



For what we proclaim is not ourselves,
but Jesus Christ as Lord,
with ourselves as your servants
for Jesus' sake.

2 Corinthians 4:5

Proverbs is written from the context of an ancient semitic society. Most people lived off the land as farmers and shepherds, thus the many references to sheep and cattle (e.g., 27:23ff.), rain (28:3), plowing (20:4), barns (3:10), and property markers (22:28).

The book also includes a number of references to urban life such as marketplaces (20:14), city gates (1:24; 8:3), and royalty (25:6).

Most of the proverbs are domestic, dealing with choices people make every day between hard work and laziness, honesty and dishonesty, thrift and prodigality, lending and borrowing, patience and anger, quietness and talkativeness, riches and poverty. They speak of family relationships, business ethics, moral choices, and inner motivation. Generally they are... universal in their appeal and application....

Proverbs is truly a collection of sayings with no arrangement, outline, order, or progression. When you think about it, however, life is like that. We try to bring order to life, but opportunities, crises, and unexpected intrusions come.... Perhaps that is why Proverbs comes to us in the form it does.

Robert L. Alden

The Lord's Day — May 10, 2020 A.D.

Song of Assembly

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Peace/Matheson

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe, that in Thine ocean depths its flow, May richer, fuller be.
O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day, May brighter, fairer be.
O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I climb the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain, That morn shall tearless be.
O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red, Life that shall endless be.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Psalm 99:5,9

Exalt the Lord our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he! Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy!

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

based on Psalm 44

Hymn of Praise

Soldiers of Christ, Arise

Wesley

Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armor on, Strong in the strength which God supplies through His eternal Son.
Strong in the Lord of Hosts, and in His mighty pow'r, Who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than conqueror.
Stand then in His great might, with all His strength endued; But take, to arm you for the fight, the panoply of God.
Leave no unguarded place, no weakness of the soul; Take ev'ry virtue, ev'ry grace, and fortify the whole.

Reading of the Word: *The Dominion Mandate*

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

O Lord, you are our Father and Creator, and we are the work of your hands; You are our Shepherd, and we are your flock; You are our Redeemer, and we are the people you have bought back; You are our God, and we are your inheritance. Therefore, do not be angry against us, to correct us in your wrath. Do not recall our sin, to punish it, but chastise us gently in your kindness. Undertake the work you have already begun in us by your grace, that the whole earth may recognize that you are our God and Savior ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...* Amen!

Hear the Good News!

1 Peter 2:24-25; Proverbs 14:9

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.... Fools mock at the guilt offering, but the upright enjoy acceptance.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

Lead On, O King Eternal

Shurtleff

Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come; Henceforth in fields of conquest, thy tents shall be our home.

Through days of preparation, thy grace has made us strong; And now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease, And holiness shall whisper, the sweet amen of peace.

For not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums;

With deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.

So lead on, O King, Lead on, O King, Lead on, O King, Lead on.

Lead on, O King eternal, we follow, not with fears, For gladness breaks like morning where'er thy face appears.

Thy cross is lifted o'er us, we journey in its light; The crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might.

10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)

Redman

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning, it's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me, let me be singing when the evening comes

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger, Your name is great, and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing, Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending, ten thousand years and then forevermore

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Worship His holy name, sing like never before
O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name*

Worship Your holy name, Lord, I'll worship Your holy name

Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name

Worship Your holy name, Lord, I'll worship Your holy name

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition

Elder Jay Suggs

...Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

V. Practical Strength: Godly Sexuality

Proverbs 5 (page 530)

We Respond By Receiving New Members

The Lord Adds to His Church

Matthew, Amanda, Phoebe, Simeon, Emmaline, & Olivia Carpenter

The Membership Vows (PCA Book of Church Order §57-5)

*Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope except through His sovereign mercy?**Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?**Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as become followers of Christ?**Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your abilities?**Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?*

Prayer for New Members

Elder Jay Suggs

We Respond

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Rankin

God be with you till we meet again; By his counsels guide uphold you,
 With his sheep securely fold you: God be with you till we meet again.

Benediction

from Psalm 119:116,117

May the Lord uphold you according to his promise, that you may live, and never be put to shame for the hope that you have in Christ. May he hold you up, that you may always have great regard for his Word, and be kept safe.

Introduction of New Members

Matt and Amanda Carpenter were born into Christian families. Matt was born and raised in North Alabama. Amanda was born in Memphis, TN and her family moved to Alabama when she was a teenager. Matt has taught social studies in public school for fourteen years and also served in pastoral ministry for eight years. Amanda taught elementary school for three years and now teaches their four children at home, Phoebe (9), Simeon (8), Emmaline (6), and Olivia (3). They enjoy reading, cooking, and exploring God's creation.

A very slightly edited quote from C.S. Lewis:

“The true exercise of imagination, in my view, is (a) To help us to understand other people (b) To respond to, and, some of us, to produce, art. But it has also a bad use: to provide for us, in shadowy form, a substitute for virtues, successes, distinctions etc. which ought to be sought outside in the real world—e.g., picturing all I’d do if I were rich instead of earning and saving. Fantasizing involves this abuse of imagination in erotic matters (which I think bad in itself) and thereby encourages a similar abuse of it in all spheres....

For me the real evil of fantasizing would be that it takes an appetite which, in lawful use, leads the individual out of himself to complete (and correct) his own personality in that of another (and finally in children and even grandchildren) and turns it back: sending the man back into the prison of himself, there to keep a harem of imaginary brides.

And this harem, once admitted, works against his ever getting out and really uniting with a real woman. For the harem is always accessible, always subservient, calls for no sacrifices or adjustments, and can be endowed with erotic and psychological attractions which no real woman can rival.

Among those shadowy brides he is always adored, always the perfect lover: no demand is made on his unselfishness, no mortification ever imposed on his vanity. In the end, they become merely the medium through which he increasingly adores himself....

After all, almost the *main* work of life is to *come out* of our selves, out of the little, dark prison we are all born in. Fantasizing is to be avoided as all things are to be avoided which retard this process. The danger is that of coming to *love* the prison.”