



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - Proverbs Study

Week 4 - Day 2

Approaching God

Psalm 91:3-4 - *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.*

Prayer: The second metaphor of protection in Psalm 91 is that of a mother bird gathering her brood underneath her wings. Rather than the tough exterior of a fortress wall, the wings of a bird are essentially fragile. Her young are sheltered from heat or rain and cold by bearing them close to her breast. This morning praise God for a different kind of protection, that of a tender and intimate parent who sacrifices for their children.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Proverbs 22:17-29

Passage Introduction: Sayings of the Wise - Part 1

The Thirty Sayings of “the Wise.” This section easily divides into 30 discrete teachings, as indicated in 22:20, and these reflect an awareness of the Egyptian wisdom text, *The Instruction of Amenemope*, dated to about 1250 B.C. Clearly this section in Proverbs did not slavishly copy *Amenemope*, but there are many affinities in content. The most significant difference between the two is the devotion to the Lord exhibited in Proverbs.

Proverbs 22:17-29 - NIV

17 Pay attention and turn your ear to the sayings of the wise; apply your heart to what I teach, **18** for it is pleasing when you keep them in your heart and have all of them ready on your lips. **19** So that your trust may be in the LORD, I teach you today, even you. **20** Have I not written thirty sayings for you, sayings of counsel and knowledge, **21** teaching you to be honest and to speak the truth, so that you bring back truthful reports to those you serve? **22** Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, **23** for the LORD will take up their case and will exact life for life. **24** Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, **25** or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared. **26** Do not be one who shakes hands in pledge or puts up security for debts; **27** if you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you. **28** Do not move an ancient boundary stone set up by your ancestors. **29** Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank.

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words. What words or ideas are repeated, related, compared, contrasted? What key themes stand out to you?

Daily Study Questions

The Goodness of Anger (Prov. 22:14) God himself is a God of wrath. St. Paul tells us not to sin in our anger (Ephesians 4:26), meaning that there is a proper place for it. So anger is not itself something bad but very quickly goes bad in us. Anger is energy released to defend something you love. God is angry toward the evil that dishonors him and ruins that which he loves. But the problem with human anger is this—we tend to overlove the wrong things. It is not wrong to value your name and reputation, but if you love them too much, there will be inordinate anger that essentially is just a defending of your ego. Parents may get inordinately angry at children mainly because the children embarrassed them before others. Because our loves are confused and out of order, our anger—basically a good thing—so often does evil. We need to look to the one whose anger was always guided by love not for himself but for us (Mark 3:5; John 2:14–17).

Keller, Timothy. God's Wisdom for Navigating Life

- Think of the last time you got really angry. What were you defending?

- 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, it is a sin for me to not get angry at the wrongs done to others. But I don't do that. Instead I get angry when my will is crossed. Help me learn to get angry at sin, not at sinners—at the problems, not the persons. Amen.