

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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December 1, 2024

“Foolishness Is Bound Up In The Heart Of A Child”

By David Weeks



“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him” (Proverbs 22:15). There is so much about this simple statement of wisdom from Solomon that is not 2024 approved.

I can hear the critics as their knees jerk in anger: "Are you saying that our dear, darling children are ignorant fools? Don't you understand how wrong and damaging that is to a young person's self-esteem?" they ask you and me, aghast. And then they might say: "And don't even get me started on your threat of physical violence! Don't you know that violence only begets violence?" The PC crowd melts down in uncontrollable sobbing whenever Solomon speaks.

But, Solomon was right.

Youth is a time of foolishness, because young people have little experience in life. There was nothing insulting nor incriminating in Solomon's observation. It is just plain true. In our teenage years, most of us made foolish choices, and we thought foolish things, because unlike older people, we had not seen enough of life.

One of the ways that we learn is by making mistakes. When a person arrives to his thirties alive and kicking, he has learned from experience what works and what doesn't. A young person isn't "there" yet.

Solomon knew what he was talking about. In his youth he set about learning all that he could about life by experiencing all of it (Ecclesiastes 1:13). As a result, he eventually saw all that is done under the sun and he concluded that *“all is vanity and striving after the wind”* (vs. 14).

He communed with his heart about his chosen quest, and then he set his heart to the task of knowing wisdom, madness, and folly (vs. 16-17). When he was finished, Solomon concluded that man's only sure course of contentment and wisdom is to "fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (12:13).

It is in this light that Solomon gives his best possible advice to young people: "Rejoice, O young man in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; but know for all of these God will bring you into judgment" (11:9).

Youth is a unique time in one's life that will never come again. Sooner, rather than later, one's eyes will grow dim, and his body will shake with the weakness of age, his teeth will become weak and fall out, and his hearing will fail (12:1-4).

So, young people should enjoy the relatively peaceful and healthy days of their youth while they can. But...there is always a "but," *“Remember your creator in the days of your youth”* (12:1). One's life is not solely about youthful ease and joy, life is ultimately about one's responsibility to God.

Death comes to everyone. Sooner or later, *“the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it”* (vs. 7).

This tends to be the dividing line between the foolishness of youth and the wisdom of age.

Young people think the judgment is some far off, nebulous event, and there is too much fun to be had and too many goals to accomplish to think of accountability now! "Oh, I intend to get my life together someday, and I will serve God

when I do, but, right now there are mountains to climb, there is money to make, love to experience, and adventures to pursue."

Older Christians have a "been there, done that, and I have the scars to prove it" mindset. They once thought in the vacuous manner of youth, but now with wisdom and experience as their companions, they realize that the end is nearer than it has ever been before. Soon they will have to give an account to the Lord for the life they have lived (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Now is the time to not waste a single moment of one's life. Older Christians agree with Solomon's conclusions, because having lived long enough, they have witnessed all of their plans, which did not have God as their focus, came to nothing. It was vanity and striving after the wind.

Young people need to be taught to love God and to put Him first in their lives. They need to be disciplined, and they need to be reminded that youth ends, death eventually comes, and then comes judgment (Hebrews 9:27).

"PATTERNS"

By Heath Rogers

Some have the idea there are no patterns set forth in the Bible regarding things like worship, the organization of the local church, or even the plan of salvation. They mock the idea of brethren having lists of things which must be done (the five acts of worship, the steps of salvation, etc.).

To some, the New Testament must not be viewed as a legal document but as a love letter from God. It doesn't really matter what we believe, as long as we are sincere.

This promotes a subjective view toward the Scriptures (the meaning of the Bible is established by the reader, not the author). Such a view allows each person to determine for themselves what is authorized in religion.

However, this turns God into the author of confusion and chaos, which the Bible says He is not. *"For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints"* (1 Corinthians 14:33).

The New Testament is not a nebulous love letter, saying one thing to one person and something different to another. Instead, it produces a singular pattern to be followed alike by all believers.

Paul commanded Timothy to *"hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus"* (2 Timothy 1:13). The truth taught by Paul was a "pattern of sound words" to which Timothy was to "hold fast."

The word pattern is translated from the Greek word hupotuposis. This is a compound word. The prefix hupo means "under." The other part of the word, tupos, refers to a model for imitation or writing. It is likely that all of us have traced over something before to make an exact copy. This is the idea behind hupotuposis.

The "pattern of sound words" delivered by Paul and the other apostles are not a rough outline, leaving believers to fill in the details as we see fit. These sound words are a complete form or model which we must trace over and copy perfectly in our personal beliefs and practices.



Memory Verse of the Week:

James 1:22 (NKJB)

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, & Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, George Hutto, Nathan Cox, Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer), B.J. Graves, Danny Cottrell, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, Jessica Plunk (Lynlie's friend who is scheduled for a double mastectomy on December 5), and Sherry Fuqua Doles had a fall and broke her hip. Danny Cottrell (Dan's Dad) is at home.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Russell Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "It Is Not Enough...."

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Brian Meade
Author: The Books Of James
Starting Page & Question: Rick Billingsley
Page 18, Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Doug George
Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:20-25
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Lord's Supper: Paul Johnson
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "What Will You Do With Jesus?"
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

December 4, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
Workbook: The Minor Prophets #2
Author: By Marc Gibson
Starting Page & Question: Page 49, Question #16
Invitation: Paul Busby
Song Leader: Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer: Danny Sheffield

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“It Is Not Enough....”

Lesson Text: **Matthew 10:25**. Here It Is Enough Or What God Wants And Expects....

I. It Is Not Enough Just To Hear God’s Word.

– Ezekiel 33:30-33; Matthew 7:26; Mark 6:20; James 1:22.

II. It Is Not Enough To Just Be A Religious Person.

– Acts 17:22; Acts 10:1-2; James 1:26.

III. It Is Not Enough To Have A Clean Conscience.

– Acts 23:1; 24:16; 26:9.

IV. It Is Not Enough To Be Very Zealous For God.

– Romans 10:1-3; Matthew 23:15; Matthew 23:23.

V. It Is Not Enough To Obey Most Of What God Says.

– 1 Samuel 15:13-21.

VI. It Is Not Enough To Know Some Scripture.

– The Devil Knows Some Scripture- Matthew 4:5-7; 2 Peter 3:16; Acts 18:24-26.

VII. It Is Not Enough To Just Start Out Following Jesus.

– Luke 14:28; Luke 9:62; Luke 17:32; 2 Timothy 4:7.

VIII. It Is Not Enough To Ask For Prayers.

– Exodus 8:8-9; Jeremiah 7:16-18; 42:20-22; 1 John 5:16-17.

IX. It Is Not Enough To Tremble At God’s Word.

– Isaiah 66:2; Acts 24:24-25 (KJB); James 2:19 (NKJB).

X. It Is Not Enough To Just Confess Your Sins.

– Pharaoh: Exodus 9:27; 10:16. Balaam: Numbers 22:34.
Achan: Joshua 7:20. Saul: 1 Samuel 15:24; 15:30; 26:21.
– Proverbs 28:13.

XI. It Is Not Enough To Only Believe In Jesus.

– John 12:42-43; Romans 10:10; Mark 16:15-16.

XII. It Is Not Enough To Want To Go To Heaven.

– Matthew 19:16-22; Luke 13:24; Hebrews 5:9.

“What Will You Do With Jesus?”

Lesson Text: **Matthew 27:20-25.**

I. The Jewish Leaders Wanted To Put Jesus To Death.

– **Matthew 26:3-5.** Many Today Would Love To Do Away With Jesus.

II. Judas Betrayed Jesus For Thirty Pieces Of Silver.

– **Matthew 26:14-16; 26:47-50.** Some Have Done The Same Thing Today!

– Dan Barker Left His Faith To Work As Co-President Of Freedom From Religion Foundation.

III. Peter Tried To Defend Jesus With A Sword.

– **John 18:10-11; Matt. 26:52** Not The Way To Defend Jesus: **John 18:36; 2 Cor. 10:3-5.**

IV. The Disciples Fled From Jesus.

– **Matthew 26:31-33; 26:56.** Disciples Still Leave When Tough Times Come: **Matthew 13:21.**

V. Peter Then Denies That He Even Knows Jesus.

– **Matthew 26:69-75.** Some Disciples Can Deny Him Today: **Matthew 10:33; Luke 12:9.**

VI. Some Unscrupulous Men Lied About Jesus.

– **Matthew 26:59-61.** Some Irreligious/Religious Men Lie Today About Jesus. **1 Tim 4:2.**

VII. Pilate Tried To Pass The Question Off To Someone Else.

– **Luke 23:6-11;** Herod Sent Jesus Back; **Matthew 27:21-25.** Can We Do This Today?

VIII. The Romans Crucified Jesus.

– **Matthew 27:26-38.** Can We Do This Today? How? **Hebrews 6:6; Romans 6:11.**

IX. The Enemies Of Jesus Mocked Him.

– **Matthew 27:39-44.** Men Still Mock Him Today! Mock His Beliefs & Followers.

– People Mock What They Don't Believe Or Understand! **Acts 17:32; 2 Peter 3:3-7.**

X. Jesus' Mother Wept For Him.

– **John 19:25-27;** Simeon Predicted Her Tears **Luke 2:34-35.**

– People Still Mourn For Jesus. **1 Corinthians 11:23-25; Matthew 5:4.**

XI. The Centurion Believed And Praised Jesus.

– **Matthew 27:54; Luke 23:47.** People Do Develop Faith In Jesus Today! **Romans 10:17.**

XII. What Will You Do With Jesus?

– Will You Disbelieve Jesus? Will You Hate Jesus?
Or Pass The Question Off Until Later?

– Or Will You Believe Jesus? Will You Love Jesus? Serve Him Faithfully?
Obey Him Fully And Be Saved?