

He covers the
sky with clouds;
he supplies the
earth with rain
and makes grass
grow on the hills.

PSALM 147:8, NIV



Valley Forge Baptist Church

1701 Valley Forge Road • Valley Forge • PA • 19481
pastor.billfarrow@comcast.net • 484-431-8463 • www.vfbaptist.org

Sunday Worship

April 2, 2017

Prelude

Invocation

Call to Worship -

Hymn #

Scripture Reading -

Hymn #

Hymn #

Hymn #

Remembrance Around the Lord's Table

Elder Prayer

Offering & Offertory

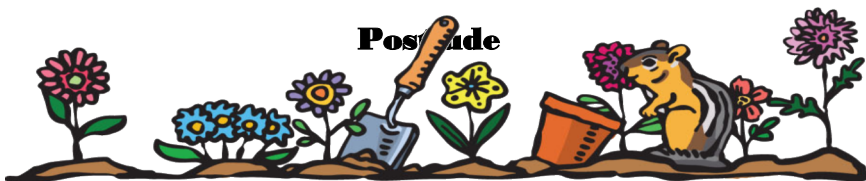
Hymn #

Sermon: Why Did Jesus Come To Die? (Pt. 3)

Hymn #

Benediction

Postlude



prayer requests

up & coming

-
-
-
-
-
-

* If you have any particular prayer requests that you want remembered at Prayer Meeting - please see to it that you fill out the prayer card (cards on the desk in the back) and get it in the offering plate so that we can update the cards for the coming meeting this week.

•

Easter



Today:

- 9:15 AM - Sunday School
- 10:30 AM - Morning Worship - Celebration at the Lord's Table

Thursday:

- 7:00 PM - Prayer Meeting

Saturday:

- 8 AM - Men's Breakfast

Next Sunday:

- 9:15 AM - Sunday School
- 10:30 AM - Morning Worship

He That Is Void of Wisdom

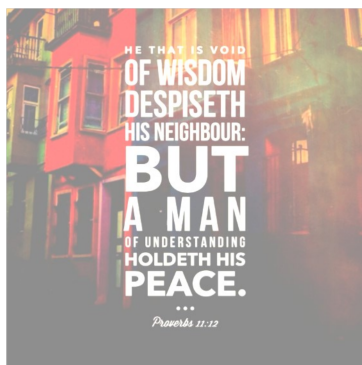
Proverbs 11:12

Pastor Bill Farrow

“He that is void of wisdom despises his neighbor: but a man of understanding holds his peace.”

Interpretation - By a slight transposition the antithesis in this proverb is better expressed. “He that speaks contemptuously of his neighbor lacks wisdom.” “A man of understanding is one who has too much *self*-knowledge to exalt himself above his neighbor as a judge.” Silence, except from modest and prudent words, is the best self-defense. The folly and risk of contumelious words is here implied.

Illustrations - David and his eldest brother exhibit a contrast in this respect, the one provoking to wrath with his tongue, the other holding his peace (1 Sam. 17:28–30). Shimei, with his injurious words, prepared a rod for his own back. The men of Ephraim, in like manner, put a scourge into the hands of the Gileadites when they reproached them so proudly (Judg. 12). On the other hand, how effectually did the calm, wise words of St. Paul “preserve him” in scenes of tumult and under false accusation! The cases of Job’s friends, of Hannah’s foes, of the Pharisees with Jesus, are also instances in point.



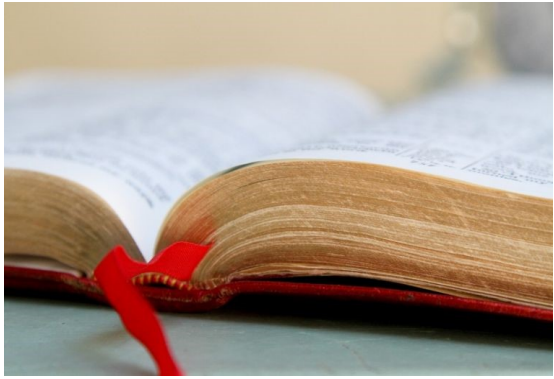
Application - Here we have a rule which combines worldly wisdom with heavenly. Who that has any self-respect would not wince under the exposure of his own spite or folly? Well, then, this fear alone might restrain me from using derisive or scornful language towards my neighbor, from passing arrogant criticisms upon him. By doing this I court criticism myself, and invite a severe judgment. The spirit of self-defense in the party attacked, of fair play in others on his behalf, is roused. I must expect to be called upon to prove my words or to eat them. Whatever ignorance, or inaccuracy, or want of logic I may have betrayed, will be mercilessly exposed, and my own faults and foibles dragged to light. This is but fair, and, though I may escape nine times, is sure to be my fate at last. Besides which, I must needs gain enemies and lose friends through such a habit, and be accounted a dangerous member of society. Such considerations might of themselves have weight in favor of a modest reserve in speech over a boastful or indiscreet loquacity. But a higher motive for the Christian is our Saviour’s golden rule, and the example of Him who was meek and lowly. The more I know myself by comparison with Him, the less shall I be inclined to sit in judgment upon others. The less I trust to myself, the more sure I am that He will give me a mouth and wisdom in the day of trial.

Then, O God, teach me to know mine own heart, that, judging myself aright, I may not be judged!

Why Does Prayer Make a Difference?

3 lessons from Moses

There's a fascinating story in Exodus 17 about Moses and prayer. The Israelites are fighting against their enemies the Amalekites, and Joshua, the battle commander, is in charge of the fighting. Moses stands on top of a hill with his arms outstretched in prayer, but it's very hard to stand in that position for long. When his arms begin to droop, the battle goes against the Israelites. So the two priests, Aaron and Hur, give him a stone to sit on, stand one on each side of him and hold his arms up – and the Israelites start winning again.



There are at least three things we can learn from this story.

I. Prayer Matters.

Even in Christian undertakings, the people who get the fame and the glory are the ones who are visibly at work in the heat of the battle. Moses is removed, at a distance, on a hilltop, out of danger – but his prayers are crucial to the success of the warriors. One of William Cowper's hymns reflects on this event. He says:

*Restraining prayer, we cease to fight;
Prayer makes the Christian's armor bright;
And Satan trembles when he sees
The weakest saint upon his knees.*

2. Prayer is hard.

Moses was physically tired, but his physical weariness symbolises something about prayer. He was pouring all his spiritual energies into a battle, and it was hard for him to keep going. He needed help on his hilltop just as the warriors in the valley did. Who are the Aarons and Hurs in your church? They might be people who aren't eloquent in prayer, but faithfully support those who are; who encourage with their presence and their attention.

3. God honors faithfulness.

There's nothing magical about what Moses did. The story is there to teach us about how we are to pray today. A casual, lighthearted approach to serious issues is unlikely to engage God's attention. Costly prayer, like Moses', is a way of showing our commitment to the outcome. It does not mean God will necessarily answer in the way we want, but it honors him by its seriousness.

Persevering When Times Are Tough: 6 Scriptures To Help You Keep Going



The world feels very fragile at the moment. From the headline-grabbing issues of terrorism and famine, to the much more prosaic issues of paying the bills, rarely a week will go by without you or someone you know struggling a bit.

There's no magic formula, no silver bullet, not even a guaranteed prayer you can pray to get through unscathed.

Yet there are promises and pieces of scripture we can rely upon at such times. Here are some of the top passages in the Bible which speak about keeping going, especially when times are tough.

I. Daniel 12: 12-13

Happy are those who persevere and attain the thousand three hundred and thirty-five days. But you, go your way, and rest; you shall rise for your reward at the end of the days.

II. Romans 12: 11-13

Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

III. Ephesians 6: 18-19

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.

IV. Hebrews 10: 19-23

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil con-

science and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.

V. *Hebrews 12: 1-3*

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

VI. *James 1:25*

Those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing.



When We All Get To Heaven

1 Thessalonians 4:17, 18

Eliza E. Hewitt, 1851–1920

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words. ()

For the child of God, the end of this earthly pilgrimage is just the beginning of a glorious new life.

- *This glorious hope revives our courage for the way,*
- *When each in expectation lives and longs to see the day*
- *When from sorrow, toil, pain and sin, we shall be free,*
- *And perfect love and joy shall reign throughout all eternity.*

—*John Fawcett*

Our services of worship even now should be a foretaste of that day of rejoicing when those from every tribe, language, people, and nation see our Lord and together “we’ll sing and shout the victory.”

The author of this hymn text, Eliza Hewitt, a school teacher in Philadelphia, was another Christian lay worker deeply devoted to the Sunday school movement during the latter half of the 19th century. Like many of the other gospel song writers of this time, Eliza wrote her songs with the goal of reaching and teaching children with the truths of the gospel. She often attended the Methodist camp meetings at Ocean Grove, New Jersey. It was here that she collaborated with Emily Wilson, wife of a Methodist District Superintendent in Philadelphia, in the writing of this popular gospel hymn, a favorite of both young and old alike. It was first published in 1898.

The anticipation of heaven has often been described as the oxygen of the human soul. “*Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as He is pure*” (1 John 3:3).

For Today:

- Psalm 16:11; Isaiah 35:10; John 14:2, 3; 1 Corinthians 15:54–57

Allow your imagination to anticipate that day in heaven when the entire family of God is gathered for an endless celebration of praise. Allow this glorious hope to brighten your day and to keep you “*true, faithful, trusting, serving ...*” Sing this musical truth as you go—

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,
sing His mercy and His grace;
in the mansions bright and blessed
He’ll prepare for us a place.

Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we’ll behold;
soon the pearly gates will open—
We shall tread the streets of gold.

While we walk the pilgrim pathway
clouds will over-spread the sky;
but when trav’ling days are over
not a shadow, not a sigh.

Chorus:

When we all get to heaven,
what a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
we’ll sing and shout the victory.

Let us then be true and faithful,
trusting, serving ev’ry day;
just one glimpse of Him in glory
will the toils of life repay.