

Sunday, Mar 10

Read— Romans 4:13–25

Items for Prayer

- Mike, Marie, and Tsholo Brunk- South Africa—Pray for wisdom as we put together our furlough presentation
- Sunday Services- Heartfelt Worship
- We would minister to one another for the unity, maturity, protection, and growth of our church (Eph 4:12-16)
- We would exalt the Lord Jesus Christ as we gather in public worship, Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor 14:24-25; Col 3:1

Orwell Bible Church

Daily Devotional

March 4- March 10, 2019

www.orwellbible.org

*“That in all things He may have the preeminence...
presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus” Col 1:18, 28*

Wielding the Word

**“Put on the whole armor of God,
that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil,”**

Ephesians 6:11

What Did Jesus Command for the Protection of the Gospel and His Church?

1. The Character of Christ’s Message and Church
2. **The Threat to Christ’s Message and Church**
 - 1) Satan is constantly at work seeking to dilute and destroy Christianity (Eph 6:12)
 - 2) Satan deceptively twists and perverts the Christian faith through his ministers; biblical terms are used but their God-given meanings are gutted and changed. This is called apostasy, false teaching, and heresy (2 Cor 11:13-15; 1 Tim 4:1).
 - 3) Satan injects the cancer of apostasy into the body of Christ in order to corrupt and destroy the truth Christ has entrusted to them (2 Tim 2:17).
 - 4) Sadly there are many Christians and Christian ministries that partner with apostates, false teachers, and heretics

Monday, Mar 4

Proverbs 8:1-11

In this talk wisdom speaks as if it were a person (this is called “personification”). “Wisdom” doesn’t tell us everything about her, just her key, important characteristics and how vital she is to living life by the fear of the Lord. This talk says that heeding God’s wisdom is vital for living in God’s world. “Wisdom” gives a bit of autobiography, insisting that life must be lived from her viewpoint. In other words, you must live from God’s viewpoint. She first says “*Everyone, listen to me!*” (vv. 1-5). No matter who you are or where you are in life, you must listen to wisdom, especially when you face different paths to take (2b). Wisdom is for everyone, even (especially!) for the simpleton (vv. 4-5). It can be known and understood, it’s not just for “smart” people. No one has any excuse. Second, “Wisdom” says “*Here’s why you should listen to me!*” (vv. 6-11) Wisdom’s pure, free-from-error character is described in vv. 6-8. Can this be said of anything or anyone in this world? No! What is required to find wisdom? You must work hard to understand and find it (9), and value it more than anything in this world (10-11). If you have wisdom but not wealth you have everything, but if you have wealth but not wisdom you have nothing (cp. Mark 8:34-37). That is what God says, but the world says the opposite. Whom will you believe?

1. Why do so many professing Christians not devote themselves to seeking and finding Christ’s wisdom? Is the problem with God? With the availability of wisdom?
2. Gaining God’s wisdom requires faith in Jesus Christ, searching the Scriptures, and praying in faith for it. No money is needed! What *specific* actions are you taking to find it?
3. Compare the character of wisdom’s words (7-9) with the world’s wisdom through books, music, videos, etc. Which do you know more of? How will that affect your outlook on life?
4. What is the end result of a life characterized by wickedness? Of righteousness? What role does wisdom have in this?
5. Is wealth truly *essential* for life, along the lines of air, food, shelter, and clothing?

Friday, Mar 8

Read— **Romans 4:1–12**

Items for Prayer

- Tom, Stephanie, Daniela, Nino, Angelo & Gabriella Boehm- Italy— Praise the Lord that we now have a legal rental contract for our building and can now put up a sign
- Believers will grow more like Christ and less like the world through the Spirit’s help and personal discipline
- Wisdom and provision for a permanent meeting house
- We would establish churches of like faith and practice at home and abroad, Matt 28:19-20; Acts 14:21-23

Saturday, Mar 9

Read— **Romans 4:13–25**

Items for Prayer

- Brian, Erin, Isabel, Emmett, Arthur, Owen, and Baby Bollon-Taiwan—Pray for our children not to be resentful of the changes in our lives.
- God would bless His Word, answer our prayers, and use our lives and public service for the salvation of souls and the increase and strengthening of His church.
- OBC men and women would grow in grace, fulfill their roles and responsibilities in their homes, and minister to our church body by word and example
- We would earnestly contend for the faith which was once handed down to the saints, Phil 1:27; 1 Tim 6:12; Jude 3

Thursday, Mar 7

Proverbs 8:32-36

“Wisdom” closes her autobiography with an admonition: “Listen to me, or else!” There are definite responsibilities with definite results, both positive (32b, 34–35) and negative (36). What you will experience (blessing and life or pain and death) match up with what you do with wisdom. As you read verses 32–34, did you “hear” the beginning of the chapter? Note especially vv. 3 and 34! Life belongs to those who listen to God’s wisdom with obedience (32), love, respect, and approval (33), and constant, expectant attention (34). To experience pain and death all you need do is ignore Wisdom, disdain and sinning against her. You might wonder how “wisdom” can be sinned against (v. 36); remember from yesterday’s devotional that wisdom is an attribute of God. We know God by and from his attributes; he is what his attributes are. If you reject and disdain God’s wisdom, you’re rejecting and showing contempt for *him*, and when you sin against the Lord you wrong your own soul. Dear friend, listening to wisdom is vital for living in God’s world!

1. God’s blessing doesn’t rest on one who merely *hears* his Word. What is necessary? (v. 32b; cf. Matt 7:24–27)
2. There are only two responses to God’s wisdom in his Word, obedient, loving approval or sinful, hateful disdain. How are you responding? How you live is the answer!
3. Regular, continual, daily listening is required (vv. 32–34). Why?
4. Why is it that if one hates the Lord he loves death (v. 36)?

Read— Romans 3:21–31

Items for Prayer

- Dan, Amy, Joshua, Emma, and Genevieve Baker- Australia—Pray that Queensland will approve our homeschooling applications.
- Financial Stability
- Prayer and financial support of missionaries
- We would equip believers to do the work of the ministry for the maturity, protection, and growth of the body, Eph 4:11-16; Heb 5:12-14

Read— Romans 2:1–16

Items for Prayer

- Chris, Heidi, Rachel, Isaac, Susanna, Titus, and Seth Seawright- Thailand—Pray for wisdom as we decide which Thai church to attend.
- Persecuted Brothers and Sisters in Christ (Heb 13:3)
- God would provide the men we need for our spiritual growth
- We would glorify God as Christ’s church, Rom 16:27; Eph 3:21; Phil 4:20; 1 Tim 1:17; 2 Tim 4:18; Heb 13:21; 1 Pet 4:11; 5:11; 2 Pet 3:18; Jude 24-25; Rev 1:6

Tuesday, Mar 5

Proverbs 8:12-21

“Wisdom” continues her autobiography detailing why listening to her is vital for living in God’s world by specifying why she is essential to everyday life, detailing her character (12-14), effect (15-16), and blessings (17-21). What does “Wisdom” say about her character? Only God’s wisdom can help you make sensible, level-headed, carefully considered decisions in everyday life (v. 12, “prudence, knowledge, discretion”). Only wisdom teaches “the fear of the Lord” that results in a right attitude and action toward sin and wickedness (v. 13). You will loathe evil when you live in awe of God. What does “Wisdom” say about her effects (15-16)? Wisdom is the correct, skillful application of God’s truth to life. Everyone needs this, but those making decisions affecting many others (“kings, rulers, princes, nobles, judges”) have more detailed and complex issues than a store clerk or garbage man. The point here is that God’s wisdom effectively helps every believer fulfill their roles and responsibilities in a Christ-like manner. What does “Wisdom” say about her blessings (17-21)? When you live by the fear of the Lord in this world, generally speaking you’ll enjoy many good things in this life. This was particularly so when the Mosaic Covenant was in effect, as Israelites enjoyed definite material blessings when they obeyed the Law (cf. Deut 28:1–14). The blessings listed in Prov 8:18–21 are so because of wisdom’s character (v. 20). Listening to God is vital for living in God’s world!

1. Is the Bible your ready and regular “go-to” for the “how-to’s” of life?
2. Do you hate evil (v. 13)? If you don’t feel revulsion about sin, what does that say about the level of your fear of the Lord?
3. Your needed resource for life is found with Christ, in the fear of the Lord. He can help you in every circumstance and situation.
4. Where does the world say to look to enjoy life? Where does the Lord say to look (v. 20)? Whom will and do you believe?
5. Do you love the Lord (v. 21)? What’s the difference between being an *acquaintance* and in *love*?

Read— **Romans 2:17–29**

Items for Prayer

- Kevin, Jenny, Elijah, Silas, Grace & Noelle in Central Asia—Pray for native believers we can partner with to plant a church
- Peniel Bible Camp
- Those who have trusted Christ would be baptized and join the church
- We would evangelize the lost through personal witness and public preaching of the Gospel, Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15; Jude 22-23

Wednesday, Mar 6

Proverbs 8:22-31

Here “Wisdom” gives autobiographical details about herself to prove why listening to her is vital for living in God’s world, pointing out that God used wisdom to create everything (vv. 22–31). First, she says, “Listen to me, because I’ve been around forever,” (vv. 22–26). Wisdom has existed before anything existed: earth, depths, foundations, mountains, hills, fields, dust, the stars and planets in the heavens, the clouds, and seas. The reason wisdom is eternal is because wisdom is an attribute of God—he is all-wise (Rom 11:33). Think about this: God knows *exactly* the right way to use his infinite knowledge. He never has been “stumped,” nor has he ever said “oops.” Second, “Wisdom” says, “When it comes to living life, listen to me, as I was essential to the creation of everything,” (vv. 27–31). Everything God created was perfect and exactly as he thought it should be. Thus, at the end of God’s creative work the assessment was that “God saw

everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good” (Gen 1:31). Since God’s wisdom was essential to his creative work, you must have God’s wisdom to correctly live in God’s creation. No one knows life in this world better than the Creator!

1. Have you ever listened to a symphony? Most orchestras have 50–100 members. You might know a little about music, but could you correctly and skillfully apply that knowledge for dozens of players so that the music is beautiful and harmonious? Now, think about *everything in creation!*
2. What should you think about the God who “orchestrated” creation?
3. How should you respond to the “sheet music” God has given for living life as it should be (the Bible)?
4. What happens when you don’t follow the “sheet music” God has given? How serious can the consequences be?
5. How does a musician improve? Practice, practice, practice! The more you listen to the Lord, the more skillful you’ll live life. What kind of effort are you devoting to that?

Read— **Romans 3:1–20**

Items for Prayer

- Izaac, Kim, Ashlyn, Brenna, and Carson VanderSchel- Camp—Pray that the Lord will be working in the hearts of future staff, that they will be seeking the Lord.
- Wednesday Night Bible Study/Prayer Meeting
- Wisdom for church leadership
- We would edify believers through the systematic teaching of the Bible public worship, ministry of believers, observance of the ordinances, and administration of biblical discipline, Acts 2:42- 47; 9:31; 1 Cor 14:26