

SERMON TRANSCRIPT

DATE

July 15, 2018

SPEAKER

Dave Owen

SERIES

The Good Life

PART

3

TITLE

Receiving Guidance

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 3:5-8



© 2018 Providence Baptist Church (Raleigh, NC)

Sermon transcripts may be used for preaching and teaching purposes, but may not be published or sold. While generally accurate, parts of this transcript may contain errors.

Providence reserves the right to correct and/or remove a transcript at any time.

Good morning to you, Providence. Welcome. We are glad you are here. If you're a guest with us this morning, we say good morning to you. My name's Dave, one of the pastors here, and it's a joy to see you. Hope you've had a good week. If you have a Bible, let's take those out. If you don't have one, there's some under the seat there, and we'll be on page 528 this morning. And if you need a Bible, you can take that as a gift from us. We are excited that you are here with us this morning.

Let me go ahead and say, before we dive in, I know today in the world of sports, there's quite a bit going on, both at Wimbledon as well as the World Cup, so the 11:00 service will probably be a bit smaller, but we'll encourage them, hopefully they'll livestream it as well as watch the game. But we're excited, I'm excited for Croatia, who's going to take it all, but ... Okay, dude.

But let me give you some context really fast, okay, as we think about this pretty amazing event taking place, but let's get some context. So here's the context. Right, a soccer ball, you think about it, weighs right at 16 ounces, close to a pound, right? And today, estimation is probably a billion will watch, in some capacity around the world, this 16-ounce ball back and forth for 90 minutes, and maybe one score. I enjoy soccer, don't get me wrong; just giving you context, so stay with me, okay? Then thousands, not millions of eyes will be upon another ball that weighs two ounces. Two ounces. Right? Two ounces, and it'll go back and forth over a net inside some white lines. Wow, okay. I enjoy tennis, don't get me wrong, enjoy tennis as well.

But then think about, think about this for just a moment. The world. The world weighs 13, 170, and I don't know how to pronounce the rest of it, 21 zeroes, 21 zeroes behind it, pounds. God's Word says, "For in Christ all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." He says, Hebrews, that Christ "upholds the universe," not just the world, the universe, "by the word of his power." Two ounces? 16 ounces? Christ hold up the world by his word.

So, I'm suggesting to you today, in light of great sporting events, which I will participate in and watch, that the greatest event, the greatest event taking place today in our world is the gathering of God's people to listen to his Word and worship his Son. Oh, listen, listen, because I believe Ephesians chapter 3 says that the manifold wisdom of God is on display in the church. So, the church, the people of God, when they gather week in and week out, every Sunday, God's not just wisdom, but manifold wisdom, the multi-varied variations of diversity, meaning that he takes people of every race, color, people of every background, he redeems them by the blood of his Son, and then he puts them together in a room to be unified, and they sing to his Son.

This is the greatest event that will take place today in this world: people being redeemed, coming and worshipping. It says the manifold wisdom of God is on display, so if God's wisdom is on display with his people gathering together, oh, it beckons the question, does it not? How, then, do we receive this wisdom? How do we taste of this type of wisdom that's on display when the church gathers together? Who is ready, who is ready to receive this type of wisdom from God's Word?

Oh, Proverbs. Proverbs, tremendous, tremendous book. And we're continuing this study of it, right? One theologian and author named Tim Keller says this about this book, Proverbs. He says, "Proverbs calls us to study, to think, to learn the practical discipline of centering all of our thoughts and actions on God. Indeed," he says, "one of the main messages of Proverbs is you've never really thought enough about anything." Let that land on you. In his comparison of Psalms and Proverbs, he said, "If the Bible was a medicine cabinet, Psalms would be the ointment put on inflamed skin to calm it, and Proverbs would be like smelling salts to startle you into alertness. Proverbs is a poetic art form," he says, "that instills wisdom in you as you wrestle with it." And so, may we wrestle with it this morning. Let's pray together.

Father, we ask that you would teach us this morning. We ask that you would open our eyes to see, to see in a chaotic culture that perceives wisdom in one way. It inundates our minds and hearts and affections, week in and week out. God, would you help us to grasp, grasp how to receive this. God, if wisdom is calling to us and you have painted a pathway to it, promises with that pathway, then, God, help us to be people ready to receive this wisdom. To live a life not only good, but one that glorifies your Son, Jesus. So we pray this in Jesus' name, amen.

Proverbs chapter 3, page 528 in the Bible under the chair, if you don't have one. Proverbs chapter 3. If you're new to Christianity, or you're exploring Christianity, we're so grateful that you're with us. This is what we do, we just walk through passages. If you're not sure how to find it to follow along, the larger number you'll see is a 3. That's the chapter; the smaller number is the verse, and this is what I'm going to read, the smaller number 5. I'll start there. It says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones."

Providence, this morning we are in deep need of wisdom, and yet most of the time, we want to receive it, we want to receive it as an Amazon Prime customer. We want it quick, we want to be able to Google it and get it as fast as possible, and that's just not the way it works, right? It's a journey with God. It's walking with God. It's more like the health craze that's taking place right in our culture, right? Everything's going organic, everyone is shopping at Whole Foods or somewhere, looking for that label "organic," trying to be healthy, taking some essential oils and rubbing them, just trying to get healthy, right? And yet, you don't wake up one morning and take a look at the meal chart to make sure the proteins and the veggies are lining up, go to the gym, and at the end of the day, you drop 25. That's not the way that works. It's a journey, it's a process, and so it is with wisdom and receiving it.

Two weeks ago, as we started this series, we really looked at wisdom calling, it's calling out to us. Last week, we looked at this, there's a pathway to it, and God makes these promises as we're on this pathway and walking toward him. Today, I just want to show you simply two truths about those who receive. If it's calling, and there's a pathway, then who are those that receive this wisdom, this guidance from God?

Two truths this morning. The first one is this: Receiving God's wisdom requires trusting Christ and turning from self-reliance. Receiving God's wisdom requires trusting Christ and turning from self-reliance. We see it in verse 5, says, "Trust in the Lord."

So, receiving this wisdom from God ultimately starts with receiving redemption in Christ. It's taking him at his word, it's saying, "I believe on Christ. I'm throwing myself upon God." Once to be justified, that means to be made right. That's the point in time where you place your faith in Christ, in his death, burial, and resurrection, and what he's accomplished that we could not accomplish. That's justification, so that's being made right with God. And then, as you're walking with God, as you're growing in God, it's called sanctification. It's being set apart, in a sense, but it's a daily trust. You're trusting even there, as you're walking with him.

I love the way Proverbs ends in chapter 30. There's a student that's studying probably under Solomon, studying this wisdom, and he comes to this point in his life, and it's fascinating words, because it's really a prophetic word that's pointing to the Wise One himself, Jesus. But listen to Proverbs 30, written years and years, hundreds of years before Christ came, and this is this ... Agur is this sage in a sense, this student of Solomon, and he writes this. He says, "The man declares, I am weary, O God; I am weary, O God, and I'm worn out. Surely I am too stupid to be a man. I have not the understanding of a man. I have not learned wisdom, nor have I knowledge of the Holy One. Who has ascended to heaven and come down?" Who is this one? Who has ascended? Who has come down? "Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name? Surely you know!"

Oh. Oh, do we know. Oh, do we know, for the Son of God himself, I believe, quoting some of the words from this proverb hundreds of years later in John chapter 3, confronting a religious leader who's trusting in self-righteous works that will not save you, but will wear you out, says it like this: "No one is ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man." Then it goes on to say, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes on him shall not perish but have everlasting life." Listen, if wisdom is calling out, he's made a path, and those who receive it trust. They trust, they turn from self-reliance. Notice in verse 5, it says, "Do not lean on your own understanding." Now what does this word "lean" mean? It doesn't mean to lean up against the wall, where some of the weight's up against the wall and some's on the feet. It means to literally lie on the bed, it means to lean completely in.

Years ago, before I had any wisdom, I used to love doing stupid things like jumping out of a plane, parachuting, and all kinds of crazy stuff. So I'm in Orlando at a meeting. This is before I was married, by the way. I was down there, and there's this cool machine that's really high in the air. It's called a SkyCoaster, and what a SkyCoaster is, is it's where you lay down in a harness where you're fully suspended. I'll show you this pic right here real quick. So you're completely leaning into the harness, and then you'll notice there's a couple of cables. There's one going back, and there's one going up, and the one that's going back is connected to a single pole that's really, really high, and it pulls you backwards all the way up.

And then you're at the top, you're hundreds of feet in the air.

I'm in Orlando doing this, getting ready to fly out over the highway, not the wisest thing. And then you release it, and you go flying through the air, and it's a blast, trust me. If you get hurt doing this, don't call me, but it's an incredible ... So you see what looks like a bird out to the right; that's actually the person in the harness. And you fly out over, but your body weight, you're fully leaning into the harness to hold you. I mean, I put all of my trust in that harness when I did this, and this is what the writer of Proverbs is telling us. Listen, put all of it, don't lean up against God, lean into him with your everything that you have, all of your heart, all of your soul.

He says ... Notice what the text says. He says, "Do not lean on your own understanding, but in all your ways," so twice, he says "all." He says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart," and then verse 6, he says, "In all your ways acknowledge him." In all of your ways. So think about this, right? This is really what I like to think of as a God-centeredness. This is hobbies and vocation and vacation, and relationships, and everything. He desires that there's a God-centeredness to our lives, where we're leaning, where we're trusting him in everything.

It's interesting the word, right? He says to acknowledge him. Now, let's unpack that for a moment, because when I was growing up in a small town in Virginia, which I absolutely loved that experience; there was a simplicity to it, there was a lot of fun to it. I worked hard on a farm during the summers. We'd start 5:30, 6:00 in the morning, go to 7:00 or 8:00, until it was done, but we would ... At lunchtime, we would go down to a small little pond, and we would fish. That doesn't happen a lot in Raleigh, during lunchtime where you can go fish. And we'd catch a couple of bass, and pull them in, throw them back, take a nap on the back of the truck, and then go back to work, and go hard at it.

But one of the things that we did, most of my friends and I, we all had pickup trucks. I had a 1966 Chevy pickup truck, paid 400 bucks for it. It was beautiful, it had three on the column with the clutch, and it didn't run at over 45, didn't want to blow the engine up, but it ran awesome. And so, when we rode around town, and all my other boys in the town, they had pickup trucks, we would acknowledge each other. And the way we acknowledged each other, our hand would be on the steering wheel like this, right? And when you rode by, you just ... One finger up. The right finger, the index ... Okay, y'all, stay with this. Some of y'all messed up this one.

All right, so we just ... We ride around, we just ... Man, it's just ... But that said so much to each other. We knew what that said. That just said, "What's up, man? I saw you, I know you, you're my boy. We're going to get together this weekend?" It just so much, right? It was just a little simple wave that spoke ... If you didn't, man, there's something wrong. He's mad at me, right? But otherwise, it's just a simple acknowledge, right?

But listen, listen. You don't find wisdom and receive wisdom waving at God. No, no, you lean in to God, you give your heart, you trust him with everything. You acknowledge him not just when you go by him; you acknowledge him day in, day out. This is what he desires. Listen, he says to trust, to trust, to surrender. It's amazing this week, our eyes, all of our eyes, in a sense, have been fixed on Thailand and the cave where these boys were rescued. One diver lost his life, yet that picture, I just constantly thought, the Spirit of God was just bringing to mind, there's so many pictures of the gospel in that rescue, right? They're in a dark cave, they can't get out, much like our own lives. We're in a dark cave of sin, we can't rescue ourselves. Someone has to come in.

And it's fascinating how they came in, and they didn't just say, "Now, here's the path out"; they actually carried them out, in front, behind, carrying the oxygen tank, rescuing them. This is what God has done. He has come into the darkness of our caves, and he has not just given us an oxygen tank, he's carried the oxygen tank. He's carried us and delivered us out of sin. He has freed us. Acts 17 says that he gives us breath. We move and exist and have our being because of God himself.

Oh, listen, trust him. Acknowledge him. But let me give you two quick areas and try to unpack it quickly, of where trusting God to receive wisdom and wanting to receive it can be challenging. It can be extremely challenging in these two areas, and the first area is this, is success. Think with me for just a moment. If the spotlight is on you because of your success, it fuels a self-reliance. It just fuels this self-reliance where we're tempted to run to the mirror and bask in our own presence. And to receive wisdom, what happens is you begin to move away from wisdom, you begin to move away from God's ... Relying upon him, you start to rely upon yourself. If you're not gospel-minded, if you're not acknowledging God in success, you will become your own god.

If you're not trusting God in success, you will begin to trust in you and yourself, and this is why he said, "Don't lean on your own understandings," because there's a temptation when we've done things right, and people applaud it, and the spotlight comes, and it begins to shine brighter around you. There's a temptation to acknowledge yourself over God. And the gospel's freeing. This is where the gospel is so freeing in success, because as you enjoy success in whatever field it is, work or job, sports, art, whatever it may be, you enjoy some success, the gospel frees you up by reminding you that you've been accepted and loved by God, that you don't need the applause of one, 10, or hundreds of people. You have the eyes of God on you, and it frees you up.

Now, watch this. It frees you up, what I believe, for you to actually enjoy success more when you're trusting God in success. Because what happens is, if you're not trusting and acknowledge God, and success comes, it's not going to satisfy you. It won't satisfy your heart, and you'll crave it. You'll love that moment, that height moment, and then the next day, you'll look for it again, and the next day, you'll look for it again. But if you're in Christ, if you're trusting, acknowledging God in success, what it does, it frees you to have capacities to enjoy success rightly, and then continue walking and not get worn out trying to get more.

But the second area where it can be challenging to receive wisdom, where you would be tempted to be wise in your own eyes, is suffering. Let's think about this for a little moment. If there's no spotlight, if there's clouds of darkness, and it's fueling doubt, we're tempted to run from God. We're tempted to run from him, and just be encouraged this morning, Providence family, listen, those dark clouds, they cast ... Yes, they cast shadows over you, but when a shadow hits you, shadows don't hurt you. When shadows hit you, they don't hurt you, and dark clouds, let's be reminded, dark clouds oftentimes has rain in it that's coming to bring life. And behind those dark clouds is oftentimes bright, bright sunlight, right behind them. Right behind them.

And so, in suffering, know there's a temptation to not trust God, to not acknowledge God, and I'd encourage you, look, trust him, even when you go through the valley of the shadow of death. Two weeks ago, I did a funeral of a 75-year-old woman, and read this Psalm 23 at her funeral, and it was a beautiful picture of being able to just really look at, what is this shadow of the ... The valley of the shadow of death? See, the valley of the shadow of death literally means that death serves as a shadow now, because who got hit by the full cloud of darkness of God's wrath was Christ on a cross. And so, when the darkness of that cloud hit him on the cross, it means that only the shadow is cast for you and I to experience and go under and go through. But when shadows hit you, they don't hurt you. They're momentary. And you can trust him and not run from him; you can acknowledge him.

Yes, it's hard; I'm not downplaying suffering at all. Trying to give you perspective to trust him. Notice Proverbs 24:14 says this: "Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off." Listen, wisdom grows in the garden of faith and trust. It grows in the garden of trusting him. And so, deep trust, it moves us to depend on him in everything, and there's a hope that will not be cut off from you. But notice secondly that receiving God's wisdom, it requires trusting Christ, but it also requires treasuring Christ, treasuring Christ and turning from sin. So we turn from self-reliance, but we also turn from sin. Notice in verse 7, it says, "Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord." Now, Proverbs 14:12 says, "There's a way that seems right to man, but its end is the way of death." Proverbs 9 verse 10 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight."

Let's unpack this a little bit, of just thinking through treasuring Christ. It starts with this fear of God, and it's not a fear that, like, comes from a horror movie, it's a fear that comes from encountering greatness or holiness or awesomeness, or this majesticness, right? It's this sense of trembling before Mount Everest, but wanting to climb Mount Everest. There's a sense of treasuring God. And listen, horror movies cause a certain fear, but holiness captivates. God desires, for fear of him is really an invitation to have faith in him, to humble yourself, to run to him, and to turn from sin, to turn from evil ways, to turn from those things that put his Son on the cross.

And so, when you treasure something, when you treasure something, you think about it. When you treasure something, you have a love for it. It moves into your heart to where you constantly think through it. You've already thought about it five or six times during this message. You wake up thinking about it. And for many of us, in our culture and time, it's a little device that consumes our world, that we're treasuring. Maybe who's following, who's liked something, who's text me, who's, who's, who's ... Right? And it consumes us. And when you treasure anything other than God, it's going to clog your heart up the way I-95 got backed up this week. Right? I-95 this week, logging truck hit four bridges. I've just got to ask the question, like, after you hit one, shouldn't you pull over? He hit four bridges on I-95, and ultimately, they had to just shut down for 10 hours, redirect traffic to go up the hill, over the hill, and back down, having to repair that bridge. It's not even usable now, for the next 30 to 60 days. They've got to repair the whole thing; it's a 50-year-old bridge.

And what happens, I-95 backed up, some of you maybe were on that road, rejoicing. Right? I mean, just backed up. This is what happens when we treasure things more than God. Our heart begins to just get backed up, clogged up. There's angst. You interview some of those people in that car, frustration's through the roof, right? Gas is running out, got to go to the bathroom. I mean, all kinds of stuff happening, right? And this is what happens to the heart. Or, there's times when maybe there's only two things going on in your life, and you're just all in it, and it's all about those only two things. It's like a rocket ship, but you don't even know where it's going. Oh, you're flying down 95, but no destination at all. And when you treasure Christ, when you treasure Christ, there's a pathway, there's a destiny to go.

Notice what happens in verse 8. It's fascinating. He says, "It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones." This is the same language of Acts chapter 3 that says, "Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." Listen, Providence, let's unpack this "flesh and bones," right? Is this a physical healing? Is this a promise for just a physical healing? No, I think Hebrew language talks of the totality of the person, in a sense. There's also a promise that is found in the resurrection at the end time, of where the body will be made new, no more knee pains or back pains or cancer or anything. There's going to be a wholeness there, but I think there's, first and foremost, a spiritual healing that can be refreshing to the soul, refreshing to the mind, refreshing to the body, even.

I love the way Jesus even addresses this healing, because sometimes he does, sometimes he doesn't. But one of the times he did was in Mark chapter 2, one of my favorite passages in the Bible, where you got these four guys that are friends with a guy who's paralyzed, and the guy that's paralyzed is on a stretcher, and they're trying to get him in front of Jesus, trusting in Jesus to maybe bring healing. And so they come to the house, and as they're at the house, they can't get in. Jesus is in the center of the room, but they can't get to him.

So they're innovative, creative, and so they climb up on top of the house, and as they do, they're starting to move the dirt. Those houses were made with mud and leaves and grass, so they can pull that stuff back, and as they're pulling it back ... Right, now think, if you're on a stretcher, they're not going to lower you down like this in a stretcher, in a small hole.

They're probably digging a hole that's big enough for a full-body stretcher to go down in front of him. They're going to lower him down in front, and they lower him down in front of Jesus. The room's packed, and as they're lowering him down, Jesus looks at him, and the first ... Now, you've been paralyzed for years after years, right? And you thought, "Maybe somebody can heal me," and the first words out of his mouth is, "Your sins are forgiven."

What? "Jesus, man, just ... I can't walk. I haven't been able to walk." And Jesus, first thing he says, "Your sins are forgiven." Well, then he says, "Oh, get up and walk, and take your mat." Now, why ... Here's the question I ask when I read that text. Why that order? Because seemingly, on the outside, the greatest need that he had was to be able to walk, yet Jesus in that moment shows, I think, all of humanity that the greatest need that we have is to be forgiven of our sins, and then he proves ... Because if Jesus says it, and we're there, we see that, and he says that, we don't ... We can't see that with our eyes. That's a spiritual transaction, in a sense, that's taken place in the heavenlies in some way, when your sins are forgiven. I can't see that when he says that, but I can see someone who can get up and walk that hasn't walked.

And so I think he does the second miracle to prove the first one was true. And to think about it, I've had three knee surgeries, and it took about six weeks to rehab that thing and get back to just walking. If you haven't walked for years and years, you think, a little rehab first, get the muscles working, ligaments, and then maybe six weeks, you walk. And Jesus says, "Get up and walk," and instantly, everything worked. And I think what he's saying it, "When I say your sins are forgiven, they are forgiven." Like that, because of what he's accomplished on the cross.

Listen this morning, receiving God's wisdom, it's trusting him, it is treasuring him, it is turning from self-reliance, it is turning from sin. And so, how do we then put this into practice? Well, really quick, let me give you five applications. They start with the letter P, easy to maybe remember. Here we go, number one. How do you receive it, right? This is the person who's received it, those who trust and treasure, so now, how do I go about making them ... I've got a big decision this week, so how do I go about discerning and getting God's wisdom on this particular decision?

Well, I think it starts with the person of God. We center our life on Jesus, right? This picture I'll show you of the sun, you think about the sun, most of the times, we say the sun rises in the east, it sets in the west. That's actually not true, right? We're moving. The sun's at the center. And so, each planet is ordered rightly and orbits around that which is at the center, so that they don't fly into massive confusion and chaos. And so, if you order your life around the centrality of Jesus, and each of the planets of your life — relationship, marriage, parenting, vocation, hobbies — whatever they are, they're going to orbit, I think, rightly, correctly, in a way that you're able to not be clogged up like I-95, and be able to discern and make a decision.

The second is this, is the principles of God. Let's channel our decisions through God's Word. We've become so familiar with certain passages that we take them for granted. Oftentimes, when the alarm goes off right out in the parking lot, no one's running. We just say, "Oh, this ..." We always think of it as a malfunction first. But we've got to come to God's Word and be attentive to his Spirit and his Word, and channel these decisions through the Word.

There's also prayer to God, right? So there's the person of God, principles of God, prayer to God. Let's commune, let's commune with God in prayer. Let's commune with him. Let's not just pray for a meal. No, listen, let's pray, let's set a time, maybe early [inaudible 00:38:38], early morning, I'm just getting up, and it's just times of just talking to God, walking with him, just enjoying him, laying out, praying for my wife and my kids, and the day, and the church, and the staff, and just loving it, enjoying what God's doing at Providence. These are things that you could be praying through, and to be able to think through, even journaling some of these things.

The fourth one is the people of God, so let's connect with God's people in community to receive counsel. Let's connect with God's people in community to receive counsel, and the way we've set that up is life groups here at Providence. They're amazing opportunities where you do life with each other, pray for each other, and then as you've got decisions that are coming up, you're going to share some of those requests, and they're going to pray for you, you're going to pray for them. And then there's someone maybe in your life group that's experienced something that you're going through, and they've got counsel, they've got wisdom. It's an amazing thing how God uses his people to help each other to make informed, wise decisions. Proverbs 15:22 says, "Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed."

And then the last is peace from God, the peace from God. Let's consider the peace of God as a gift of confirmation. Now, let me make sure I'm clear here, because sometimes I've had people that I'm counseling, giving some ... Trying to help give wisdom to, and they'll say, "Man, I had this incredible experience, and I've got this feeling. It's just this peaceful, easy feeling inside, and I think that's what I've got to do." And I say, "Well, have you prayed about it? Have you looked through God's Word? Have you talked to anybody else about it? How does Jesus feel about this?"

So this grid here, it's more to it, yes, but it's not less. And what I mean by that is this, is you can't take just one of these and then be able to try to really press in and make a decision with wisdom. It's like my daughter this week, she made some peach muffins, and so she's in there, she's got the apron on, and she's got all the ingredients laid out, and she's putting them all together. Well, if I just come up to the flour and eat the flour by itself, not going to go well. But as that is mixed with all these others, and then baked, come out, I actually stole some from her, they were so good. So that's a confession there, right there, confession. But they were so good. But this is the way, making decisions, how do we do it? Yes, there is a peace that comes, but it comes as you're praying, and as you're reading God's Word, and as you're centering your life on Jesus. This is what happens.

Philippians 4 says it like this, as we close. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Listen, trusting him, treasuring him, being able to receive wisdom from God, then walking through these things, centering your life on God, and channeling your decisions in communion with him, and connecting with him, and then considering this peace from God that comes as an affirmation to live a life that’s wise, not only wise, but good, and for his glory. Let’s pray together.

Father, thank you for today. Thank you for your grace, thank you for your mercy. Thank you for your kindness to us, God. Thank you for the opportunity to open your Word, to walk through your Word, have your Word walk through us. And, God, I pray that as we live in a culture that shouts a certain way to live, as we go into the Barnes & Nobles of our day, and there’s so many self-help books, and books that are promoting, “This is a wise way to live,” God, would you turn our eyes to the Book, and to the One who 1 Corinthians says is the power of God and the wisdom of God, Jesus himself. God, would you help us to be a people, to be a people that would live in this way, marked by love, yes, marked by a love for the Savior, love for each other, but also marked as a people who are wise in the way we discern and decide. God, we love you, and we pray this in Jesus’ name, amen.



© 2018 Providence Baptist Church (Raleigh, NC)
Sermon transcripts may be used for preaching and teaching purposes, but may not be published or sold. While generally accurate, parts of this transcript may contain errors.
Providence reserves the right to correct and/or remove a transcript at any time.