TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Daniel Balch / Opening Prayer by: Craig Girard
Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#869 We're Marching to Zion
#864 Where the Gates Swing Outward Never

Scripture Reading by: Matthew Girard
#701 My Jesus I Love Thee

Communion Devotional by: Ken Coleman
Lord's Supper and Contribution

#535 The Glory Land Way
Sermon: "Jesus Loves Me"
Ephesians 3:14-19

#947 Jesus Is Tenderly Calling
#870 Beyond This Land of Parting
Closing Prayer by: James Scott

We will me watching the 3rd season of
The Chosen at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday nights
in the fellowship room.

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 5:00pm — Worship
Wednesday: 6:30pm — Bible Study Classes

June 16, 2024

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

Proverbs 22:6 Re-Examined

In light of Father's Day being celebrated this Sunday, I thought it might be beneficial to publish this excellent post from Wes McAdams on a passage that a lot of people seem to struggle with. When we interpret it rightly, I think there is great insight for all parents and other influential figures in a child's life here. This is part of a whole series of posts reexamining well known Scriptures; I encourage you to check it out along with the rest of the excellent work he does on his blog, "Radically Christian." BP

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. – **Proverbs 22:6**

How It's Often Read
One way people read this passage is a promise that if you teach your children about God, they will be faithful to Him in adulthood. Sadly, this has caused a lot of pain and sorrow for parents whose children have left the faith. They wonder, "Did I not train them in the way they should go? Is this my fault?" Or, worse yet, they wonder why God broke His promise.

Trying to move away from that interpretation, many have suggested that the phrase, "The way he should go" is specific to each individual child. In other words, they believe this passage is more about training a child to embrace his or her own unique gifts and talents; finding the path that God has for him or her as an individual.

After examining the words and phrases in this passage, it seems to me that both of these interpretations miss the mark.

The Context of Proverbs
First, the book of Proverbs is NOT a book of promises. We shouldn't read the Proverbs as saying, "If you do X, then God promises Y will always happen as a result." Rather, the book of Proverbs is a book of wise sayings, phrased in such a way as to be pithy and memorable. When taken as a whole, these proverbs help God's covenant people – especially young people – develop a heartfelt appreciation for wise, righteous, and godly living.

Each proverb captures and encapsulates a particular truth about wise living and expresses it in poetic form, Hebrew parallelism. Obviously, no single proverb can exhaust the subject it addresses (and it isn't attempting to do so). Each proverb is simply saying, "If you remember, and live by this truth, you and the people around you will have a much better life."

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Winona Angelle, Pat Hobbs' mother, is in the hospital with an infection in her lower leg.

Steve Ward is in the hospital with a pulmonary embolism.

Leah Smith will be having knee replacement surgery on Tuesday, June 18th.

Continued Prayers
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Steve Ward, Caitlin Smith, Virginia Cole, Ken Coleman, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Donna Wilson, Jo Ella McKewen, Oscar Cantu, Jennifer Stelly, Ken Coleman, Dr. Hugo Thomas

Shut Ins
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Winona Angelle, Catherine Parker, Peggy McIntosh, Lois Watts, Willo Dean Ellis, Debbie Merritt

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Montepuez, Mozambique , Rod Kyle in the South Pacific, Mani Pagidopali in India

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meeting Monday, June 17th at 5:30 p.m.

We are working a new Friends and Family directory. A copy of the old one has been placed on the bulletin board. Please check your name, address, phone number and email to make sure it is correct.

We will have a Houston Food Bank truck on Thursday, June 20th at 8:00 a.m.

VBS is Saturday, June 29th from 9-2 p.m.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy Mickey Noonkester and her family on the death of her husband, Wayne Noonkester. He passed way Monday night and the graveside service was Thursday.

Elders	Deacons	Minister
Ken Coleman	Zach Arthur	Bryant Perkins
Bobby Rader	Daniel Balch	
Don Taylor	Danny Balch	
Robert Ward	Walden David	
	Gus Tristan	

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"Train Up"

Proverbs 22:6 begins with the Hebrew word, "*hana*k." This word appears in three other verses in the Old Testament (**Deuteronomy 20:5; 1 Kings 8:63; 2 Chronicles 7:5**). Interestingly, every other time this word is used, it is not translated, "train up," it is translated, "dedicate." It means to get something started or initiate something.

So the first part of the Proverb is about starting a child off in a certain direction or starting him on a path.

"In the Way He [Should] Go"

The next phrase is very interesting. The word "should" does not actually appear in the original Hebrew at all. The phrase literally means, "in his way."

The Hebrew word for "way" appears 69 times in the book of Proverbs. It is used to describe BOTH the way of wickedness (e.g. Proverbs 12:26) and the way of righteousness (e.g. Proverbs 13:6). Essentially, it is a road or path metaphor that simply describes a manner of life.

What Does It Mean?

So if you take what we've discovered, the literal reading of **Proverbs 22:6** would read something like, "Initiate a child on his path; even when he is old he will not depart from it." It seems to simply mean we are set on a path as children and we seldom deviate from that path.

This proverb could be a warning. It could warn me, as a parent, if I allow my children to follow the "way that seems right" to them **(Proverbs 14:12),** I will have a hard time getting them off that path when they become adults. After all, the path that children are naturally inclined to follow is a path of foolishness and it takes discipline to keep children from going down that path **(Proverbs 22:15).**

On the other hand, it could be an encouragement to "dedicate" or "initiate" children on the path of holiness, righteousness, and wisdom when they are young. In other words, get a child started on his path of doing right when he is young; it will be harder to get him off that path when he is an adult.

Another possibility is that this proverb is intentionally ambiguous in order to highlight the malleability of children and the challenge of getting adults to change their ways once they're on a particular path. Either way, there is a lot of wisdom in this one little proverb and God's people would do well to meditate on it and apply it to our lives.