



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

March 21, 2021

A Word from Our Pastor

Over the last few weeks we've been discussing a plan for developing Christ-like character. An additional area for us to discuss is the pursuit of wisdom. Solomon provides us with an excellent jumping off point for developing the character qualities essential for life and ministry. Believers cultivate character by acquiring wisdom and understanding...of course, those virtues don't come without a price. They require the kind of dedicated and patient labor exercised in mining for gold and silver. We must diligently "search" for the wisdom that is buried with God's Word like treasure covered by layers of earth and rock. That means that we've got to use the right tools, exercising patience and diligence as we spend time immersed within these life-changing passages like this. Take time right now and read this excellent "wisdom" passage in Proverbs 2:1-11.

I would like us to take a few minutes and unpack this text to shape our thoughts. I believe that we would all agree...that there's definitely moral value in pursuing wisdom. Notice that the father is instructing his son ("My son" v.1) on the efforts needed for ATTAINING WISDOM vv.1-6, the MORAL BENEFITS vv.7-11, and the protection from the wrong kind of people vv.12-22. First, the PURSUIT of wisdom vv.1-6. In vv. 1-4... notice the (8) different VERBS used. In vv.5-6... The OBJECTS of the activities are the teacher's "words" and "commandments" v.1, "wisdom" and "understanding" v.2, and "insight" and "understanding" v.3. The word "understanding", means "discernment" here in vv. 6 & 11. Folks, I'm reminded of the fact that real effort must be made for someone to become wise (it surely doesn't happen by osmosis)

So...how does a person get wisdom? Getting wisdom involves openness, retention, hearing (with the ear), applying (with the heart v.10), requesting, and diligent search. The three "ifs" in verses 1, 3 & 4 are followed by the word, "then", which introduces the RESULT: "if you... receive ("accept") my words" v.1, "if you... call out for insight" v.3, and "if you...search for it ("wisdom") as for a treasure" v.4... "then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God." v.5 In other words...when we SEEK and VALUE wisdom, it RESULTS in a person gaining an understanding and knowledge of God. In v.6, the master teacher reminds us of the fact that the LORD is the SOURCE of that wisdom (James 1:5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God..."). Here's what I've learned to be true...as a person fears (reverence) the Lord, he gains wisdom, knowledge... notice what v.10 says, "¹⁰for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul"... and understanding...v.11 says, "¹¹discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you,." Second, the MORAL BENEFITS of wisdom vv.7-11. Wisdom gives positive, health-inducing moral benefits. It keeps us from evil and contributes to holiness. Remember this...wisdom is a matter of the heart, and of moral conduct, not just of intellectual attainment.

A Nugget from Noah (for Parents) 3/21/21



"#5...We aim for 'no screens before double digits' at school and at home."

The first TV I remember growing up with was an old Zenith wooden console we had with a cabinet underneath for holding our VCR and speed rewriter (have I lost any of the young readers yet?). Our TV today is about an inch thick, wifi-enabled, and predominantly plays old Disney movies, *Blippi* (barf...), *Bible Adventures* (I highly recommend), and Christian Music/Worship videos on Youtube—as well as the occasional domination by dad of *Mario Kart* on the Nintendo Switch!.....and then I read this chapter.

If you didn't catch it from the title of Commitment #5, combined with what I just said, my family is not succeeding in Andy Crouch's next challenge. I feel like I could just read his 10 Commitments and feel convicted, but his reasoning behind this chapter was rather compelling. If I could summarize an entire chapter into one sentence, it would be this: We learn better when we learn physically and tangibly—young children especially—and technology's "easy everywhere" nature strips and dumbs down learning for the sake of instant gratification; therefore, a life without screens for our children is a life better lived (Crouch, 123-38). Here's a quote that cut deep for me: "We often give our children screens not to make their lives easier but to make *our* lives easier (130)." You just need to read the book. We have copies if you would like one for free!

So does this mean that the Radtke's are selling their TV and encouraging everybody at MBC to follow? Not necessarily...in fact, though there are many things that I agree with in this chapter, I think a TV, computer, phone, or tablet can exist in a home while not ruling the home. I think that Crouch would agree since—by his own rule—his house full of teenagers and up now has a TV in it (138). But what he tackles at the practical level, I see in a terrifyingly cancerous way at the spiritual level. What do shows, video games, Youtube, and social media add to God's Kingdom? Answer: little to nothing, and I have given in to their loud distractions time and again. Lift the proverbial rock of media intake and you will find a disgusting underbelly fraught with selfish consumerism and wasted time—not to mention hardly anything God-honoring! Media-based entertainment is fun at its best, and life-ruining at worst. After sharing the passionate conviction to pursue Christ with a heart of desperation, Paul shares a sobering reality with the Philippian church: "**For many...walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things (3:18-19).**" I want my boys to be desperate for their Savior; not desperate for this fleeting world. What are our eyes fixed on?



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Prayer Requests

- Prayer for our nation during a time of racial tension and for our elected officials during this unprecedented time.
- All those who have lost loved ones
- Debby Russ, diagnosed with breast cancer, waiting for treatment plan
- Neal & Barb Collin's son, Doug, recovering from heart attack
- Tonya Paschall, recovering from a blood clot that caused a stroke, at home
- Tiffany, Noah's cousin, prayer for upcoming plans for cancer treatments
- Church leadership as they make decisions moving forward
- Please be in prayer for Gary Cox, friend of Keuhn and Hasselbring families, surgery was successful but continue prayer for upcoming treatments
- Gerri Beehler's sisters, Nancy and Belva, both dealing with health concerns
- Lee Hayward, dealing with severe health issues
- Pete Belford, dealing with severe back issues
- Emma Jane Hall, recovering from COVID
- Jamie Scott, tumor growing on her pituitary gland. Going through tests to see which type, could lose her eye sight.
- Ron & Carolyn Sackett, both battling cancer
- Our missionaries & their families: Bennetts, Campbells, Christensens, Gardners, Hayward, Jenks, Johnsons, Manduzios (in Italy), Pierces, Rendels, Reeves, Semenchuk, Stralnic, Van Orman, & Waidleys
- Our MBC Shut-Ins: Shirley Krass (Cambrian), Emma Jane Hall (Senior Solutions), & Alice Ackerman (daughters home)

Weekly Goal: \$8,562

Giving This Week: \$5,225

Giving

Many have already asked how our church will continue to meet our financial obligations (utilities, insurance, payroll, and missionary support) during this challenging season. You may provide in your tithes and offerings by one of the following methods:

- If using U.S. Postal system: Make checks out to **"Milan Baptist Church"** and mail to **P.O. Box 147 Milan, MI 48160**. Submit [online](#). Instructions and a link to the secure online system can be found at www.milanbaptist.org. Contact the church if you have any questions.

HEBREWS 4:12



"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

"ONLY 1 IN 6 ADULTS READ THE BIBLE EVERY DAY."

The Word of God is living and effective. It has the power to convict, shape, and inspire us—if we read it. But so often, obstacles like confusion and busyness keep us from reading the Bible and experiencing the life-transforming power of God through it.

Through the Bible in a Year		
Daily Bible Reading Assignment		
Date	Old Testament	New Testament
March 21	Joshua 7-9	Luke 1:21-38
March 22	Joshua 10-12	Luke 1:39-56
March 23	Joshua 13-15	Luke 1:57-80
March 24	Joshua 16-18	Luke 2:1-24
March 25	Joshua 19-21	Luke 2:25-52
March 26	Joshua 22-24	Luke 3
March 27	Judges 1-3	Luke 4:1-30
March 28	Judges 4-6	Luke 4:31-44

Birthdays	Anniversaries
March 23 – Ron Sackett	March 23: Jerry & Geneva Du Bois
March 25 – Roger White	
March 28 – Barb Collins	

New Members

The Deacons are recommending Brian & Kelley Keuhn for church membership. As per our Constitution, if any member would like to forward comments to the Deacons regarding the above name, please do so by Sunday, April 4.

Prayer Gathering

Our prayer gathering on Sunday Mornings (9:30 a.m.) will move to the auditorium! We will no longer meet in Room 207.