

Live Responsibly – Proverbs: Wisdom for Life.

Proverbs 6:1-19

Sunday: 10/20/24 – Pastor Lenard Tavernelli

You can live wisely by being responsible with finances, working diligently, and protecting harmony among God's people

Overview

This week Pastor Lenard shared very practical truths from Proverbs 6:1-19. In this passage we see Solomon continue in his parental instruction on wisdom to his son. Pastor Lenard pointed out the three spheres of instruction in this passage; finances, work, and harmony in the church. In the realm of finances, we see the importance and wisdom of not cosigning for others. We learned that we can be tied to this debt and slave to it. In the passage we saw the encouragement to take extreme action to free oneself. In work, we were encouraged to work as unto the Lord and to not allow ourselves to rationalize a lazy approach to life. We were reminded that work is something God has gifted us and that he loves our work. From the humble ant we see that the believer should not need a task master to do a good job, that we should work diligently, and plan for the future. In regards to harmony amongst God's people, Solomon provides clear language to show the danger of allowing a self-centered and divisive person in the community of faith. Pastor Lenard pointed out the structure of the text that the description of verse 16-19 describes the person to avoid and that verse 19, the last statement, is the area being emphasized. We were reminded that we should not be that person. These three lessons are a continuance of the instruction to seek wisdom and to live responsibly.

Sermon Outline

1. Manage Responsibly (V1-5): *Proverbs 22:7b*
2. Work Diligently (V6-11): *Genesis 2:15, Colossians 3:23-24, Proverbs 13:4 & 22:13, 18:9, 19:24, 1 Thessalonians 5:14, 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12*
3. Protect Harmony (v12-19): *Proverbs 22:10, Romans 16:17-18, Titus 3:10-11, Colossians 2:14-*

Discussion Questions

1. In this very practical message Pastor Lenard spoke of our culture of irresponsible finances and rampant debt in our culture. This can be a very sensitive area to discuss, only answer if comfortable.
 - a. Can you share a time when you made an irresponsible financial decision and how it negatively impacted your life?
 - b. Can you share a time when someone wiser than you saved you from making a poor financial decision? Were you reluctant to listen and what was the outcome?
2. Verses 1-5 address what actions we should take if we make the financial blunder of cosigning for a neighbor or a stranger. Our response is to be very aggressive to free ourselves from the problem.
 - a. How would you describe personal responsibility from this text? Can you think of other biblical passages that speak to our personal responsibility?
3. The passage has a strong emphasis on describing the dangerous and "worthless person" in verses 12-19. Pastor Lenard also gave an example of how to stop gossip and the reminder that we are to not be that person.
 - a. What is at the heart of this behavior?
 - b. What are some of the subtle ways we can fall into what is described in verses 12-19?
 - c. What steps do we need to take to guard ourselves from this?
4. Did anything else stand out in the passage or message?