle. There is not a merit principle. And this is what he is saying here, when he says keep my commands and live. Um, those who Uh, read that do this and live. Of. For instance, so that it gets 18 5 as a quote unquote works principle our misreading.

Like the judaizers were. Like the jews largely did like the Pharisees did. And so, If i come to you as a father and say keep my instruction and live, i'm not warning that if you don't, i'm going to execute you. I am telling you that the gracious god, who gave to me to be your father.

And who gave to you to be my children. Has given us in his mercy, a mechanism by which we live a happy blessed peaceful, fruitful life together. The instructions of god. Given from a father to a child. And so, We don't just keep the commands and live, but we keep Fatherly instruction or law.

Here is a good place for us to remember that the word totalah, which is most often translated law has as it's core. Meaning the fatherly instruction of god He called israel, his firstborn son. And said, let my first born son go. That he may serve me, and they gathered israel to himself as a firstborn

son at the mountain and gave them his law as fatherly instruction for how they were going to live as a family.

We're actually coming in. Uh, the book of matthew in a couple weeks time explored.

We are actually coming in the book of matthew in a couple weeks time. Uh, lord willing. Next lord's day, we're going to have a summary of the first four chapters of the arrival of the king and his gathering himself to himself a people. And then what's going to happen is, he's going to gather his disciples at a mountain and give them instruction.

Uh, it is a display of the lord jesus. Uh, not only as true abraham and true. Adam and true david. As we have seen him to be already throughout the book of matthew. But now, true and great and final, moises, and yahweh at the same time. He gathers his people to himself as disciples to himself, and he gives him the principles by which those who are redeemed by grace into his kingdom live, joyfully, and profitably, and fruitfully as members.

Of his kingdom. And so, we keep his instruction as the apple of our eye, which is both treasure and focus. Uh, treasure the apple of your eye is. That, which is your delight. And then also focus. The apple of your eye or the people. In your eye. Is. There at the center of everything that you see.

And this language of apple of your eye, then in verse 2. Uh, was is connected to as frontlets between your eyes. In deuteronomy chapter 6. And you remember also then not just as frontlets between your eyes but Bound on your hands. Now, there are some who Uh, who read that and Um, A very Uh, ununderstanding way, ignorant way.

And they actually wrote out one little piece of papers. A little pieces of paper. Bible verses. And they made tiny little boxes to hold the pieces of paper and then wear the box. Either in between their eyes or on the back of their hands and i thought, haha, we're keeping it.

But, The apple of your eye or between your eyes or the bind it to your hands, or bound to your fingers. First three are actually explained here in the parallelism of the hebrew poetry and the second half of verse 3. Write them on the tablet of your heart. And thankfully this does not mean perform open heart surgery and install a box there too with the scriptures scribbled on a piece of paper.

It's explaining what it means. To bind god's word on our eyes and And on our hands. It means to have his word as what controls how we think, but controls what we desire, what we can. What controls Um well what pleases us? To what controls our decision making. To have the words of god written on the tablet of our heart.

Now, revisiting what we said at the beginning of Um, i've explaining this portion of the word have great is the responsibility. Have a christian father of a christian parent. To teach according to the word of god, if god is going to come To that covenant, child and say, Have the words of your parents written on the tablets of your heart.

Nothing belongs there except god's word. And so there's a great submission. On the behalf of, Of parents, that is Required there. But this isn't Um, This isn't the drudgery. Of obligation as First, john, five teaches us if we love god and keep his commandments from love. Has commandments are not burdensome.

And so he tells us not just where to have his wisdom, but how to relate to his wisdom? Say to wisdom, you are my sister. Now, we love our sisters dearly. And in our family, we have, Each of us at least four some of us five sisters. At whom to love dearly.

Um, But in the bible, it's even greater than the way you love your sisters. Because sister was one of the affectionate ways that a man would call his wife. Um, one who heard in their families, ordinarily had had multiple sisters. And protected them and cared for them and was taught the obligation that you have to assist in the affection that you have for her.

At some point. He would leave a father and mother. And cleave or cling to his wife. And his wife, then. Would take the place and of, in his life of supreme sister. And so you have in the song of songs, the husband's affectionate referred reference, to his wife, as his sister.

Or you have. Um, The. Uh, apostle Paul. When he says, do i not have the right? Uh, to take a long. A sister. Who is a life? Um, And playing now not just upon family of origin sister. But Sister in the family of god fellow believer sister and the greatest sister, the closest sister In all the world.

Is his believing wife. Um, And in this case, those two things are tied together here. Say to wisdom, you are my sister and call understanding your nearest kin. And this helps us with something in. Um, Proverbs chapter 5 and 1st Corinthians chapter 7, proverbs 5. Teaches us that a man's love for his bride.

As one of the things that keeps him from sexual immorality. First corinthians chapter 7 teaches the same thing but what then do you do for a single man? What then do you do for a man who is not yet married? Well, you can tell him Um, you know, out of love for Uh, your wife whom the lord may give you and that's true.

But there is A closer marriage. Than the marriage that we have, even. With our earthly life. And that marriage is. That fellowship that we have with god in his word. And so his word ought to be precious to us and a companion to us. Always sweetening every situation that we are in.

Just like having a dear wife, can sweeten even great trials that you go through together. Uh having god himself by his word and the preciousness then of his word as the mechanism by which we have him. Even as we saw our lord jesus recently, In matthew chapter 4, in the wilderness, enjoying the fellowship that he has with his father and the sweetness of every word that proceeds from his father's mouth.

And therefore, Not vulnerable or weak before the temptation. To command the stones. To become bread. And so if god is precious to us and his word is precious to us and we're actually having this Ongoing fellowship with the word. In the way that we meditate upon. Uh, the word of god and have it within our hearts and and have our moments.

Our happy moments sweetened further by consideration of the word of god and fellowship and the pleasantness, our difficult moments sweetened to us even in the midst of the pain by the fellowship of the word of god. Then we will refuse. The false companionship. Of the immoral woman. That's a doctors who flatters with her words.

Her words were full empty. Her promises will be thin. Because of the waitiness and richness. I've enjoying god. In his word and enjoying his words.

As we walk through life. Now, that's not an either. Or of course it's a both and one of the things that God's word tells us Is that?

The prospect of a life and especially the fulfillment of a good wife is something that will Um, that will help us. It's one of the reasons, it's so devastating. Um, To a wife, when Her husband. Finds neither god in his word nor herself. Uh, Companion. To him. And, Um, gives himself to the immoral woman or this the doctors.

Who flashes with our words but wisdom? Is a life companion. That. Helps us. And In this aspect of life in particular, And some may, the lord give us to know his words to meditate upon his word. Uh, to make right application of binding, it to our fingers that is word controls everything.

We extend our hands to do. Binding it to our eyes that his word controls, how we see everything. And even what We are going to see in gaze upon. That has word would be written. On the tablets of our hearts. And that he would help us in our families.

And you, as you are growing. Desiring. One day to be a parent. To have these things. True of his word with you. So that when you speak to an instruct your children, You will instruct them from god's word, as well. And can. Urged them to obey this portion of the bible.

With respect to your own rental, instruction to your children. Man, let's pray. We thank you. Our gracious gardener heavenly Father That you have given us just now to worship you. Through this particular portion of your word. We pray. For your spirit. Not only hovers over all things. And sovereign providence, not only attends us.

In fellowship as the one who alongs is alongside us. But we pray for your Spiritu has come to dwell in our hearts because we are your children. That he would make us to know your word as your fatherly instruction to us. Then make us to receive it in and from the lord jesus, our great prophet.

As also, the king of our hearts. His law is unto us the royal law. And so help us by your spirit. We pray even after we conclude the worship. For, we ask it in jesus name. Amen.