

Sunday Message: March 14, 2021

Unnatural Peace, Phil. 4:6-7, Proverbs 3:1-2, Psalm 23:2-3, John 14:27

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Reflection Questions

1 When you think of the word “peace” what general ideas or notions come to mind?

2 What are some persons, places, or things in your own life that often give you a sense of peace?

3 Read John 14:27 and 16:33, then reflect on what you’ve just discussed. Outside of relational proximity to Christ Himself, how might each one of these persons, places, or things ultimately be false sources of true and lasting peace?

4 How might you tweak this coming week to seek after true peace that’s found in Christ alone?

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Text Exploration Questions

The primary translation used on Sunday mornings is the ESV. The corresponding notes in the ESV Study Bible are helpful when reflecting on the questions below.

- Quickly look at Prov. 1:8, 10, 15; 2:1; 3:1, 11, 21; 4:1, 10, 20; 5:1; 6:1, 20; 7:1, 24; 8:32. Who are these proverbs for and who is the one doing the instruction (see 1:8)? More importantly, what is the goal of the instruction being offered (see 10:1; 13:1)?
- Key Concept: If we want children to be wise, then they should listen to the instruction of their parents. And what wisdom is the parent offering?... wisdom that is grounded in fear of the Lord (1:7; 3:7; 9:10). Talk about what it means to fear the Lord.
- Parent/Spiritual Parent (see Philemon 8-10, Paul is a spiritual father to Onesimus through his prison ministry) – How are you doing in grounding your child/spiritual child in the wisdom that comes from fear of the Lord? Child/spiritual child, how are you doing with hearing and listening to instruction from God and your parents/spiritual parents?

Now read Proverbs 3:1-12. Take notes or discuss using the questions below.

- How many sets of instructions are listed in these verses? Identify all with brackets around each set of the instructions. Then give a title or theme to each set.
- With each set of instructions note the “fors,” “so thats,” and “thens” which introduce the benefits of following the instruction noted in each set. Make a list of all the things that following wise instruction leads to and produces. Pull in thoughts from the Sunday sermon.
- What do you learn about God from these verses? What do you learn about being a wise son/daughter from these verses? Or conversely, about living unwisely as a child of God?
- Relating to the previous question, what does God want us to learn from these verses about living a wise God-fearing life? In what areas of our lives might this wisdom apply? Think about your answers from the first two bullet points in this section.

Discipleship and Gospel-related Questions

- In what ways does this section of scripture inform our understanding of being a follower of Jesus and our role in discipleship? How might we use the book of Proverbs when discipling your children/spiritual children?
- How do we keep “fear of the Lord” from trying to earn our salvation or trying to earn God’s approval through being obedient? In other words, how do we frame “fear of the Lord” with a proper understanding of the Gospel? For insight, consider reading Ray Ortland’s article “The Fear of the Lord” at <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/fear-lord/>