

Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

Monday (February 5) – Proverbs 12

In the first verse of Proverbs 12, we see an important truth: One who would live a life of godly wisdom must be willing to accept correction. Those who do what seems right in their own eyes are fools, for none of us is unaffected by sin. Though we may be regarded by some as knowledgeable and wise, sin still lurks within us and manifests itself in ways that we do not realize. No one, save our Lord Jesus alone, was sinless and therefore perfectly trustworthy. Our reasoning is clouded with sin and we are not all knowing. Therefore, we must be open to the correction of Scripture when it confronts our sinful living. And we must also be open to correction from godly brothers and sisters as we seek to walk together in holiness of living.

Tuesday (February 6) – Proverbs 13, 14

Several places in our reading for today address the words that we speak. Proverbs 13:3 equates our words with life or destruction. This is akin to the Apostle James' likening of the tongue to the rudder of a great ship. St. James warns of the destruction that can come from the tongue: "No man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (James 3:8). Therefore, it is vital that we flee from falsehood (Proverbs 13:5) and use our mouths for that which they were created: "For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10). Our words can never be separated from what we believe.

In Proverbs 14:12, Solomon writes words so important that he will repeat them again in 16:25: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." In our modern world, this is a distinctly Christian belief which sets us apart from all others in the world. Contrary to so many around us who believe that people are "basically good", we know the truth—humans are totally corrupt and sinful such that we are, in the words of St. Augustine, a guide to our own destruction. This is why we poor, miserable sinners must regularly come before the Lord in the Divine Service to receive His life-giving forgiveness. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

Wednesday (February 7) – Proverbs 15

Proverbs 15:3 makes the assertion: "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good." Why is it, then, that the Lord allows so much evil to befall this world and especially our loved ones? This is the question which is often accusingly asked of Christians: Why does God allow evil in the world? This kind of question is where the Bible's wisdom literature must be read together. Recall the story of Job and how the Lord teaches Job to consider his own mortality compared to God's eternal power (see also Psalm 90:12). God has His reasons for everything that He allows in this world. They are not for us to know. However, we can rest assured that "The Lord will destroy the house of the proud" (v. 25) and bring about justice in His time.

Thursday (February 8) – Proverbs 16

The Scriptures have much to say about pride. The Lord resists the proud (James 4:6) and scatters them in the imagination of their hearts (Luke 1:51). “Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord” (v. 5). In many ways, pride is the ultimate sin because it says to God: “I don’t need you.” This is why “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (v. 18). But if we humbly confess our sin unto the Lord and walk in the light of His truth, then “the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

Friday (February 9) – Proverbs 17

In a world where family is a peripheral thing that is made to fit in between work, activities, and leisure, Solomon reminds us of God’s design for family as the center of our lives: “Children’s children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father” (v. 6). Rather than casting children aside as present-day America is quick to do, we would experience the Lord’s blessings more fully if we learned to adopt His view of family, where children are the crown of men and parents are the glory of children.

Saturday (February 10) – Proverbs 18, 19

Solomon’s wisdom strikes close to home in his words against those who are quick to speak. “A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart” and “He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him” (Proverbs 18:2, 13). It is easy to see the truth of these words in others, particularly in the age of the internet and social media. But how often do these words apply to us as well? How often are we slow to listen and quick to speak our mind? How often do we truly listen to someone before offering a reply?

Proverbs 19 reminds us that the Lord delights in the truth and despises those who speak lies, especially when those lies are spoken against another. There is perhaps no greater way to harm someone than to harm their reputation through lies and slander. And yet, for all the times we have committed this sin and so many others, our Lord Jesus surrendered Himself to the false witness of those who delivered Him over to be crucified. “He who speaks lies shall perish” (Proverbs 19:9b), unless, of course, he is forgiven by the blood of Christ.

Sunday (February 11) – Proverbs 20

Laziness is a temptation which everyone faces. Whether at home, at school, or at work, laziness is an alluring temptation because of the toilsome nature of our labor. Our labors so often seem fruitless—so why bother doing the dishes, the homework, or the project at work? It all seems so pointless. And yet, laziness is not the answer, for we humans were not created to be idle. We were made for work. “Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread” (v. 13). The fact that our work is so often fruitless is not an excuse to abandon labor altogether. The answer to our fruitless labor is the Lord Jesus who has promised to return one day to restore all things and grant meaning to our labor. Until that day, we labor in the hope of His coming!