

Zion Baptist Church

Newsletter

Wednesday Daytime Bible Study Class

July 2026



Pastor's Birthday is July 29th.

We will return to Wednesday Daytime Bible Study on the second Wednesday in September at 10:30 A.M.

Summer Vacation

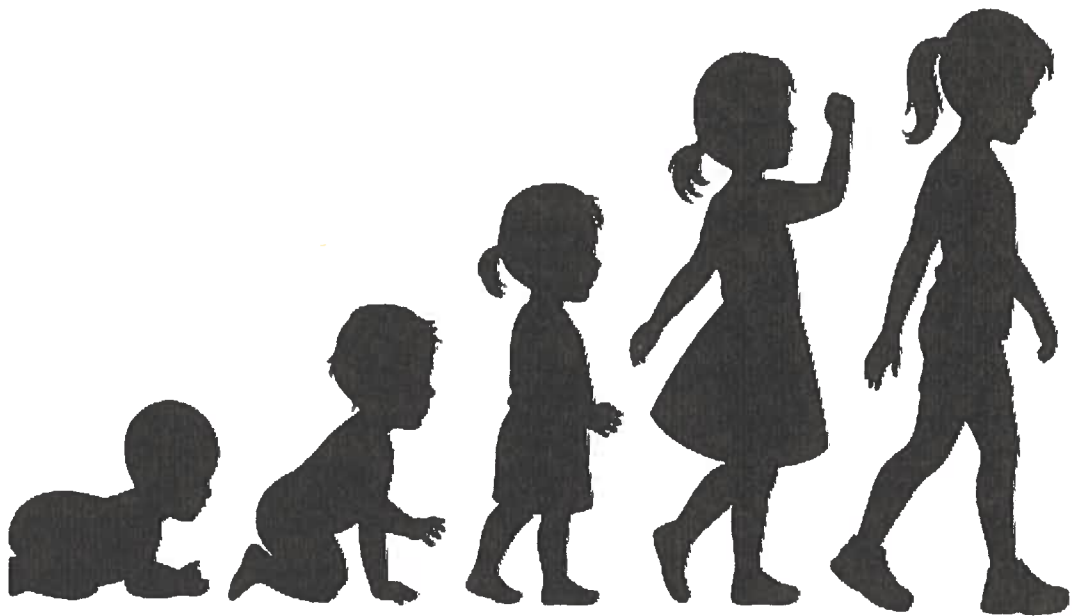
Starts July 30th until September 9th

If there are any changes than Pastor will announce it from the pulpit and Carolyn will make a one call.

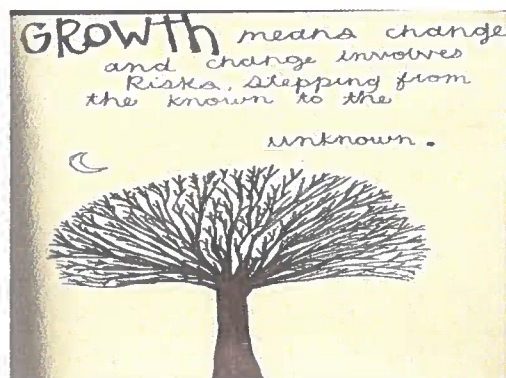
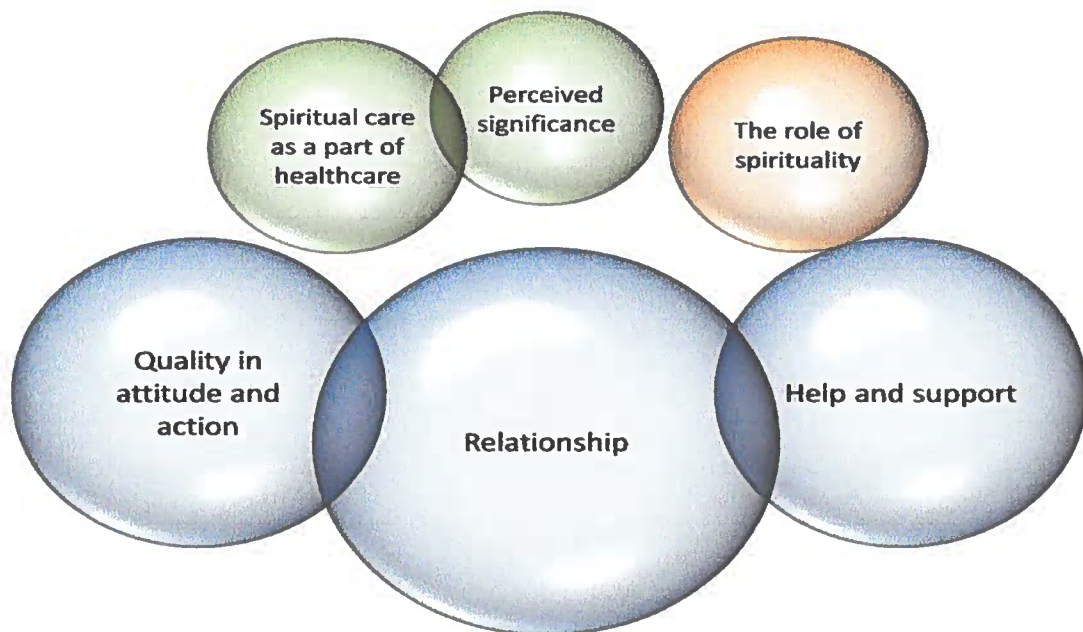
Don't forget to read your Monthly Scripture for August. The monthly Scripture is I Timothy.

September's private study will be II Timothy. Review I Peter before you return so you will be updated and refreshed with the Study since you have had a whole month to relax.





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Proverbs 18

Review:

The importance of listening and seeking truth.

1. **Not just the first story told.**
2. **The power of speech (life and death).**
3. **The value of true friendship.**
4. **Pride** precedes a fall while humility leads to honor, contrasting wealth's false security with God's protective name.
5. **Community vs. Isolation:** a person who isolates themselves seeks selfish desires and rejects wise counsel, while God intends for people to live in community, supporting each other.
6. **The Power of Words:**
 - A. Fools' words bring conflict and destruction, while the wise use words for healing and life.
 - B. The words of man's mouth are deep waters, but the fountain of wisdom is a rushing stream.
 - C. Death and life are in the power of the tongue.
7. **Justice and Judgment:**
 - A. It's wrong to show favoritism in judgment, as the first person to speak often seems right until the other side is heard. (v. 17)
 - B. **Prudence** requires listening to all sides to find the full truth, rather than just repeating the first story.
8. **Friendship:** A loyal friend is more valuable than many companions, and good friendship is a core part of wisdom.

9. Pride and Humility: Pride leads to a haughty heart before destruction, while humility precedes honor.

10. Divine Protection: The name of the Lord is a strong tower where the righteous find safety, unlike the rich who trust in their wealth as a fortress.

Constructive work is the awe of human life and progress. There is an active principle of destruction operating in the history of man; and he who is a slacker at his work, who does not put into it all his strength, is a brother to the man who is wickedness sets himself to the activity of destruction.

Key Verses:

Verse 1: Isolating oneself shows selfish desire and rejects wise counsel, emphasizing the need for community.

Verse 10: The Lord's name offers refuge and safety for those who are righteous.

Verse 13: Highlights the importance of listening to understand fully before speaking or judging.

The three Powers of the Tongue

The "Three perspectives of the Power of the Tongue" (James 3), refer to **its power to direct, its power to destroy, and its power to bless/heal**, often contrasted with its capacity for evil, with examples including the ability to control large things (like a ship's rudder), the destructive force of fire, and the contradictory use for praise and cursing. Some theological interpretations further categorize spiritual tongues as the personal (for self), prophetic (for the church), and proof (for unbelievers).

Core Biblical Powers (James 3)

- 1. Power to Direct:** Like a bit in a horse's mouth or a small rudder on a ship, the tongue, though small, can steer a person's entire life in a positive or negative direction.
- 2. Power to Destroy:** It can be a "world of evil," like a tiny spark setting a forest fire, corrupting the whole person and setting life ablaze with wickedness.
- 3. Power to Bless and Curse (Or Heal and Harm):** It can be a "world of evil," like a tiny spark setting a forest fire, corrupting the whole person and setting life ablaze with wickedness.
- 4. Power to Bless and Curse (or Heal and Harm):** The tongue can speak praise and blessing to God, but also curses and deceit, demonstrating its capacity for both life and death.

Spiritual Interpretations (Gift of Tongues).

- **Personal Tongue:** For personal edification, a private prayer language understood only by God (1 Corinthians 14:2).
- **Prophetic Tongue:** For the church, requiring interpretation to build up the community (1 Corinthians 14:27).
- **Proof Tongue:** A sign to unbelievers, understood as an earthly language without needing interpretation (Acts 2:8).

Faith is a motif in the story of Elijah and the widow from beginning to end. Both ultimately cultivated deeper faith through experiencing God.

“Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?”

He was asking His disciples if they could share in His coming suffering and judgment, symbolized by the “cup” of God’s wrath for humanity’s sins, which He would drink on the cross to save them, while the disciples misunderstood it as a cup of triumph, showing their failure to grasp His mission. It signifies enduring intense suffering, including physical death and spiritual agony, but for Jesus, it was the ultimate sacrifice, taking on divine wrath so believers wouldn’t have to.

Proverbs 19

Proverbs 19 focuses on contrasting wisdom and foolishness, emphasizing integrity, knowledge, and diligence over rash actions, wealth, or blaming God. **Key Themes** include integrity (better poor and honest than rich and foolish), the danger of haste and ignorance (rushing into sin or making hasty decisions), family dynamics (a quarrelsome wife, foolish son), the value of generosity (kindness to the poor is lending to the Lord), and the certainty of consequences (anger leads to punishment, but discipline brings wisdom). Ultimately, it teaches that God’s purpose stands and listening to counsel leads to life.

Key Themes

1. **Integrity vs. folly (v. 1):** A poor person with integrity is better than a rich, deceitful fool, showing moral character outweighs material wealth.

2. **Knowledge and Haste (v. 2):** Zeal without knowledge is bad and rushing leads to error; lacking wisdom is a serious flaw.
3. **Folly and Blame (v.3):** A fool's actions ruin him, but he blames God instead of taking responsibility, showing a twisted heart.
4. **Wealth and friendship (vv. 4,7):** Wealth creates many friends, but the poor are deserted; true friendship comes from character not riches.
5. **Generosity (vv. 6,17):** Many carries favor with the generous, but kindness to the poor is like lending to the Lord, who will repay.
6. **Wisdom and Life (vv. 8, 16, 20, 27):** Gaining wisdom benefits you; obedience to God preserves life; listening to advice leads to wisdom, while ceasing to learn leads to ruin.
7. **Family and Discipline (vv. 13. 14, 18, 26):** A foolish son causes grief (like a dripping roof); a quarrelsome wife is a constant nuisance; discipline (like a rod) teaches wisdom and hope.
8. **Divine Purpose (v. 21):** While humans make many plans, the Lord's purpose will prevail.

Proverbs 19:17 tells us that the Lord will repay those who are generous to the poor. Those who give to individuals who lack the basic necessities of life will be blessed by God. Though the poor cannot and may never be able to repay us for our generosity, the Lord can and will.

Themes in Proverbs 19:

Integrity vs. Deceit	Better to be poor and blameless than a rich fool with perverse lips; a false witness and liar will not escape punishment.
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Wisdom and Knowledge	Desire without knowledge isn't good; wisdom brings life, understanding leads to prosperity, and listening to advice makes one wise.
Folly and Laziness	A person's own foolishness ruins them; laziness brings hunger, and a foolish son brings calamity to his father.
Generosity and Pity	Being generous to the poor is like lending to the Lord, who will repay; the poor are often shunned, but kindness is desired in a person.
Patience and Anger	Discretion makes one slow to anger; overlooking an offense brings glory, while a king's wrath is like a lion's roar.
Family and Relationships	A prudent wife is a gift from the Lord, but a quarrelsome wife brings constant trouble; a foolish son brings ruin.

"Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than he who is perverse in his lips and is a fool" (v.1).

"A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will perish" (v.9).

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed" (v.17).

"Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future" (v. 20).

Proverbs 20

Main Message: Proverbs 20 covers themes of wisdom vs. foolishness, emphasizing seeking good counsel (plans succeed through it), avoiding drunkenness (wine mocks), the danger of rulers (king's anger is like a lion), and laziness (sluggard's hunger). It highlights the value of integrity, faithfulness, and true insight, contrasting them with

deceit, while also noting that true wisdom often requires effort to draw out, much like water from a deep well, and that even the young and old have distinct wisdom to offer.

Key Themes and Meanings:

- **Counsel and Planning (vv. 18,22):** Success comes from many advisors; don't go to war or make big decisions alone, seek wise input.
- **Drunkenness and Authority (v.1):** Wine leads to trouble (mocking, brawling); a ruler's anger is dangerous; ending quarrels brings honor, not starting them.
- **Laziness and Diligence (vv. 4,9):** Lazy people miss opportunities (plowing) and end up poor; diligence in small tasks leads to provision.
- **Integrity and Faithfulness (vv. 7,10):** The godly leave a blessed legacy; true faithfulness is rare and not self-proclaimed; God hates dishonest business (false weights).
- **Wisdom's Depth (v.5):** Good counsel is hidden deep within a person, requiring understanding to draw it out; practical wisdom is key.
- **Youth and Age (v. 29):** Youth's strength is admirable, but gray hair (age) signifies wisdom and experience, a value often lost in cultures chasing only youth.
- **Justice and Purity (vv. 8,9):** Kings discern evil from good; no one is truly sinless, but we should strive for purity.
- **Financial Prudence (v. 16):** Don't co-sign for strangers; it's risky.
- **Rebuke and Discipline (v. 30):** Wounds from a friend can heal internal evil, even if the rebuke is harsh.

- **Honor and Disgrace (vv. 20,21):** Cursing parents brings darkness (a profound loss of light/life): ill-gotten wealth won't last.

In essence, Proverbs 20 encourages discernment, diligence, honesty, and honoring wise counsel, warning against the pitfalls of laziness, excess, and superficiality, while valuing both youthful vitality and aged wisdom.

Proverbs 21

Main Message: God values righteous action, justice, and diligent character over mere religious performance, contrasting the wise, God-fearing person with the wicked, emphasizing that true faith is demonstrated through ethical treatment of others, careful planning, and control of one's speech, leading to true life and prosperity vs. foolishness and ruin. It stresses doing what's right in God's eyes, not just outward rituals, and that motives, not just appearances, matter to him.

Key Themes:

- **Righteousness and Justice and Sacrifice:** Doing justice and righteousness is more pleasing to the Lord than religious sacrifices; ethical treatment of people is paramount.
- **Diligence and Planning:** Careful, diligent planning leads to abundance, while haste, laziness, and shortcuts lead to poverty.
- **God's View of Motives:** God examines motives, not just outward appearances; the wicked's treasures are useless if they refuse to help others.

- **Wise Speech:** Guarding one's mouth and tongue prevents much trouble and distress.
 - **The Contrast of Wise vs. Wicked:** The wise act justly and generously, while the wicked are arrogant, love trouble, and ignore the poor.
 - **Divine Sovereignty:** God controls rulers' hearts and determines ultimate victory, showing His ultimate authority over human plans (21:1,9, 31).
 - **Justice for the Poor:** Ignoring the cries of the needy leads to being ignored by God (21:13).
 - **Diligence vs. Haste:** Careful planning and hard work lead to profit, while rushed, deceitful shortcuts lead to poverty (21:5, 6).
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- **Wisdom's Rewards:** Pursuing righteousness and love bring life, prosperity, and honor, while the wicked's wealth often leads to ruin (21:7, 21).
 - **Prudence and Planning:** Wise individuals prepare for the future, contrasting with fools who quickly consume their resources (21:20).
 - **The Heart's Deception:** People often think their ways are right, but the Lord scrutinizes the heart (21:2, 14).

In essence, Proverbs 21 teaches that living wisely means prioritizing God's will, acting justly, working diligently, and understanding that true success comes from aligning one's heart with divine wisdom, not worldly shortcuts or appearances.

Proverbs 22

Main Message: Honor over Wealth

The Main Message of Proverbs 22 is a collection of wisdom emphasizing character over wealth, the importance of honesty, fairness to the poor, careful choices in companionship, and the lasting value of a good name, all rooted in fearing the Lord, guiding life toward righteousness, and avoiding the pitfalls of laziness, anger, and oppression.

Key Themes

- **Character and reputation:** A good name and gracious spirit are more valuable than riches (v.1).
- **Justice for the Poor:** Do not exploit the poor; the Lord defends them, and oppressors will face poverty (vv. 22,23).
- **Wise Associations:** Avoid hot-tempered people to prevent learning their ways and getting trapped (vv. 24,25).
- **Prudence and Foresight:** The wise see trouble coming and avoid it, while the naïve walk into harm (v.3).
- **Righteous Living:** Implies actions have consequences (sowing iniquity leads to sorrow), and living humbly with the fear of God brings blessing (vv. 1,8).
- **Parenting:** Training children correctly is important (v.6).

In essence, Proverbs 22 teaches that true wealth lies in a good name, righteous conduct, and a proper relationship with God, while warning against the destructive paths of greed, injustice, and poor company.

Proper Relationship with God

Our relationship with God, first and foremost, is a relationship with our divine parent. As a child of God, we are loved. The love God has for us is such that He parents us with the end in mind. In other words, He helps us deal with life for the purpose of our becoming who He wants us to become.

7 Keys The Intimacy with God

The 7 Keys to intimacy with God often revolve around consistent, heart-focused practices like daily quiet time, reading/meditating on His Word, prayer, worship, obedience, gratitude, and serving others, fostering a deep, personal connection through surrender and focused attention, similar to building any close relationship.

These keys build on consistent time (a "Tent of Meeting"), hearing His voice, and aligning your life with His will through love and service, moving beyond just religious duty to a living friendship.

Themes

- **Commit to daily Quiet Time:** Establish a consistent, prioritized time and place to meet with God, treating it as essential as food or air.
- **Read and ruminate (think deeply about something) on God's Word:** Don't just read; study, meditate (ruminate), and memorize Scripture to understand His nature and apply His truth.
- **Cultivate Prayer and Supplication:** Talk openly with God, sharing struggles, asking for wisdom, and crying out to Him.

- **Worship in Spirit and Truth:** Focus on God's worthiness, not just for personal benefit, but as His primary activity, recognizing His character.
- **Obedience and Surrender:** Give God your whole heart and actively do what He says, aligning your will with His.
- **Practice Gratitude and Focus:** Shift focus from yourself to God's worth, expressing thankfulness and giving Him your full attention.
- **Serve His Kingdom:** Use your spiritual gifts to serve others and share His love, which grows intimacy.

It's about showing up consistently, opening your heart, and actively living out what you learn, making God the center of your daily existence, not just a Sunday activity.

Proverbs 23

Main Message: A comprehensive guide to living wisely by prioritizing truth, self-control, and godly instruction over fleeting pleasures, worldly wealth, and foolish company, emphasizing that genuine fulfillment comes from fearing the Lord and embracing wisdom, with a focus on righteous living for oneself and the next generation. It contrasts deceptive worldly paths (gluttony, riches, envy of sinners) with the enduring rewards of seeking wisdom and honoring parents, ultimately pointing toward a life of purpose and lasting joy.

Key Themes:

- **Wisdom vs. Folly:** Don't waste words on fools, embrace truth and instruction; listen to your parents.

- **Self-Control:** Be wary of overindulging at a ruler's table, avoid drunkenness, and don't be consumed by desires for luxury.
- **Righteousness vs. Deception:** Riches are fleeting; don't envy sinners; protect the vulnerable (orphans).
- **Parenting and Legacy:** Discipline children wisely to bring joy and to guide them to a life of wisdom and honoring God.
- **Spiritual Focus:** Develop a heart for wisdom and a constant zeal for the Lord, finding your hope in Him, not worldly things.

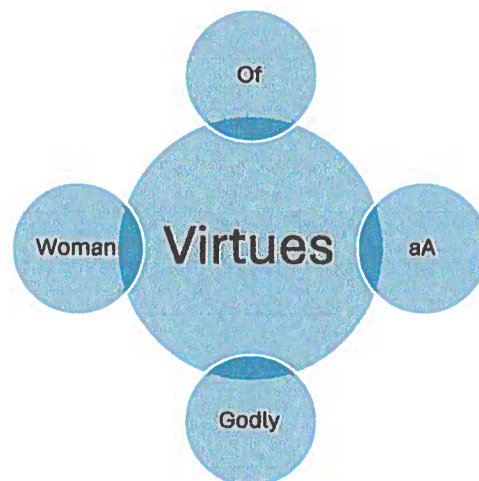
In essence, Proverbs 23 teaches that a wise life is cultivated through disciplined choices, a love for truth, and a steadfast pursuit of God, leading to true prosperity and a legacy of righteousness.

Proverbs 23 offers wisdom on self-control, avoiding greed, and valuing truth, with key verses advising caution when dining with a ruler (vv. 1-30, not to overwork for riches (vv. 4-5), and to "Buy the truth, and do not sell it; also, wisdom, and instruction, and understanding: (v. 23). It contrasts deceptive wealth with enduring wisdom, urging diligence in learning and parental instruction, and warns against gluttony, fools, and the allure of the wicked.

- **Wisdom in Social Situations (vv. 1-8):** Be cautious with rulers, control appetite, and recognize that stingy people's hospitality is often insincere.
- **Riches vs. Wisdom (vv. 4-5):** Don't toil endlessly for wealth; riches are fleeting and fly away like an eagle.
- **Dealing with Fools (v.9):** Don't waste words on fools, as they'll scorn your wisdom.

- Justice and Boundaries (vv. 10-11): Don't move old landmarks or exploit the fatherless, as their Defender is strong.
- Instruction and Discipline (vv. 12-14): Apply your heart to learning and use discipline with children to save them.
- The Value of Truth (v.23): "Buy the truth, and do not sell it; also, wisdom, and instruction, and understanding".
- Warnings Against Wine and Immorality (vv. 29-35): Describes the woes of drunkenness and the snares of immoral women.

Proverbs 23:23 This verse emphasizes that truth, wisdom, instruction, and understanding are invaluable assets that should be pursued at any cost, unlike temporary worldly gains.



1. Fearing God: Her highest priority is pleasing Godm not the world.
2. Wise and Prudent: Uses good judgment, common sense, and discretion.

3. Diligence and Hard Work: Works willingly with her hands, manages her home well.
4. Compassionate and generous: Shows concern for others' needs and serves them.
5. Modest and Dignified: Dresses to glorify God, avoiding extravagance or exposure.
6. Gentle and Patient: Exhibits meekness, kindness, and serenity in spirit.
7. Trustworthy and Truthful: Her speech and motives are honest; she isn't deceitful.
8. Faithful: Loyal to God, her husband, and her commitments, not compromising faith.
9. Servant-Hearted: Focuses on serving her family, home, and God.
10. Self-controlled: Exercises temperance over her thoughts, words, and actions.
11. Inner Beauty: Develops her person and character, finding satisfaction in God.
12. Hope in God: Her identity, future, and hope come from God's leadership.

5 Needs of a Woman

- 1. Affection. Women need affection—they don't just want it.**
- 2. Conversation. Women need conversation, not just quick question and answer sessions but deep conversations.**
- 3. Honesty and Openness. Don't tell another woman what you haven't told your wife.**
- 4. Financial Support.**
- 5. Family Commitment.**