

2021.12.21 Family Worship lesson in "the Proverb of the day"

Proverbs 21:13 • "The Proper Purpose of Things"

click bit.ly/3J8LIb8 to hear this devotional as taught in family worship (or scan QR code→)



- 13 Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding,
But a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding.
- 14 Wise people store up knowledge,
But the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

Pastor leads his family in a selection from "the Proverb of the day." In this verse of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that those whose hearts are closed to the poor have the ears of God closed to their prayers. Pastor teaches his children why this is so: believers have been brought to God to know that their own purpose, and the purpose of all that they have, is the service and enjoyment of God Himself. Since Christ Himself in our place is the only reason our prayers can be favorably heard, if we bear symptoms of being outside of Christ, we should expect that our prayers are not favorably heard—however much God's providence might correspond to what we wanted.

(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 referenced above)

Proverbs 21 verse 13 through 18.

These are the words of God so.

Let us hear them with hearts that are offered to him in worship.

Whoever shuts his ears to the crowd of the poor.

Will also cry himself and not be heard.

A gift in secret pacifies anger.

When the bride behind the back strong graph.

It is a joy for the just to do justice.

But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.

A man who wanders from the way.

Of understanding.

Will rest in the assembly.

Of the dead.

He who loves pleasure will be a poor man.

He who loves wine and oil.

Will not be rich.

So father.

Inspiring, inerrant word of God.

One of the things.

That we discover as the Lord teaches us from his word and his spirit writes on our hearts that we were created for him.

And we're redeemed for him.

Uhm, that we're not like the beasts who only enjoy created things.

But we are made in his image to know him, enjoy him and glorify him and even the enjoyability of the created things that he has given us.

As for enjoying him.

And that the proper use of them.

Is to praise him and magnify him if God is.

Your pleasure if.

God is what makes you feel satisfied and happy in life.

Then the more exalted you know him to be.

Be the more satisfied and happy you are because you are increasing.

Your view of and the display of.

And the one who is your pleasure.

So stuff, whether it's money or the beach or good food like we'll have later or whatever it is, has two primary purposes.

Uhm, the enjoyment.

Of God and the service of God.

Some of you are probably clever enough to realize that.

But that's very similar to your primary purpose man.

Chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever and stuff.

Chief End is the enjoyment of God and use for the glory of God.

One of the things that sin does, however it is.

It says I exist not to glorify God, but to glorify myself, not to serve God, but serve myself.

And I exist not to enjoy God, but to enjoy myself.

And it corrupts.

It perverts the good use of all the things that God has created to.

Be good and enjoy.

Double that, instead of enjoying those things and by doing so, enjoying how good and generous he is.

If you say my chief end is to glorify myself and enjoy myself forever, you turn God into the servant who offers up these pleasurable things so that it can satisfy.

Our self indulgence and our are in our enjoyment in.

And of itself.

Becomes its own goal.

Now when you view things that way.

You suddenly are stingy with others.

Uhm, you close your heart to the poor because you want to keep more for yourself.

You don't want to imitate your Lord.

I mean one of the reasons to be generous with the poor is because God has been generous with you.

And the thing to be most generous with the poor.

You guys know this is not just that they would have food or a little bit of money.

God forbid because most of them have gotten to be poor by what they have done with money.

But it's not just to to give them creative things.

If you know that the great gift and everything is the creator.

You want to be able to be generous with them in a way that gives you opportunity.

And along with which you can use words that proclaim the goodness of your master and offer then not just a little bit of good.

For a little while.

But perfect happiness, perfect holiness, and the inheritance of a new heaven and a new Earth forever in the Lord Jesus Christ.

To think that that is some kind of spiritualizing of how to help the poor.

Would be to admit that you don't really believe that God himself and eternity and the new heavens and the new Earth exist and are good and are the only good that that man can have.

It doesn't mean that you ignore his needs.

It means that you see his needs and your opportunity to meet his needs in.

In light of what we've been saying about the purpose of things and the enjoyment of God and the service.

God, but if we are living for ourselves, if we got caught, if we get caught up in we just enjoy good food and the only thing we're thinking about is this is, you know, this feels really sincerely nice to my taste buds, and I like the hormone release that I get.

From full feelings and so I'm going to just keep stuffing it in the food entry hole until there's no more room and enjoy myself.

Or you hoard money, or you find you know, some active.

Pretty enjoyable that hopefully is not sinful in and of itself, but the activity itself.

You just can't stop you just.

Keep doing it and doing.

It and doing it because you're doing it for the pleasurable Ness of it and not as a good thing that God has given you or whatever that view of life.

That approach to life leads to stinginess, and that's the approach to life of someone who doesn't know that God has made us for himself, doesn't know under Joyce that God has saved us for himself.

And that's why it says whoever shuts his ears.

To the cry of the poor.

Will also cry himself and not be heard.

It's not just because of the providential justice of God, where he makes in his Providence, our stinginess.

To return upon our own head and discipline, even his children.

Who have fallen?

Into the sin of stinginess and then we cry out to him, and his spirit brings to mind this text.

And and we remember aahe, my Lord is sanctifying me, making me to feel and and know how I have been to others and putting me under his hand of discipline for time.

Those things are true.

But in an ultimate sense, Proverbs 21:13 is saying.

If you shut.

Your heart to the cry of the poor.

You're showing yourself to not understand the purpose of things in relationship to enjoying God and glorifying him.

And if you.

Don't know God as your purpose and you don't know God as your joy and your pleasure.

And then you don't know him.

You don't actually have him in Christ if you don't know him.

That way, regardless of what word formulas you've spoken into the air or thought in your head.

And if you don't know God as your purpose and your pleasure, then really, he's not.

Hearing your prayers and answering them for Christ's sake.

Even if in his Providence he does things that correspond to what.

You have asked.

The only true answers to prayer are answers that come for the sake of Jesus by those who come to God in Christ and receive according to what Jesus does.

So it's very important symptom or feature of genuine faith.

That we are generous with those who are needy.

And it's an alarming symptom of spiritual illness or perhaps even unbelief and spiritual lifelessness

If we are stingy.

And closed hearted towards the poor.

There will be lots of times if you are open hearted towards them, that they're you know you can't do all that you want to do because you're not God and you don't write everything but that closed heartedness.

There's a symptom of spiritual death, and that open heartedness.

Ferocity, his symptoms, spiritual life.

Well, I had originally read through verse 17 because the rest of this passage almost all of it, deals with the right view of our things, and of the good things God has given us in the context of our relationship with him.

But I think that's.

That's a full enough instruction for one worship tone.

So let's just finish there.

Let's pray.

Our father in heaven how we thank you.

That you have no need of us creatures.

Have yet in your generosity and goodness.

Created us that you might be generous to us.

That you might give us to know you.

You might give us to.

Know ourselves to belong to you, that you might give us to enjoy you yourself and all of your created things.

That you might even give us who by our own free will have sinned and died.

And or under wrath and condemnation.

But you gave.

Uhm, for that to happen so that we might be redeemed in Christ and.

You yourself might become a man to give yourself for us on the cross and to us in our Union with him through faith and in the indwelling of your spirit then.

We bless your name, O God, for how generous you are.

And that your whole design in all of this.

Is to give yourself.

So Grant to us the ministry of your Spirit that our response would correspond to that that we would enjoy you and live for you, and that when it comes to how we view things, that our service of you and our desire to imitate you, and to see others.

Come into the knowledge of you in Christ and enjoyment of you that.

That that would dictate.

Uh, what we do as far as generosity is concerned?

Grant, we pray that your spirit would reproduce in our hearts the heart and mind of Christ.

That we would have an open soft heartedness towards them who are needy and especially the spiritually needy.

And we thank you for the opportunities that you give us and we pray that you would help us in them.

Bless now the rest of our day as we rise from the worship.

And don't let us forget what we have thought about and heard about from your word.

Well, as we worshiped you now we ask it all in Jesus name.