



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - Proverbs Study

Week 4 - Day 3

Approaching God

Psalm 91:5-6; 14-15 - *For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease. He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection. The LORD says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them.*

Prayer: Lord, I value worldly things over grace, love, and holiness, so I am too discouraged by troubles and trials. They can harm my false self - the one built on appearance, social status, and human approval. But they can't harm my true identity as your child. They can only make me stronger. Teach me how to grow into your likeness in my afflictions. Amen

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Proverbs 23:1-18

Passage Introduction: Sayings of the Wise - Part 2

Envy in vs. 17 stems from two preoccupations. First, we are obsessed with what we deserve. Our hearts refuse to remember grace and instead think only of what we have earned. Second, we are preoccupied with the present. The solution is to look up to the Lord (23:17b) and look ahead in hope (23:18). That is, we should realize that our true reward is based on God's grace. Also we should remember that in the end, believers will not lack anything (Psalm 17:15).

Proverbs 23:1-18 - NIV

1 When you sit to dine with a ruler, note well what is before you, **2** and put a knife to your throat if you are given to gluttony. **3** Do not crave his delicacies, for that food is deceptive. **4** Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness. **5** Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle. **6** Do not eat the food of a begrudging host, do not crave his delicacies; **7** for he is the kind of person who is always thinking about the cost. "Eat and drink," he says to you, but his heart is not with you. **8** You will vomit up the little you have eaten and will have wasted your compliments. **9** Do not speak to fools, for they will scorn your prudent words. **10** Do not move an ancient boundary stone or encroach on the fields of the fatherless, **11** for their Defender is strong; he will take up their case against you. **12** Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge. **13** Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish them with the rod, they will not die. **14** Punish them with the rod and save them from death. **15** My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad indeed; **16** my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right. **17** Do not let your heart

envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD. **18** There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

Daily Study Questions

Christians have a way of “looking up” that Proverbs could not provide. Jesus did not complain about experiencing death when he deserved life—all so we could have life when we deserved death. Jesus was the most unenvious human being who ever lived. When you realize what he did for you, it will begin to erode your envy. If he didn’t complain when he received a life infinitely worse than he deserved, why should we complain when all of us get a life infinitely better than we deserve?

- Can you see how much less you enjoy life because you think so much about what you deserve? How can you use the gospel—the example of Jesus—to help you stop that?
- What 1 or 2 principles do you observe in this section?
- When in your life or the life of someone else have you seen this observation illustrated?
- How can you put this observation or principle into practice?

Close in Prayer: Lord Jesus, you did not deserve the death you got—but you did not begrudge it. And I do not deserve the salvation I got through your suffering, but you do not begrudge that either. I praise you for your generous spirit and ask that you reproduce it in me. Amen.