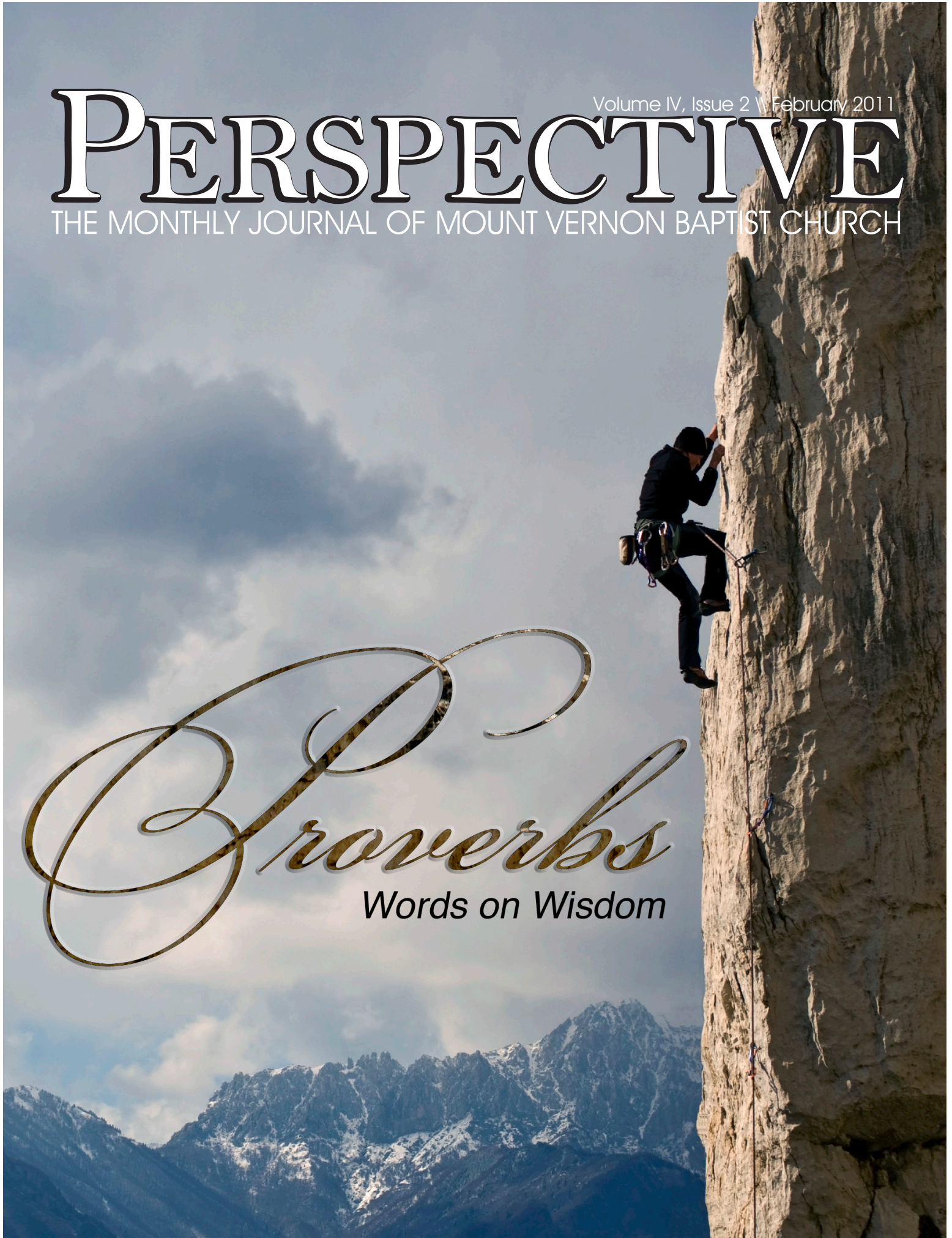


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PERSPECTIVE

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF MOUNT VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH

Proverbs
Words on Wisdom





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STAFF > SERMON SCHEDULE

- February 6** **You Have Work to Do**
2 Thessalonians 3:6-18
- February 13** **Yes, He Is the Son**
John 5:1-18
- February 20** **Yes, He Is the Judge**
John 5:19-30
- February 27** **Yes, He Is the Servant**
John 5:31-40

> FIGHTER VERSE

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he love us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:9-11

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Knowing the Body Our Newest Members

The following people were voted into membership on January 30 at the regularly scheduled Church in Conference. Please be sure to get to know and love them.

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." - John 13:35



Andrew Armstrong

Atlanta, GA



Sherry Gill

Atlanta, GA



Patrick & Elizabeth Hearn

Atlanta, GA



Chris & Suzanne Millen

Nate, Andrew

Chamblee, GA



Jo Johnson

Atlanta, GA



Daniel Spratlin

Marietta, GA



Debra Swann

Smyrna, GA

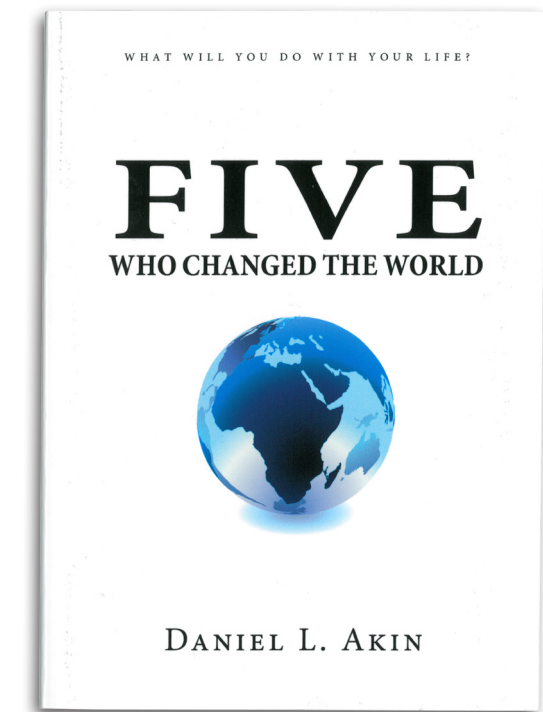
Not Pictured:
Doug & Alicia Young
Sadie, Andrew, Noel, Providence

Marietta, GA



Bradley Thomas

Atlanta, GA



Five Who Changed the World

by Daniel L. Akin

Reviewed by Jacob Hall

Pastor Aaron recently preached from 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 about how the Gospel will spread. He noted that it will spread through faithful Christians, faithful churches, and ultimately because it is the desire of our faithful God to see the Gospel spread to all nations. It is, after all, His Gospel. This truth has very real and practical implications for our lives. For some of us that means we need to “go.” We need to pray and discern whether or not God may actually be calling us to leave all that we know to see the Gospel spread. The thought of leaving the familiar for the unfamiliar, the security of home for the insecurity of a new world, is frightening. You know your inadequacies and shortcomings and may wonder how God could use you. But your fears and anxiety may be turned to joy and confidence as you read of God’s faithfulness through the pages of history.

Danny Akin, the President of The Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, challenged students and faculty to this same commitment when he delivered a sermon series that weaved biblical passages with the biographies of five missionaries. *Five Who Changed The World* shows from real life, historical examples that one person can make a difference for eternity. The five missionaries Akin noted were William Carey, Adoniram Judson, Bill Wallace, Charlotte “Lottie” Moon, and Jim Elliot. Below is a summary of each missionary.

William Carey. Akin notes that Carey might have been the greatest missionary since the time of the apostles (5). Carey was a man of modest means. Akin notes that the resume of Carey would be quite unimpressive. He had little education and no political influence. Yet, he is known as the father of modern missions. Carey studied the Scriptures and was enthralled with the Great Commission and its implications. Akin quotes Carey’s

notes on Matthew 28, “This commission was as extensive as possible, and laid them under obligation to disperse themselves into every country to the habitable globe, and preach to all inhabitants, without exception or limitation” (6). Carey took these words so literally that he felt a stirring grow in his soul and desired to take the Gospel to the nations.

Carey continued to study the Scriptures and followed their commands. He decided that he was going to obey the authoritative plan of God or disobey. Carey obeyed. He packed his family up, moved them to India, and served there until his death on his 70th birthday. His list of accomplishments is too numerous for a small space such as this review. But his greatest influence was in taking the Gospel to India and leading the Protestant mission movement. The following missionaries were, in part, following Carey’s example. Carey is probably best known for saying “Attempt great things for God, expect great things from God.”

Adoniram and Ann Judson. Adoniram Judson was the first American Baptist missionary. Akin includes a substantial amount of personal information regarding the Judson’s. He condenses a biography of Judson that is over 500 pages into a handful of paragraphs. The most inspiring aspect of Judson’s story is the letter Adoniram wrote to his future father-in-law asking for Ann’s hand in marriage. He states that he most likely will not ever see his daughter again, and that he could take comfort knowing that his daughter would be in service to Christ. Judson was sadly correct about his prediction. His bride Anne died in Burma, where the Judson’s began their ministry. Ann’s death was not the only hardship Adoniram faced, as he spent a good bit of time in and out of prison because the Burmese government was distrusted Americans. They experienced God’s

grace of perseverance through long stays in prison and in the midst of trials.

Throughout the course of his ministry, Judson translated the Bible into Burmese, wrote an English/Burmese grammar, and sought to proclaim the Gospel among the Karen people of Burma. Akin notes Judson did not see immediate fruit, but today there are over 150,000 believers in the regions of Burma that Judson ministered. Judson died on April 12, 1850 off the coast of Japan seeking medical treatment.

Bill Wallace. William “Bill” Wallace was born in 1908 and was the son of a Tennessee physican. At the age of 17, he asked, “What should I do with my life? No, what would God have me do with my life?” Following in his father’s footsteps, Wallace resolved to become a medical missionary. After completing his education, which took him 10 years, he prepared to go overseas. While working at a hospital in Knoxville, Wallace wrote a letter to the Foreign Mission Board (now the International Mission Board) explaining his desire to serve overseas as a medical missionary. What is most interesting in his letter is he was “not a good speaker or apt as a teacher” but felt that the Lord would use his medical training for the glory of God. Upon being commissioned by the Foreign Mission Board, Wallace began working in a hospital in Wuchow, China. After the communists bombed the hospital he served in, Wallace was forced to move up river to a different location to work and would as long as he was able. (42).

Ignoring all earthly pursuits and passions, Wallace forsook numerous things to go to China; money and marriage included. In many ways, Wallace had already died to this life and was living for Christ while on earth. Through starvation, imprisonment, and war, Wallace served the Chinese people as a doctor and missionary. He died a martyr’s death when his communist captors tortured him in an effort to get Wallace to recant his teachings and work. But they misjudged his devotion to King Jesus. Wallace endured the brutality and beatings without renouncing Christ, and on February 10, 1951 Wallace died from his injuries. Akin notes that Wallace was a living breathing 20th century example of Paul’s words “to Live is Christ, to die is gain.”

Lottie Moon. Most Baptists know the name Lottie Moon, but many are unaware of her ministry. Among her many

accomplishments, Moon served as a tutor and schoolteacher for Chinese girls in the town of Tengchow. She used her role as a teacher evangelistically in the homes of Chinese families.

Lottie was born into a wealthy aristocratic family in Virginia before the Civil War. After the war her family’s income and wealth dropped dramatically. This was the first event in her riches to rags story of self-sacrifice. She moved to China and began to serve, often without any other Christians in the area and in sacrifice to her own health. Much like Wallace, Moon forsook all the pleasures and conveniences a comfortable American life for the sake of the Gospel. She is reported to have traveled many miles in an effort to stop the persecution of other Christians. Her grace towards the persecuting crowds was so impressive that they inquired of her faith and wanted to know about Jesus.

Akin includes some information about Moon that speaks to her commitment to the truth of the Gospel. Crawford Toy approached her for marriage, but she turned him down because he had fallen into liberal German historical criticism. Moon wanted no part of his denial of the historicity of the Scriptures. Moon died a frail fifty pounds because she consistently refused her food portions that they might go to feed others. Moon is remembered by the testimony of the Chinese women she helped as they recalled “how she loved us.”

Jim Elliot. Jim Elliot is most likely the best-known missionary of the 20th century. Elliot was a graduate of Wheaton College, and embarked on a one-way trip to the Amazon for the proclamation of the Gospel along with four friends from Wheaton. In 1956, Elliot and his four companions were martyred at the hands of the very people to whom they were ministering. Elliot’s life ended, but the work of Christ did not. Through the sacrifice of Elliot, and the forgiving nature of his family, the Auca Indians forsook their violent ways and trusted Christ. Akin ends with a journal entry from Elliot that states, “He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

But Akin concludes by noting that all have one thing in common—they valued the lordship of Christ and his Gospel above all else. Their own lives were of secondary importance, and the Lord used them in a mighty way because they were not concerned about their own outcome. May we have that same outlook and a similar impact. ■

DID JESUS SAY GOD?

Starting in February, Pastor Aaron will be leading us through a four-part sermon series through the fifth chapter of the Gospel of John.

Each sermon will be available online the Monday after it is delivered through the Mount Vernon podcast on iTunes or the church’s website at www.mvbchurch.org. Sermons will also be available on CD for \$5 per copy.

Proverbs

Words on Wisdom



There are so many possible answers to the question, “What is wisdom?” Some say it is the accumulation of knowledge. A senior Harvard professor comes to mind. Others describe wisdom as an enlightened state of being. You might think of the Buddha or the Dalai Lama. Warren Buffet, with his uncanny ability to invest, represents another face of wisdom. Then there are those marked by plain common sense: people with street smarts, who know how to get around and how to get things done.

But none of these answers get to the heart of the kind of wisdom we find on display in the Old Testament book of Proverbs. There, wisdom is intensely practical. According to one author, “wisdom is the art of being successful, of forming the correct plan to gain the desired results.” In other words, God has laid out in His Word a certain way to live. Those who follow this way are wise, and they will enjoy spiritual success. This is what the ancient book of Proverbs is about (see, especially Proverbs 3:19; 8). It consists of thirty-one chapters mainly written by Solomon around 3,000 years ago. Solomon was the king of Israel who prayed for and received wisdom (1 Kings 3). Proverbs is a collection of his short, wise sayings. Those sayings are called proverbs. We have these words on wisdom so that we might, as it says in Proverbs 1:2, attain “wisdom and discipline.” Here, and throughout the book, we see the very practical nature of wisdom: it is not about head knowledge but about a disciplined life.

From the book of Proverbs, we learn how to live the wise life, which is the good life. How should we speak? How should we work? How should we view wealth? What is a friend? What is a biblical family? This is the practical wisdom that Proverbs provides. In this article, though, I want to begin by giving us a sense of the whole; the major thrust or theme of the book—wisdom, itself.

Before I begin to unpack this theme, there is one crucial bit we need to understand whenever we come to the book of Proverbs. In fact, if we fail to understand this point, the book will make no sense to us. What we find in Proverbs are not *particular promises that always hold true but general patterns that often hold true*. For example, Solomon often writes that if you are hard working, you will reap the benefits of your labor. This is a general principle. Solomon is not interested in the exception! That’s what the book of Job is for. You remember Job, don’t you? He was a very godly man and yet he lost everything. There appeared to be no rhyme or reason to his loss. He did nothing specific to deserve his tragedy. Sometimes wisdom teaches that suffering is inexplicable. This is not, however, what Proverbs is about. Proverbs is not about the suffering (or the blessings) that defy explanation. Just the opposite! Proverbs is about the results that typically follow the decisions we make. Proverbs is about the general patterns that often hold true.

Keeping this overarching principle in mind will help us to understand the main theme of Proverbs. It’s all about wisdom and its quite simple. There are two main lessons about wisdom we learn in the book of Proverbs.

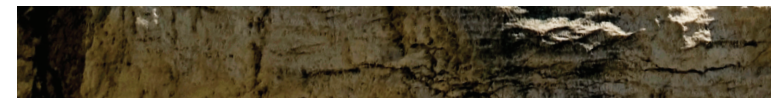
If you choose to be a fool you will suffer and die.

Solomon paints a picture of folly, which leads to death. The fool is someone committed to sin. Look at Proverbs 1:10, “My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them.” These “sinners” bring trouble to themselves and everyone around them. Verse 18, “These men lie in wait for their own blood; they waylay only themselves! Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the lives of those who get it.” In short, sin leads to death. We see the same idea in chapter two: “Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse, who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways” (2:10-13). Folly is portrayed as an adulteress, wooing men away from holiness: “For her house leads down to death and her paths to the spirits of the dead. None who go to her return or attain the paths of life” (2:18-19).

Most of Proverbs is about a father teaching his son. Thus, there are many descriptions of sexual immorality. It is important for children to read Proverbs so that they can better understand the importance of listening to their parents. Again and again, Solomon tells his son to take sin seriously because it is dangerous:

For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life, keeping you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of the wayward wife. Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes, for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and the adulteress preys upon your very life. Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? So is he who sleeps with another man’s wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished (Prov. 6:23-29).

We may not always see it, but sin is dangerous and must not be taken lightly. Last summer I had a Red Oak cut down in my backyard. Overall, the tree looked pretty good. There were a couple of sickly branches but the trunk was tall and strong. Just to be safe, though, we took it down. This was a good decision. We soon saw that the stump was entirely rotted out. The tree looked fine on the outside but on the inside it was falling apart. What if we had decided the tree was fine? The next windstorm might have knocked it onto our house! What if we decide to take sin lightly? It may very well come back to bite us—in this life! Sometimes this is obvious, like a politician who accepts bribes and winds up spending a few years in jail. Don’t be surprised if you see the effects of sin in your life *today*.



Until we believe that sin leads down to the chamber of death, we will never be holy.



Solomon does more than teach that sin is dangerous, he teaches that it is attractive, too. In chapter seven he tells the story of a fool, “a youth who lacked judgment.” When it was dark he made his way to a woman’s home—a place he should not be. She is dressed to kill, ready to seduce. In these verses, wisdom (personified as a woman) sees the boy attracted and unaware of the danger before him:

At the window of my house I looked out through the lattice. I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who lacked judgment. He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in.

Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute with crafty intent. (She is loud and defiant, her feet never stay at home; now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.) She took hold of him and kissed him and with a brazen face she said: “I have fellowship offerings at home; today I have fulfilled my vows. So I came out to meet you; I looked for you and have found you! I have covered my bed with colored linens from Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. Come, let’s drink deeply of love till morning; let’s enjoy ourselves with love. My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey. He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon (Prov. 7:6-20).

Solomon wants his son to understand that sin is attractive. She wants the youth to know this isn't a one-night-stand: this is true love. And the invitation comes with the promise they won't get caught. The husband is gone and won't be back for quite some time. These are the persuasive words of sin. Proverbs 5:3, "For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil." But here's the catch: sin lies. Verse 4, "but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword."

One reason I love reading the Bible is because it is an honest book. It tells it like it is. This is exactly what we need. It is too easy to think that sin is less dangerous than it really is. It is too easy to become convinced by sin's persuasive words to give in. The Bible fights against this. Scripture reveals the ugly fangs of sin that are, too often, hidden behind lips that drip honey.

A few months ago, driving along the highway, I saw an anti-drug billboard. The message is too graphic to repeat. Suffice it to say that the backers of the message did everything they could to portray the danger of drug use. As of 2010, eight states, including Georgia, had signed on to something called the Meth Project. This is a campaign to reduce the number of first-time users of the highly addictive and dangerous drug, methamphetamine. According to the Meth Project website, the majority of U.S. counties list Meth as their number one drug problem. From 2004-2007, 45 states reported a 90% increase in Meth-related crimes. In 2005 citizens in Montana were tired of seeing their youth eaten alive by Meth. They decided to do something. They designed graphic, disturbing television and print ads to show how Meth will ruin your life. It seems to be working; first-time Meth use in Montana declined 63%. The genius of the campaign is its ability to communicate to youth the message, "You *think* Meth use will make you better. In *reality*, it will kill you."



Proverbs isn't about you, it's about Jesus Christ.



Let's call Proverbs, then, the "Sin project." Solomon graphically portrays the danger of sin so his own son will come to hate it. Remember that youth who found his way to the house of the prostitute? Here's how the story ends:

With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk. All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life (Prov. 7:21-23).

We will not take Christianity seriously, the Bible seriously, Jesus seriously until we take our sin seriously. Until we believe that sin leads down to the chamber of death, we will never be holy. And until we understand the horror of rejecting God, we will never appreciate the tragedy of Christ's death on the Cross. So, if we choose to be foolish, we will suffer and die. A sobering thought. There is, however, another way.

If you choose to be wise you will prosper and live.

Solomon tells us that folly leads to suffering and death but wisdom leads to prosperity and life. It is not enough to say that

folly *fails*—we must also speak the parallel truth that wisdom *works*. "For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones" (Prov. 2:6-8). In short, if you are wise it will go well for you.

This is a general pattern that usually holds true in the present and always holds true in the future. "Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine" (Prov. 3:7-10). I can't promise you that if you give faithfully to the work of the Lord here at Mount Vernon Baptist Church, you will thrive financially. There are exceptions! But I can say this—we worship a God who knows your heart and your priorities. He is not blind. He wants you to see that everything you have belongs to Him, and He wants you to honor Him with your resources.

If you do this, He will take care of you. These verses are hard for us, but this is how Jesus taught. Listen to Matthew 5:31, "So do not worry, saying 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." It is our responsibility to depend upon God, to be wise, to trust him. We have every reason to believe that our righteousness will be rewarded.

As Christians we know that we can also expect suffering. "Blessed are you," Jesus preached, "when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven" (Matthew 5:11-12). There is no guarantee of an earthly reward. There is every guarantee of a heavenly reward. But that is not what Proverbs promises. Solomon is simply teaching that when we follow God's plan we can expect God's blessings here and then. Proverbs is not addressing the exceptions, those moments when godliness seems to be rewarded with pain.

A famous author, Robert Louis Stevenson, loved to make fun of this idea. He wrote a short poem called "The System":

*Every night my prayers I say,
And get my dinner every day;
And every day that I've been good,
I get an orange after food.*

*The child that is not clean and neat,
With lots of toys and things to eat,
He is a naughty child, I'm sure—
Or else his dear papa is poor.*

Stevenson didn't like this idea that God rewards the righteous. He saw so many exceptions, like children going hungry, that he threw out the rule. So here is where we have to be careful. On one hand we have to recognize that there are exceptions—like Job. There is unjust suffering in our sinful and fallen world. There are people who suffer simply because we live in a sinful world. On the other hand, we have to recognize that the Bible teaches that those who live wisely, those who seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, will know God's peace and pleasure. And so I can say, without fear of contradiction, that if you pour yourself out for the Lord, He will bless you.

Solomon did not hold back when it came to painting a portrait of the value of wisdom:

Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed (Prov. 3:13-18).

And so Solomon presents wisdom as the most valuable gift you could ever receive. Reflecting on these verses in his commentary on Proverbs, the Puritan, Charles Bridges, noted how foreign this concept is to those without the Spirit of God.

The world has no just conception of the real character of wisdom's ways. Religion to them is associated with cold, heartless forms and irksome restraints—much to do, but nothing to enjoy. But they only see half the prospect. They see what religion takes away. But they see not what it gives.

I wonder, do you see what wisdom gives? The wise *know* God. The wise *know* His favor. The wise *know* His love. The wise *know* His success. The wise *know* His joy. The wise *know* His happiness. The wise rejoice and mourn over all the right things. There is a satisfaction that comes from obeying the Lord that is better than the best deal, more fulfilling than the best meal, more restful than the best vacation. Serving the Lord is the most profound and sublime joy that you could ever experience. Proverbs should leave you hungering and thirsting for a wisdom that brings prosperity and life.

Here, then, is Proverbs' teaching on wisdom in a nutshell: those who choose to be foolish will suffer and die while those who choose to be wise will prosper and live. Where does this leave us? What should we do? The Biblical answer is clear. There is only one response.

The only wise response is to fear the Lord by pursuing Christ.

This response is introduced in Proverbs 1:7, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge." The idea is repeated in Proverbs 9:10, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." If you know and fear the LORD, you will be wise, you will prosper, and you will live.

To fear the LORD is to humbly and joyfully submit to God and His Word. For some, the thought of fearing the Lord doesn't make sense. Why would we fear someone so wonderful and good? How could we fear a God of grace and mercy? Because he is also, and must be, a God of holiness and wrath. We cannot approach him lightly.

Picture a hiker at the base of a tall mountain. It is thousands of feet high and capped with snow. This mountain is beautiful and majestic—like nothing he's ever seen. He's afraid of the mountain because it's dangerous. But he's a climber and so he must be near it. You see the tension, don't you? The danger posed by the mountain is cause for fear, but its beauty is cause for joy. And so he begins to climb the mountain, carefully, circumspectly. He cautiously places his hands and feet and even his eyes. A wrong move and he could fall! When he clings to the mountain, he is wise and safe. But if he lets go, he is foolish and he will die. When he fears the mountain, he is respecting it. This fear makes him cautious and keeps him safe. To treat the mount flippantly is to flirt with disaster.

This is what it is like to fear the LORD! You come to him like a climber coming to the base of a majestic mountain. Immediately

you recognize He is not like us. He is powerful and holy. And you are afraid—and rightly so! He has the right to judge you and the power to punish you. But you don't run, because He is wise and good and beautiful. And what good would it do to run from God? Where will you go that He won't find you? So your only hope and your only joy is to cling to Him. Then you will be safe. Let go of Him, and you are foolish.

Are you clinging to the Lord or have you let Him go? Are you *in* His Word, following *His* wisdom or are you in the world, following your own? To choose wisdom is to choose the Lord.

As Christians, we know even more than this. We know that we fear the Lord not by climbing a mountain but by pursuing Christ. I want to end this article by presenting to you what may be a radical idea: Proverbs isn't about you, it's about Jesus Christ. How can I write this? First, because none of us are wise! Oh sure, we try to do the right things, we try to make the right decisions, but we fail, over and over again. Wisdom, in Proverbs, presents us with a standard that no one has ever met.

But there was one who did, the God-man, Jesus Christ. So when I read passages like Proverbs 3:13-18, passages that promise riches to those who are truly wise, I don't think of myself, I think of Christ. Christ, the only wise man, deserves all the riches described there and more. Jesus never sinned. He always humbly and joyfully submitted himself to his Father's will. The same cannot be said of me. Jesus is wise. I am a fool.

What happened to Christ? He suffered and died. But isn't that the destiny of the foolish man? Yes it is. That's the point of the Gospel. "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (1 Corinthians 5:21). In other words, the perfect Christ bore our foolishness and the punishment our foolishness deserved, so that in him, we might become wise and enjoy the benefits of wisdom. Why did Christ do that? Why did Christ become a fool for us? To spare us the death that we deserve. The one man who had the right to riches and glory and honor gave it all up so that fools like us could live. To fear the Lord is to pursue Christ and to hide ourselves in him. Christ has become, for us, "wisdom from God" (1 Cor. 1:30). Give him your life. Take refuge in his life and his death and his resurrection. Turn from your foolish, sinful ways, and trust in him. All the riches he deserves will now be yours. ■

~ Aaron Menikoff

February 2011

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6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28		

6:00 pm Lord's Supper

Youth Ski Trip

9:15 am Joint Shepherding Group

12:00 pm Special Church in Conference

12:00 pm VBS Planning Meeting

12:00 pm New Member Luncheon

12:00 pm RW&A Luncheon

Sow Diligent

Singles' Retreat

Churchwide ▼

February 6 6:00 pm Lord's Supper
We encourage members to examine their hearts and relationships with one another in preparation for this celebration of Christ's death and resurrection.

February 13 9:30 am Joint Shepherding Group
There will be a joint Shepherding Group session in the Fellowship Hall where we will hear from our guest speaker for the parenting conference, Dr. Deepak Reju, on "Discipleship: Every Member a Counselor."

February 13 12:00 pm Special Church in Conference
There will be a specially-called Church in Conference after the morning service to vote on the proposed budget reallocation. Information is available at Connections Corner.

Children ▼

February 11-12 Sow Diligent
(See ad below.)

Singles ▼

February 18-20 Singles' Retreat
The singles will be heading to Wears Valley Ranch in Sevierville, TN for a time of growth and fellowship.

New Members ▼

February 27 12:00 pm New Members' Luncheon

EVENTS ▶ BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Bob McCallum | 15 Lisa Cloudt |
| 2 Blake Morgan | 16 Amiee Hamby |
| Emilee Morgan | 17 Sandy Wellman |
| 3 Pearlene Koenig | 19 Mary Cherbonnier |
| Bill Long | Jacob Hall |
| 4 Jim Voyles | 20 Jeff Case |
| 5 Jeanette Ripley | Diane Neal |
| 6 David Clark | Sweden Swilley |
| 7 Tony Higgins | 21 Dorothy DeFreese |
| 8 Isabelle Carver | 22 Austin Nable |
| Sarah Lee Flint | Larry Norwood |
| Mary Roth | 23 Mark Lamprecht |
| Sarah Anne Voyles | 24 Marni Daniel |
| Danielle Wood | Tammy Glass |
| 9 Richard Carron | Doug Langmack |
| 10 Jackie Marler | David Pattillo |
| Mike Mitchell | Natalie Watson |
| Aimee Speas | 25 Howard Kauffmann |
| Lincoln Stillwagon | Kerns Sage |
| Lynne Warren | 26 Stacy Dennis |
| Christina White | Paula Mosby |
| 12 Rick Roth | 27 Brent Reid |
| Taylor Wilkins | 28 Frances Skelton |
| Dianne Williams | |



Friday, February 11

6:30 - 9:00 pm

Saturday, February 12

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Mount Vernon is hosting a parenting conference with the desire that parents will be **so diligent** to **sow diligently** the Gospel into the hearts of their children led by **Dr. Deepak Reju**.

All adults are invited to attend.

For more information or to register, visit:
www.mvbchurch.org/sow-diligent

Friday, February 11

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 6:30 - 7:00 pm | Check-in and Greeting |
| 7:00 - 8:00 pm | Dinner |
| 8:00 - 9:00 pm | Gospel in Parenting |

Saturday, February 12

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 9:00 - 9:30 am | Breakfast |
| 9:30 - 10:15 am | Beyond Behavior and into the Heart of Your Kids |
| 10:15 - 10:30 am | Q & A |
| 10:30 - 10:45 am | Break |
| 10:45 - 11:30 am | Communicating with Your Kids |
| 11:30 - 11:45 am | Q & A |
| 11:45 am - 1:00 pm | Lunch |
| 1:00 - 1:45 pm | Obedience & Discipline |
| 1:45 - 2:00 pm | Q & A |



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