

# #WISDOM

PRACTICAL LIFE LESSONS FROM PROVERBS

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 29; **#WISDOM: week five: revelation**  
[exploringhope@tworiverschurch.com](mailto:exploringhope@tworiverschurch.com) (mondays @ 6:00pm).

A few years ago at the end of our service during the Communion - Commitment - Prayer time I was sitting on the front row and a guy came forward to talk to me. He came up as the band began to play the closing song.

He leaned over and told me his name, Mike Hoff, and what was going on in his life. We spoke for a few minutes and he told me he was ready to commit his life to Jesus and be baptized into Christ. And as you can imagine, I was excited and glad to be a part of what God was doing in his life.

At the end of the brief conversation I prayed for Mike.

At the end of the prayer he leaned over to me and said, "my name is Dustin... I was just making sure that your mic was off!"

**Sometimes we misunderstand things and that makes it hard to understand the truth.**

Let me give you an example from the Bible.

**Philippians 4:13**

<sup>13</sup>I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

I have seen this verse used in so many ways. From **football players** to bumper stickers the idea is usually some motivational mantra to help someone achieve their goals. Whether the goal is a touchdown or a sale it is used totally out of context.

The actual context of this verse is actually contentment, even in the midst of suffering.

### **Philippians 4:11-13**

<sup>11</sup>I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup>I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”

<sup>13</sup>I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Paul, who wrote this letter while in prison, and who had been through many trials in his life, writes this to other Christians to encourage them to keep the faith.

This is not just t-shirt material. This is real stuff that Paul has endured. And here's the secret, Paul says, to being content in all circumstances.... **Trust God!**

Has nothing to do with sales goals and touchdowns. Just to be clear, suffering is not having to take a test the first week of school! Paul was beaten, shipwrecked, abandoned, imprisoned, starved and still managed to say...

**Philippians 4:13**

<sup>13</sup>I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Poor interpretation leads to poor theology and ultimately poor understanding of what God wants for our lives.

Our text this morning is one of those passages that is often misunderstood.

**Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)**

<sup>18</sup>Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

The way Proverbs 29:18 is typically interpreted and used is a classic example of how NOT to interpret the Bible.

In other words- it has been misunderstood and has allowed us to overlook...

# HOW TO ACHIEVE A HAPPY AND BLESSED LIFE

The wording in many of our English Bibles serves as a convenient springboard for some speakers to use to express what they want to say—regardless of what Solomon actually meant.

## **Where There Is No Vision The People Perish**

“vision.”

The Hebrew word translated “vision” means revelation.

# The NIV gets it right...

## Proverbs 29:18

<sup>18</sup>Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.

It was a revelation that often came in the form of a vision or a dream. It was a communication (revelation) from God to a prophet which was intended to be delivered to the people.

The Hebrew term appears many times in the Old Testament and always refers to a vision or revelation given by God to a prophet.

It was God's message or God's Word to be delivered to the people. God was always the Source of this revelation.

Solomon is depicting a time when there is NO vision... no revelation coming from God to the people of Israel.

There were often periods of time in Israel's history when God was silent.

"No vision" spoke of a time when there was no revelation coming from God to the prophets.

During those times, the people had no word from the Lord

The word "PERISH" in the original language is the Hebrew word **pâra'**, paw-rah'; to loosen; to unbind; to let go; to expose; (used of letting down one's hair).

It also has another meaning... to be out of control; to have no restraint; to run wild; disorder.

**Proverbs 29:18 (NCV)**

<sup>18</sup>Where there is no word from God, people are uncontrolled, but those who obey what they have been taught are happy.

When God's revelation ceased in Israel, it had a detrimental effect on the nation.

- It led the people to believe that they could live unrestrained lives.
- Ex. 32:1, 25 - For example, when Moses went up on the Mount Sinai with God, and didn't come back for a while with a message from the Lord, the people felt that he would never come back. They went wild—and built idols and danced naked. They were unrestrained. There was disorder. They became like rotten fruit.

We NEED God's Word!!

**Amos 8:11**

<sup>11</sup>The days are coming," declares the Sovereign Lord, "when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord."



Amos warns of a famine of the Word of God! That will result in chaos among God's people. They starve spiritually.

### Hosea 4:6

“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. “Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.”

“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge of God.”

How awful to see the dead churches of our day. When the Word of God is no longer taught, there is disorder and a lack of restraint among the people.

## **But He That Keeps The Law Is Happy**

The one who keeps (guards; pays attention to; obeys) God's Word will NOT have a disorderly Christian life. He will not be unrestrained.

The Word has a restraining effect in our minds and hearts.

\*\*\*Have you ever driven in another country?

A couple years ago I got to visit some missionaries in Central Asia. Let me tell you, driving in other countries is very different. There are very few rules.

It seemed to me that the major rule was whoever got there first had the right of way.

There were very few, if any, traffic lights or stop signs. Lots of roundabouts.

Chaos.

It was out of control and stressful.

When you drive here in the states, there is the sense of certainty. There are lines on the roads, traffic signals, rules.

Not everyone follows those rules all the time, but there is a sense of order, not chaos. And therefore, you can have a pleasant drive or enjoy the scenery.

\*\*\*My parents (especially my dad) liked to drive places. Just to see something different. They liked to drive to a little town that maybe they had not been to before and just have lunch and then drive home.

He always told me, "if you are in a new place... look for the restaurant where all the cars are and go eat there. And order what everyone else is ordering."

They could have a pleasant drive because most roads here in the US are safe and most people are following the traffic laws.

And that's what Proverbs 29 is saying...

Instead of being unrestrained, out of control, and suffering the consequences of such behavior, the one who lives according to God's Word will be blessed.

The term translated "happy" is usually translated "blessed."

The one who obeys God's Word is blessed of God... and thus joyous and happy.

## Proverbs 29:18

<sup>18</sup>**Where there is no revelation**, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.

# LOOK TO GOD'S WORD **FOR REVELATION**

We never have to worry about God going silent anymore. We have His word to guide us. To give us his wisdom.

## Hebrews 1:1-2

<sup>1</sup>In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

There was a time when God communicated with man almost exclusively through prophets. But now, God has given us Jesus. The Hebrew writer says that Jesus is the exact representation of the Father.

In other words, if you have seen Jesus, you have seen God.

We have the opportunity to see Jesus in the pages of the Gospels.

Paul said...

**Romans 10:17**

<sup>17</sup>Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Our faith grows as we learn more and more about who Jesus is and His desire for our lives.

Paul told Timothy...

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We have every opportunity to know God and be thoroughly equipped as we study and understand God's word. All scripture is God-breathed.

We need that life being breathed into our lives. Like the person who needs CPR. We need God to breath life into us by His word.

## WITHOUT GOD'S WORD **WE PERISH**

### **Proverbs 29:18**

<sup>18</sup>Where there is no revelation, **people cast off restraint**; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.

Without God's word in our lives we are like the people in Moses day who fell right into unbridled immorality. Moses goes away for a few days and the whole camp falls into sin.

They threw off restraint. They allowed themselves to veer away from God and his word.

Some people think that Christianity is a burden. That there are too many rules, too many restrictions. But I think there is life when we remain connected to Jesus.

Jesus said...

**John 15:5-6**

<sup>5</sup>"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned."

There is life when we stay connected to Jesus and his word.

**Psalms 119:37**

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.



# HAPPINESS COMES TO THOSE WHO **RELY ON GOD'S WISDOM**

## **Proverbs 29:18**

<sup>18</sup>Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.

We should make wisdom our way of life. And not just any wisdom or conventional wisdom, but God's wisdom. For true wisdom comes from God.

The result of living by God's word is happiness. We can remove the chaos from our lives if we commit to living by God's word... by God's wisdom.

It's also our responsibility to share this way of life with others. Shouldn't we want others to know and have the happiness we have found in Christ?

\*\*\*I've been on the road several weeks this past month. And I've noticed something. LED headlights are the worst!

They are great if they are on your car. They light up the road in front of you like daytime.

But if someone with LED lights is behind you or coming at you... you can't see anything. My move when someone is behind me with LED lights is to just let off the gas until the car passes me. (I don't care if I come to a complete stop on the highway).

I can't see anything when that car is behind me.

Sometimes I think that's what we do with the message of Christ. He is the light of the world. And that light dispels darkness. But that doesn't mean we need to shine it right in the eyes of those who need it.

It's not our job to expose someone else or blind them.

The only way LED lights can help someone else is if you come along beside them.

**Psalm 119:105**

<sup>105</sup>Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

It's our job to light the path before us and to share God's wisdom to help light their path as well.

Our message is too important to be misunderstood.

Pray.

COMMUNION - COMMITMENT - PRAYER

INVITATION:

We are going to end our service today with a time of Communion, Commitment and Prayer.

**Faith, Repentance, Baptism.**