

Prayer Group

Sunday Mornings 9:15 - 10:00

**Gather together to focus
on one attribute of God,
then pray through a Psalm.**

**Women meet at Courtney's
(43 Maple St.)**

Men meet at the church



TEXT TO GIVE

SIMPLY TEXT A NUMBER TO 84321
AND A LINK TO SET IT UP WILL COME BACK

AFTER THAT YOU CAN TEXT ANY AMOUNT TO
THAT NUMBER AND IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY
GIVE TO GRACE BREVARD.



YOUTH @ GBV

After church today we will have a short preview of the beginnings of Youth Ministry (6th - 12th grade).

THEN – a handful of us adults along with the students will head out for a swimming-hole hike to Cove Creek (by the hatchery), eat ice cream at Dolly's afterwards, and be back here at 3.

A photograph of a forest path with sunlight filtering through the trees. The text 'PROVERBS' is written in large white letters, and 'LIVING WISDOM' is written in smaller white letters below it, separated by a horizontal line.

PROVERBS

LIVING WISDOM

Trust in the _____

^{3:5-6} Trust in the _____ with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge _____,
and _____ will make _____ your paths.

Trust in _____:
keeping of peace
justice for me being wronged
being liked by others

10:18 The one who conceals hatred has lying lips,
and whoever utters slander is a fool.

11:12 Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense,
but a man of understanding remains silent.

13 Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets,
but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.

17:9 Whoever covers an offense seeks love,
but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.

24:17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls,
and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles,

18 lest the LORD see it and be displeased,
and turn away his anger from him.

24:28 Be not a witness against your neighbor without cause,
and do not deceive with your lips.

29 Do not say, "I will do to him as he has done to me;
I will pay the man back for what he has done."

25:7b-10 What your eyes have seen

⁸ do not hastily bring into court,
for what will you do in the end,
when your neighbor puts you to shame?

⁹ Argue your case with your neighbor himself,
and do not reveal another's secret,

¹⁰ lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,
and your ill repute have no end.

25:21 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat,
and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink,
22 for you will heap burning coals on his head,
and the LORD will reward you.

27:5 Better is open rebuke
than hidden love.

6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

LIVING WISDOM

Relational Debts

We are built for Justice.

All of creation, including our hearts, demands a perfect balance.

So there is no such thing as “getting away with it.” That concept literally doesn’t exist. Every debt will inevitably be paid in full...by somebody.

²⁹ Do not say, “I will do to him as he has done to me; I will pay the man back for what he has done.”

“forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors”

Who “owes” you?
Who do you “owe”?

Relational Payments

Where there is debt, there MUST be a payment.
The question is simply this: “Who will pay?”

Proverbs 24:17

Do not rejoice when your enemy falls,
and let not your *heart be glad* when he stumbles,

Being Against

VS.

Being For

“heart be glad”

This isn't about behavior but about love,
which will then be displayed through behavior.

Proverbs 17:9

Whoever covers an offense seeks love,
but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.

“Repeating”

Repeating to him
(over and over)

Repeating to yourself
(obsessing)

There is a time to talk it out,
and a time to be silent.

VS.

“Covering”

This isn't about hiding or
pretending it didn't happen
or didn't hurt, but graciously
“paying” their debt, which
also includes biting your
tongue when you really want
to let them know how much
they owed.

Proverbs 11:12-13

Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense,
but a man of understanding remains silent.

¹³ Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets,
but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.

Slander and Gossip

Speaking either truth or lies
in an effort of recruiting an
army against the offender,
which necessitates
demonizing him.

VS.

Public Silence

Protecting the offender's
character to others, seeing
him as a whole person rather
than wholly defined by this
specific debt.

Proverbs 24:28

Be not a witness against your neighbor without cause,
and do not deceive with your lips.

²⁹ Do not say, “I will do to him as he has done to me;
I will pay the man back for what he has done.”

Score-Keeping

Seeing and acting on the score. Making them pay even if I have to do wrong in order to make it right... “the ends justify the means.”

VS.

Score Erasing

Realizing that I too am an offender and in ***exactly as much need of grace.***

Relational Healing

BUT....

...you have no idea what he did! I've been devastated.

...what if they don't repent?

...I've been trying so hard to forgive and I just can't.

NOT SAYING...

...to let people walk all over you (*not loving*)

...to just forget about it (*not possible*)

...relational reconciliation must happen (*often not wise*)

...this is a simple step, but actually a long faith-process

My faith in Jesus has enabled me to forgive those who have hurt and scarred me. It has enabled me to pray for my enemies rather than curse them. And it has enabled me not just to tolerate them but truly to love them. - Kim Phuc Phan Thi



Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph taken after a napalm attack during the Vietnam War on June 8, 1972.

Romans 12

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil ("justice"), but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ **BELOVED**, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "**Vengeance is mine**, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, *"if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."* (quote of proverbs 25) ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

"Vengeance is mine..."

God owns perfect "vengeance"

In the end (maybe not now) there will be absolute justice.

Matthew 27

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

We are all equally in need because we have all betrayed God.
For those who believe, Jesus took our deserved vengeance.

He was relationally separated from the Father
So we could be eternally united with Him.

Proverbs 25:21

If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat,
and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink,
²² for you will heap burning coals (*of remorse*) on his head,
and the LORD will reward you.

Love without strings
...but love often produces fruit

Romans 2:4

Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness
and forbearance and patience, not knowing that
God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Moving Forward

Where do I need to own my debt to God? ...to others?

We are all offenders and in *exactly as much need of grace.*

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Who do I need to forgive?

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.