

Training Future Generations to Walk in Wisdom

I. Psalm 78 – Our mandate as parents / grandparents (physical & spiritual)

A. The Exhortation to hear God's Wisdom – v. 1-8

1. The Invitation (v. 1-4)

¹ O my people, listen to my instructions. Open your ears to what I am saying, ² for I will speak to you in a parable. I will teach you hidden lessons from our past— ³ stories we have heard and known, stories our ancestors handed down to us. ⁴ We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders.

2. The Goal (v. 5-8)

⁵ For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, ⁶ so the next generation might know them— even the children not yet born— and they in turn will teach their own children. ⁷ So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands. ⁸ Then they will not be like their ancestors— stubborn, rebellious, and unfaithful, refusing to give their hearts to God.

- a. Teach God's truth to children and grandchildren (vs. 6)
- b. To train up children that know & love the Lord
 - 1) Put their _____ (confidence; trust) in God (v. 7a)
 - 2) _____ the glorious miracles of God (v. 7a)
 - 3) _____ His commands (v. 7)
- c. To keep them from being like the former generations (v. 8)
 - 1) A stubborn and rebellious generation = opposite of "put their _____ in God"
 - 2) A generation that did not prepare its heart = opposite of "_____ the works of God"
 - 3) Whose spirit was not faithful to God = opposite of "_____ His commandments"

B. The Illustrations of Israel's Failures – v. 9-64

1. Miracles Forgotten v. 9-16
2. Discontent / Materialism v. 17-31
3. Hypocrisy (Meaningless Repentance) v. 32-39
4. Forgetting Redemption v. 40-53
5. Idolatry (Ingratitude for the Promised Land) v. 54-64

C. The Conclusion – v. 65-72

II. Ps. 8; 147:4; Is. 40:26; Ps. 19:1-6 – Remember _____ Revelation!

A. Ps. 8 – General Revelation shows us God is awesome (v. 1, 9)

1. Invocation – v. 1a
2. Incredible Proclamation – v. 1b-2
3. Incomparable Project – v. 3-8
 - a. Man _____ by God's Creation – v. 3-4
 - b. Man _____ by God's Grace – v. 5-8
4. Benediction – v. 9

B. Ps. 147:4; Is. 40:26 – Study the _____ !

- _____ in the visible (observable) universe (1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000) = 1 septillion
 - There are 2 trillion galaxies in the universe. Milky Way galaxy contains approximately 100 - 400 billion stars.
 - _____ to _____ stars for every grain of sand on planet Earth.
 - If you counted 1 million stars every second, it would take more than _____ years to count them.
- What does this tell us about God?
 - God is awesome.
 - God is personal.
 - He is Lord over the entire universe (naming something shows authority over it – cf. Gen. 1)
 - God cares more about us than He does the stars (Ps. 8; Mt. 10:29-31).
 - God is worthy of praise.
- Note: use Skyview Lite or other apps to observe stars, constellations, planets, and satellites.

C. Ps. 19:1-6 – The Works of God

1. General Revelation (v. 1-6)

- a. It is _____ (1)
- b. It is _____ (v. 1-2)
- c. It is _____ (v. 3)
- d. It is _____ (v. 4-6)

TRANS: That leaves Trust & Obey. Trust & Obey what?

- Not creation. Not General Revelation.
 - It is Limited (1 Cor. 1:21; John 5:39; 2 Tim. 3:15)
 - It can be Perverted (Rom. 1:18, 25)

III. Psalm 19:7-14; Prov. 3:1-6 – Trust & Obey _____

A. Psalm 19:7-14 – _____ !

1. It is _____ (7-9)

Paraphrase: Scripture is so powerful and comprehensive that it can convert or transform the entire person, changing someone into precisely the person God wants him/her to be. God's divine witness to truth is so trustworthy that it can take a naïve, simple mind and make it wise, so as to be skilled in all the issues of life. Scripture is God's divine principles / guidelines for godly character and conduct to give us clear direction through the difficult maze of life, so we can experience in our innermost being the joy of knowing we are on the right path. Scripture is God's authoritative, binding mandates to man, that brings clear, lucid light so man can see clearly what God desires. Scripture is God's manual for worship, and it is so pure, clean and perfect that it is relevant for all people of all ages. Scripture is the ultimate verdict from the Supreme Judge of the universe, which is absolutely true and produces comprehensive righteousness in those who believe.

2. It is _____ (10)

3. It is _____ (11-14)
- Rebuking sin – “warned” (11)
 - Rewarding submission (11)
 - Revealing sin (12)
 - Restraining sin (13-14)
4. It is _____ (2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:3)

B. Prov. 3:1-6

- _____ – v. 1-2 – ¹ My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart. ² If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying.
 - _____ – v. 3-4 – ³ Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. ⁴ Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation.
 - _____ – v. 5-6 – ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.
- _____ God’s Word as the _____ in your life (Prov. 28:26; Rom. 12:2)
 - _____ God’s Word (will) as a _____ of life (paths; ruts in the road; ways; in all you do).

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. Read **Psalm 78:1-8**. Other than the “stars,” what comes to your mind when you think of the “mighty wonders of God?” List several things that cause you to be in awe of God. What are some ways you could pass this on to your children / grandchildren or spiritual children?
2. How does meditating upon the mighty wonders of God help you when you are tempted to be worried, anxious, fearful?
3. Read **Psalm 8**. What is the main point of this Psalm? What is the Hebrew word for “man” used in this Psalm? Why is that important in our understanding of our relationship to God?
4. Read **Psalm 19**. How does a deep understanding of General Revelation help us carry out Psalm 78? What is the difference between General Revelation and Special Revelation? Why is Special Revelation so important?
5. Read **Psalm 147:4** and **Isaiah 40:26**. How might studying stars help you expand your understanding of how awesome God is? How would it help you when you get a “bad report” from your doctor? When you lose a job? When unexpected bills go beyond your current finances? When you are being persecuted / threatened because of your faith? When you sense the “fear of man” growing in your heart?
6. To trust & obey the Scriptures we have to know them well. What is your current practice of reading, hearing, memorizing, meditating up, and obeying the Word of God? Is the example you want it to be for future generations to follow? If not, what could you start doing differently this week?
7. What does the Word of God ultimately point us to as our greatest need? Note: Ps. 8, 19, and 78 all drive us to the same conclusion (see Eph. 2:1-10; John 3:1-16). How can you pass this critical message on to future generations as their greatest need?
8. The infinite, omnipotent, omniscient God of the universe knows everything about you (Ps. 139; Mt. 6:25ff). Yet He still **loves you**. Why does a God infinitely bigger than the universe care about you and me? How has He proven that once and for all? What difference should this make in your life / lifestyle? How should this impact your worship? How does this motivate you to trust and obey?
9. Have you come to know God through His Son, the only Savior (John 14:6; Acts 4:12), the Lord Jesus Christ? He knows we are sinful (Rom. 3:10-23), spiritually bankrupt (Mt. 5:3-4), and have no way of getting to Him by our own efforts (Rom. 3:19-20). Yet He calls us to come to Him freely through the finished work of Jesus (Is. 55:1-7; Mt. 11:28-30). What is keeping you from turning from sin and trusting exclusively in Jesus for eternal life (Mk. 1:15; Rom. 10:9-13; Titus 3:3-7)?
10. Pass a living faith on to the next generations. Prayerfully consider doing that here at The Bridge Bible Fellowship through our **children’s ministry on Sundays or Wednesdays**. We have a critical need for teachers and assistants in this vital ministry. Contact Xiomara Bueno (818-776-1500) if you are interested or have questions.