Proverbs*

Proverbs 1:5-7 (5) A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:
(6) To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.
(7) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.
The book of Proverbs has traditionally been attributed to wise King Solomon, who; spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five (I Kings 4:32). *Even though the first verse of Proverbs attributes the book to Solomon, he collected many of them from various sources as indicated by scripture;* And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs (Ecclesiastes 12:9). *The last two chapters of Proverbs apparently were written by two men, one named Agur (30:1) and the other Lemuel (31:1). Whether Solomon wrote most of them, or collected most of them, Proverbs is rightly attributed to Solomon,* (chapter 10:1). *However, the present form of the book was apparently organized by the servants of King Hezekiah;* These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out (Pro 25:1). *The many sayings of Proverbs, seemingly so disjointed, all contribute to the full, rich life of a true redeemed follower of God. Each one well deserves thoughtful study and careful meditation, and all together show that God is directly concerned with every detail of our lives. Now we all know we are to;* Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2Tim 2:15). *Rightly dividing the word of truth is the key of approval. That is why Proverbs is so often quoted by preachers because it's wise sayings have substance in our lives today.*

But one needs to be careful, there are men who often use the ordinances of the old law as the fundamental principle guiding ones righteous life. However Paul has rightly answered this question, turn to;

2Timothy 3:14-17 (14) But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;
(15) And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation **through faith which is in Christ Jesus.**
(16) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
(17) That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

It has been said the Church of Christ has left the teaching of "all scripture" because of the belief that Christ has fulfilled the old law and that it no longer applies in these latter days. First of all, we know all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for the reasons we read in 2Tim 3:16. Scripture also tells us to rightly divide the word of truth as Christ said; Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me (John 5:39). *Here Christ is conveying the evidence in rightly dividing the word of truth. He is telling us that in the scriptures there is eternal life in those that testify of Him. What about scriptures that do not?* And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved (Acts 15:1). *It was determined that Paul and Barnabas should go to Jerusalem to consult the apostles and elders about this question because some of the Pharisees believed that it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses. Was there an answer to this most pressing question? Yes, there is, Turn with me to;*

Acts 15:6-10 (6) And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.
(7) And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.
(8) And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;
(9) And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.
(10) Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?
We arrive now at the point we had in view, and which we shall now present more plainly and fully. Doctrine has been an ongoing development, as one part is fulfilled, the latter command takes precedence over the earlier. The former need to be circumcised and keep the ordinances of the law was fulfilled and had given way to the grace of God through faith in Christ Jesus. The explanation of the old covenant in the book of Hebrews is brilliant, showing great intelligence and at the same time, common sense. This exceptional insight cannot be ignored because as we shall see, it is scriptural, for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, as we shall see in;
Hebrews 8:7-13 (7) For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.
(8) For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:
(9) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

(10) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:
(11) And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.
(12) For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.
(13) In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.
This prophecy came to fruition in 70 AD when the temple vanished away preventing observance of the old ordinances. The teaching in Hebrews is the will of God they all should have known, because it had already been revealed in Jeremiah 31:31. *Proverbs is a book of wise sayings that are truthful, that a Christian can follow with all confidence. Perhaps the most quoted is;* There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Pro 14:12). *How many times have we heard of "ways which seemeth right," when in reality they are deviations of the gospel? How many times have we heard "the Bible does not say we cannot." What is wrong with that saying? A major difference between 'ways which seemeth right' and Church of Christ doctrine is the approach taken toward the scriptures. The Church of Christ* ***does not*** *take for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness what the Bible '****does not say****.' Neither did Paul, turn with me to;*
Galations 1:6-10 (6) I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:
(7) Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.
(8) But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other

gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.
(9) As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.
(10) For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.
I do not know what the deviation was that Paul had warned the Galatians to avoid. It does not matter, any deviation is to be avoided. But what should a Christian do? That is where Proverbs can be a handy tool to have in ones arsenal, and when protected with the shield of faith in Christ Jesus, ye shall be able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked and of the unlearned.
Wisdom in the Bible has little to do with a college degree or graduating with honors. From the Biblical perspective, wisdom is the ability to live skillfully. A wise person lives a life marked by passionate obedience to God, devotion to family, integrity in the workplace, and concern for others. Wisdom permeates every layer of our existence from obedience to God, raising our children, to driving on the freeway. The only prerequisite for entrance into the Bible's school of wisdom is an humble and teachable spirit. Now we realize the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. A wise man will hear, gladly develop an obedient faith and shall inherit glory, but fools rush in where angels fear to tread. Jesus said, he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*, a wise man will hear, but many rush to the doctrine of "belief only."* The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit (Pro 14:8). *What is deceit? It's a statement, act, or device that is misleading, fraudulent, or tricking one into doing something that is wrong. The devil, disguised as a minister of light goeth about seeking whom he may deceive. The deceived will pass that falsity on to others*

as doctrine, as reproof, as correction, as instruction in righteousness, perhaps unaware they are teaching ways of death. So that brings us to understanding God's way. Is it belief or faith only? Well, faith in Christ is the effect of belief, however, obeying the gospel of Christ is the effect of faith. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only (James 2:24). *However, our own meritorious works have nothing to do with salvation, but obedience to God is everything.*
Now faith is a positive thing to have in ones life, for without faith it is impossible to please God. So then faith cometh by hearing and by hearing the word of God, but it must develop into an obedient faith. One must heed, follow, and practice what faith contains. You see, it is not enough to just believe, one must by faith put into action what the word of God contains. Let's turn to;
James 1:21-25 (21) Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.
(22) But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.
(23) For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:
(24) For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.
(25) But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.
Proverbs show us how to live the good life by pointing us in the right ways. Wisdom doesn't come easily, we have to search for it, work for it, and most of all, want it. But the reward is worth it. Let's proceed to;
Proverbs 16:16-25 (16) How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

(17) The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.
(18) Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.
(19) Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.
(20) He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.
(21) The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.
(22) Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly.
(23) The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.
(24) Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.
(25) There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

If Christ is so firm a foundation that not even the gates of hell can prevail against that which is built upon it, how very foolish, careless and imprudent are they who forsake this foundation, and build upon, and trust in, the vain things of this world! Certainly everything under the sun, yea, all which our eyes behold, is vain and transitory. Remove far from me vanity and lies (Pro 30:8). *But how much more vain are the sinful and evil things which God has forbidden, which He has warned us about in His word, that we should have nothing to do with them! How great will be the fall of those who build upon these forbidden vanities! If we suffer damage, and complain, when a material house or building falls, because its foundation is not firm, how much greater loss will they sustain, and what greater reason will they have to lament, who will fall both in soul and body, without ever being able to make restitution!*
Please turn with me to;

Matthew 7:24-27 (24) Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:
(25) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.
(26) And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:
(27) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

I'm sure most of you have heard of the falsity that the Church of Christ is an American born institution, founded and built on American soil by Alexander Campbell. Not only do people in vain attempt to disregard Christ's name's sake as revealed in scripture but would also rewrite history concerning the Church of Christ. There have been troublesome times for the Church. Her history is as the moon, altho her substance and body never perish, she is not always seen in her full light by the human eye, either, because she sinks beneath the horizon, or, being too close to the sun, is obscured by him, or, being far from the sun, is darkened by the shadow of the earth, which is called an eclipse, it is the same substance and appearance of the Church of Christ on earth. The Church, though never perishing entirely, does not always show herself in her full form, tho at times she seems to have vanished altogether, yet not in all geographical regions, but only in some places, either through the slothfulness of some people, who, from want of regard, or for some other reason, neglect the external, manifest commandments of God, or on account of some misconceptions or errors that have arisen, and whereby sometimes many of the true believers have been perverted, and seduced from the true worship of God; or in consequence of persecution, violence and tyranny exercised against the faith and the

practice of it, on account of which the children of God are compelled to hide and as outcasts from mankind seclude themselves in forests, wildernesses, and solitary places; so that its characteristics, light and virtue could not be seen, much less known, by the common world. Evidence of this is shown in Revelation.
When the emperor Domitian had banished John the holy apostle and evangelist for the Gospel's sake, to the island of Patmos, the Holy Ghost revealed unto him the future state of the Church of Christ, namely, that she would have to flee into the wilderness, on account of persecution. She was barely visible during this time, however there is a remment of history concerning Her. Dr Daniel Featly, who was one of the translators of the King James Bible, wrote in 1645 of the Churches of Christ meeting in London and elsewhere in his work the 'Dippers Dipt', he took those congregations back to 1525. Dr. Featley was an enemy of the Lord's church, tho he states there were members of the Church of Christ, in London, and that they had existed in England during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI and James I. James 1 was born in 1566 and died 1625. This alone confirms there was a Church of Christ elsewhere other than in America and in a time frame well before that of Alexander Campbell, born 1788 and died 1866. Dr Featly also confirms these congregations immersed for the remission of sins, a doctrine still taught in the Church of Christ tho dismissed by most of mainline Christianity.
I want to share another saying with you tho it's applied to a hypothetical debate between an atheist and a preacher. Altho the likelihood of this particular account being true is slim to none, there is a good lesson contained therein, kind of like a parable. Anyway, toward the end of the debate, the atheist told the preacher if he could be shown one scripture in the Bible that could be proven true, only then would he believe it. Whereupon the preacher grabbed the atheist by his nose and wrung it severely so that it began to bleed.

The atheist exclaimed, why did you do that? The preacher answered, in the book of Proverbs 30:33 *it says,* the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood. *On the day of judgment there will be something more dreadful than wringing of the nose awaiting unbelievers, listen to this;* But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death (Rev 21:8). *But it does not have to be that way, turn with me to;*

Proverbs 3:5-7 (5) Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
(6) In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
(7) Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

Proverbs will give us practical, down-to-earth insight into how we can skillfully live our lives. Reading a proverb only takes a few seconds, living a proverb takes a lifetime. Salvation by grace is a gift from God. Not of scorn, but tears from heaven by faith in His Son. Faith is the effect of belief, repentance, confession and baptism for remission of sins is the effect of faith. This is the gospel. Please come while you can still be obedient, if there be prayer requests for other reasons, in either case state your desire while we persuade with song.

This message approved by
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Ref. Traces of the Kingdom by Keith Sisman
Revised; 08092019
This message presented to; BaronOk-Dec2012/