



## Our Heart for You in 2022: Pleasant Ways, Peaceful Paths!

December 26, 2021

### **Holy Text: Proverbs 3:1-17**

1. In the Text, the writer (Solomon) is extolling the virtues of wisdom.
2. Commenting on Proverbs 1:5, MacDonald writes:

We all lack wisdom. The Bible does not give *specific* answers to the innumerable problems that arise in life. It does not solve problems in so many words, but God's word does give us general principles. We must apply these principles to problems as they arise day by day. That is why we need wisdom. Spiritual wisdom is the practical application of our Lord's teachings to everyday situations.

3. Indeed, the Book of Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings written primarily from a parent to a child, preserved by the Holy Spirit for us that we might know how to live in wisdom, or to rightly apply godly knowledge. Remember:

**Proverbs 1:1-5 (KJV)** *The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; 2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; 4 To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. 5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:*

**Proverbs 1:7 (KJV)** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

**Proverbs 9:10 (KJV)** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*

4. Our verses today offer much encouragement concerning the path of *Pleasantness and Peace*...or again, walking in God-given wisdom. When we do this, blessings are promised!
  - Intentionality in heartily remembering and keeping God's Word (v1) brings length of days long-life, and peace (v2)
  - Holding on to the truths contained in the Word with passion (v3) brings favor with both God and man (v4)
  - Trusting in the LORD and His wisdom rather than the wisdom of men (v5) brings His leading and guidance (v6)
  - Walking the the fear of the LORD (v7) brings healing and strength (v8)
  - Honoring the LORD first in our possessions (v9) brings abundance (v10)
  - Humbly accepting the LORD's correction (11) is proof of His great love (v12)
5. Walking in wisdom (rightly applying God's truth our our lives) brings happiness. (v13) It is better than precious stones! (v14-15) Furthermore, such wisdom brings longevity and wealth! (v16) Such ways are pleasant and peaceful! (v17)
  - These truths do not mean there will not be times of struggle or spiritual warfare.

- They mean that normative life will be filled with the fruit of God's Spirit, contentment, and blessing.
- On *Pleasantness*, John Gill said, "The ways of faith, holiness, and truth, the ways of Christ's commandments, and all the ordinances of the Gospel and institutions of religion; which are "pleasant", when the presence of God and Christ is enjoyed in them; when the heart is enlarged with the love of God and Christ; when assisted therein by the Spirit of God, having good food and refreshment in them, and good company with them; and which, though attended with much tribulation, end in eternal pleasure."
- On *Peace*, he also wrote, "All those "paths" which Christ instructs his people to walk in; as the paths of faith and obedience, these lead to the enjoyment of "peace" here and hereafter; there is much peace had in a way of believing, and great peace have they which love the law of God, and the commandments of Christ, and obey them; they may meet with much uneasiness at times in their own spirits, by reason of sin, temptation, and desertion; they may bring the malice of the world upon them, and have much trouble from it, and too, too often, disagree among themselves; and yet, after all, they have that peace which others have not while they live; and, when they die, they depart in peace, and enter into eternal peace."

**Our Heart for you in 2022 (actually, all the time!) is to walk in Pleasant Ways and Peaceful Paths!**

1. We believe, with all our hearts, that the absolute best thing under-shepherds can do for Christ's flock is give them...CHRIST!
2. **We believe that the most loving, the most protective, the most growth-producing, the most Christ-honoring, God-exalting, and devil-defeating thing we can do is help you build all of your life (thoughts, words, deeds...single-life, marriage, parenting, work-life, church-life, etc.) on God's Holy Word!**
3. We believe, as our Text states, that God's ways are Pleasant and all His paths are Peace! Our LORD is the wisdom incarnate! He is perfect!

***Psalms 18:30 (KJV)*** *As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.*

***Psalms 19:7-11 (KJV)*** *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*

***Psalms 25:10 (KJV)*** *All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.*

***Psalms 119:165 (KJV)*** *Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.*

***Isaiah 26:3 (KJV)*** *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

**James 3:15-17 (KJV)** *This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. 16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*

4. **Our desire is for CRC to keep maturing in knowledge, and particularly wisdom; to grow and mature in knowing and keeping God's Word and to keep building life upon the Rock!**

**Matthew 7:24-27 (KJV)** *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

**Deuteronomy 32:4 (KJV)** *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

**1 Corinthians 10:4 (KJV)** *And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*

**Ephesians 2:19-22 (KJV)** *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

### **Heart Foundations**

- **Psalms 11:3 (KJV)** *If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?*
  - **2 Timothy 2:19 (KJV)** *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*
1. Jesus Christ is LORD and LORD of All! (Php 2:11; Acts 10:36)
  2. The Home and local Church are critical jurisdictions, created by God for His glory and for Dominion! (Eph 5/6; Matt 16:18)
  3. The Bible is Sufficient and God's Command's are not Grievous! (2 Tim 3:16-17; 1 John 5:3)
  4. We need the Power of God! (Acts 1:8)
  5. Love! We love God and we love you! (Matt 22:37-40)

### **Vision and Values!**

1. We want to **Reach** as many people as we can, **Teaching** them to know and obey the LORD, and **Releasing** them from any bondage and into fruitful Christian living! We know this can only happen through the **Power of Jesus Christ!**

2. We want to proclaim the Scriptures, make disciples, and strengthen households everywhere...worshiping as families on the LORD's Day, actively meeting together family worship and smaller groups, and serving the church and our community.
3. We want to do those things with *integrity, loyalty, accountability, excellence, intentionality, and holiness (obedience).*

### **CRC Distinctives**

- Finding contentment and peace in Christ alone. Jesus is Enough! (Php 4:11-13)
- Preaching whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27)
- Holding to expository preaching where the Holy Text drives the message (2 Tim 4:2)
- Living out a loving holiness (John 14:15; 1 Pet 1:16)
- Building according to the Pattern, obeying New Testament ordinances and instructions for the Church (2 Tim 1:13)
- Holding to biblical view of men's/women's roles in the home and church (Eph 5; Col 3; 1 Tim 2-3; Titus 2)
- Seeing the pattern of worshipping with our children as something beautiful (2 Chr 20:13; Ezra 10:1; Lk 18:16)
- Believing the primary discipler of children are parents (Deut 6; Eph 6)
- Pursuing biblical Hospitality and Community (Rom 12:13; 1 Pet 4:9)
- Living with as little debt as possible (Prov 22:7; Rom 13:8)



Some of these things are hard in 2022. When you are challenged to understand or obey, when it seems too difficult, when you are frustrated by the LOG (Life/Obedience Gap!), or when everything in culture says otherwise, please remember ***“The Ways of God’s Wisdom are Pleasantness, and all the Paths of God’s Wisdom are Peace!”***

### **CRC 2022 Goals**

1. Recommit to our Vision and Discipleship Process.
2. Each household reach one household in 2022.
3. Become more passionate about corporate prayer on the LORD's Day.
4. Engage with the church on our new CRC Church App (coming soon!)
5. Increasingly adopt the “Babylon Posture” (Jer 29:1-7)

### **Calvary Reformation Church!**

*We are a church focused on glorifying Christ and discipling others. A Christ-centered view of ministry and the Sufficiency of Scripture has caused us to focus on a few simple, but foundational, things Jesus commands for the Home and Church. His command to “go and make disciples” is the heartbeat of what we do. May the LORD help us!*

Homework: Please watch [“Who is Calvary Reformation Church”](#) by Dec 31 on Bishop’s YouTube Page.