

Daily Wisdom



SABBATH—JUNE 9

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Psalm 19:7-14; Psalm 119:98-105; Proverbs 3:13-16; Proverbs 30:8, 9; Matthew 13:22; Matthew 16:26; Romans 12:17, 18; Romans 13:1-4.

MEMORY VERSE: “You have known the Holy Scriptures ever since you were a little child. They are able to teach you how to be saved by believing in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15, NIV).

KEY THOUGHT: The Bible gives us a lot of wisdom for living our lives each day.

THE BIBLE DEALS WITH IMPORTANT THEMES (IDEAS). Some of these themes are the great controversy (the war between Christ and Satan), the fall of Lucifer, and the death of Jesus as a sacrifice (offering) for the sins of the world. But the Bible is also a book of useful wisdom. In the Bible we are given guidance (help) for living our lives each day. The Lord through His Word has given us wonderful principles.¹ If we follow and obey these principles, they will make a great difference in how we live. These principles will influence (affect) the choices we make.

When we must make choices, it is important to have God's guidance. God knows when a sparrow falls (Matthew 10:29). He really cares about us and wants what is best for us. We need to be open to His leading. If we come to Him with an open mind, He will guide us.

This week we will look more closely at the wisdom God shares with us through His Word, the Bible.

¹principles—basic rules of life.

SUNDAY—JUNE 10**THE AUTHOR OF WISDOM
(Psalm 119:105)**

Every day, everyone is faced with making choices or decisions. Wrong choices are made every day too. Often selfishness is the cause of these choices. As sinners we are selfish people. Our wrong choices often bring pain and suffering upon ourselves and others.

Think about some wrong choices you have made. What were the results? (Do not be hard on yourself for your mistakes. There is forgiveness² and healing at the Cross!) But the point is that wrong decisions can be very serious.



The Bible is our light and guide for this dark world.

²forgiveness—the act of pardoning someone or showing mercy to someone who has done wrong or caused hurt or injury to others.

The good news is that God has given us His Word. The Bible is a light and guide for us sinful, selfish people (Psalm 119:105). In the Bible we can find principles (rules) to help us live our lives. These principles give us wisdom. They help us make the right decisions. The principles of the Bible teach us what is wrong and what is right. They help us to choose to do what is right.

What promises and principles are found in Psalm 19:7-14; Psalm 119:98-105; Proverbs 3:13-16; and John 17:17? How can these promises and principles help us make decisions between right and wrong?

It is one thing to read about Bible principles. But it is another thing to follow them. As the psalmist said, “I am warned by them. When I obey them I am greatly rewarded” (Psalm 19:11, NIV). The wisdom found in the Bible is useless unless followed. A lot of people know the biblical principles but do not follow them. As Christians we need to know what the Bible says and obey what it says. Then we will have the wisdom offered to us through God’s Word. A wise person is not someone who just has head knowledge or who can quote a lot of verses from memory. A wise person is someone who acts upon the truths given to us through the Bible.

What big decision do you need to

make? Have you turned to the Bible for advice as you face these decisions? Think through the results of your choices. What Bible promises can you claim as you try to make the right decision about your choices?

MONDAY—JUNE 11

SOCIAL WISDOM FOR LIVING WITH PEOPLE (Romans 12:17, 18)

As humans we have our private³ lives. They are the lives we live at home behind closed doors. At the same time, we need other people. We live in a world with other people. But we may not share our privacy⁴ and closeness with them.

We are both private persons and public citizens.⁵ Here we can find wisdom in God's Word on how we can best live in our different communities.⁶

In an earlier lesson, we looked at how following the Ten Commandments could influence (affect) our family ties. Read the Ten Commandments again (Exodus 20:1-17). Now ask yourself how following these ten principles (laws) will help improve how we get along with others, too.

It is believed that throughout many hundreds of years humans⁷ have made more than thirty-two million

laws. These laws are made to control human behavior (action). Often these laws are changed and removed in order to be kept up to date. But not so with the Ten Commandments! The principles behind them are unchanging and eternal (without end). They are the principles that can guide us in our private and public lives.

The Bible gives us wisdom about how we can best live as citizens within our larger community. The Bible gives us more principles that can make us better citizens and better witnesses⁸ for the Lord in public.

What wisdom do you find in Jeremiah 29:7; Romans 12:17, 18; Romans 13:1-4; and 1 Peter 2:13, 14, 17? How will this wisdom help us fit better with those around us? What other verses can you think of that teach us how to get along with others? As you read these verses, ask yourself, How am I best able to use these words in the place where I live?

TUESDAY—JUNE 12

WISDOM IN THE WORKPLACE (Ecclesiastes 3:22)

The Bible points to our need to work. After God created Adam and Eve, He asked them to care for and keep the Garden of Eden (Genesis

³private—the parts of our lives we do not share with other people.

⁴privacy—the need to be alone or away from others.

⁵citizens—people who are members of a country or state because they were born there or became members by law.

⁶communities—groups of people living, working, or worshipping together.

⁷humans—men, women, or children.

⁸witnesses—people who teach other people about God by living a Christian life.

2:15). Even after sin stained the world (Genesis 3:17-19), work was meant to be a blessing to humans (Ecclesiastes 3:22). Paul said that if a man refused to work, he had no right to eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10). Jesus was 30 years of age when He entered public life (Luke 3:23). The Bible says that people knew Him as a carpenter (Mark 6:3).



God gave us work as a blessing. Before He began to preach and teach, Jesus was no stranger to work.

Obedying God's will involves obeying His Written Word. When we obey God's Word, we obey His will. The Bible teaches us His will for our lives. The Lord also gives us guidelines on how to live. These principles (rules) can guide us in all the areas of our lives, such as in our work.

Work is a big part of people's lives. So it is no surprise that the Bible gives us wisdom about work.

What principles found in the following verses can be used to guide us in our work?

Ecclesiastes 9:10 _____

Matthew 25:14-30 _____

Galatians 6:4 _____

Colossians 3:23, 24 _____

The Bible shows several attitudes⁹ and traits (actions) of a good worker. These include good use of time (Matthew 25:14-28), faithful labor (Proverbs 12:24), honesty, and respect for those in charge (Ephesians 6:5, 6). Most important, we should be honest in all our dealings. This is true for the employee and the employer (Proverbs 11:1).

What areas do you struggle with the most in your job while following biblical principles? What is the reason for your struggles? What useful changes can you make to better follow Bible principles about work?

⁹attitudes—ways of thinking, acting, or feeling.

WEDNESDAY—JUNE 13**THE BIBLE AND WEALTH
(Proverbs 30:8, 9)**

“ ‘Don’t [do not] make me either poor or rich, but give me only the bread I need each day. If you don’t [do not], I might have too much. Then I might say I don’t [do not] know you. I might say, “who is the Lord?” Or I might become poor and steal. Then I would bring shame to the name of my God’ ” (Proverbs 30:8, 9, NIV).



The Bible warns us of the dangers of riches.

What wisdom is found in Proverbs 30:8, 9 that can help us all deal with the topic of money and riches?

The Bible often warns us about how dangerous riches can be. Riches can draw us away from the Lord. The Lord foresaw¹⁰ that old-time Israel would turn away from Him. God said, “They will eat until they have had enough. They will get fat” (Deuteronomy 31:20;

read also Deuteronomy 32:15). Then they would turn away from God and serve other gods. At the same time, the Bible talks about laziness (not working), which can lead to being poor. Then, in its own way, being poor can often lead people to sin and ruin.

What do Matthew 13:22; Matthew 16:26; Matthew 19:24; and 1 Timothy 6:10 say about some of the dangers of wealth?

Money can do strange things to people. No matter how much money people make, that amount never seems enough. Sometimes, when people get richer, they become more selfish. But the Bible gives us principles¹¹ to help us handle money and riches. In our desire for money, we must remember that the only treasure that lasts is the “treasure in heaven” (Mark 10:21).

What do you think the Bible means when it talks about “treasure in heaven” in Mark 10:21? What is this treasure in heaven? How do we get it? How can this treasure help protect us from trying to get too much treasure here on earth?

THURSDAY—JUNE 14**WISE LEADERSHIP¹²
(Matthew 20:25-27)**

In today’s world there will always be

¹⁰foresaw—to have known about something before it happened.

¹¹principles—basic rules of life.

¹²leadership—the ability to show others the way or to guide them; to be the leader of others.

a place for leaders of one kind or another.



Moses was a wise and unselfish leader.

Sadly, many people who become leaders serve themselves only. They do not bother to think of the people they are leading. The Bible gives examples of unselfish and successful leaders, such as Moses. The Bible also gives examples of wicked leaders, such as King Herod.

What principle¹³ about leadership is found in Matthew 20:25-27?

How did Jesus show in Matthew 20:28 the principle of a leader serving others in His own life? What can we learn from His example?

Robert Greenleaf described a servant-leader as one who is a servant first. He wrote, “Being a servant-

leader begins with the desire to serve. Then this person decides he or she wants to lead. The servant-leader makes sure that other people’s interests and wants are being met. The servant-leader asks: Do those served grow as persons? Do they become healthier, wiser, freer, more humble, and more likely to become servants?” —Adapted from *The Power of Servant Leadership* (San Francisco: Berrett-Kochler Publishers, Inc., 1998), p. 4.

If all leaders in the past 2,000 years had been more like Jesus, human¹⁴ history would have been very different!

Of course, leaders who are willing to serve others are very few. But as Christians, the lives we lead should teach just how serving others can be done.

Are you in any kind of leadership role? If so, how well are you showing the principle about leadership that you have learned here today? How much selfishness drives you? Do you desire power? How much do you desire to minister (help) and serve others?

FRIDAY—JUNE 15

Additional Study: Ellen G. White, “How Shall We Search the Scriptures [Bible]?” pp. 105–111; “Dig Deeper,” p. 119; “Practical¹⁵ Instruction [Advice] in Labor [Work],” pp. 309–318, in *Testimonies¹⁶ to Ministers*.

¹³principle—basic rule of life.

¹⁴human—man, woman, or child.

¹⁵practical—useful, everyday, realistic.

¹⁶testimonies—a statement about a belief in God; the writings of Ellen G. White.

“The Bible has in it all the principles¹⁷ that people need to be fitted both for this life or for the life to come. And these principles may be understood by all.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *Education*,¹⁸ p. 123.

“God will help those who study the Bible, pray to Him, and depend upon Christ. He will help them to act wisely at all times and in all places. Their lives will be an example of what it means to live by good principles.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *Testimonies*¹⁹ for the Church, vol. 5, p. 43.

“The Bible teaches truth in such a simple way that it fits the needs and desires of the human heart. This truth has surprised and charmed the best educated minds. This truth also helps humble people with uneducated minds to understand God’s plan for saving sinners. These truths are given in simple language, but they deal with deep and important subjects. Sometimes we cannot understand these truths. We accept these truths only because God has said them.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White,

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 700.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ❶ How can paying tithes and giving offerings protect us against selfishness?
- ❷ How often do we go to the Bible for wisdom in making choices? As a class, talk about how the Bible can help us make decisions. Pick a few examples, such as *Should I marry this person? Should I take this job? Should I move?* How can you find in the Bible answers to these questions? Or can you?
- ❸ Think about the question of leadership.²⁰ Discuss how easy it is for leaders to become selfish and use their power for selfish instead of selfless reasons. What have been some class members’ experiences in this area? What have you learned that could help others?

¹⁷principles—basic rules of life.

¹⁸education—the things a person learns by being taught.

¹⁹testimonies—a statement about a belief in God; the writings of Ellen G. White.

²⁰leadership—the ability to show others the way or to guide them; to be at the head of others.