

Connection Group Questions

Taken from the sermon on October 22, 2017

Proverbs: Words of Wisdom - 5

Questions for PERSONAL GROWTH

Monday: *"I don't know..."* For a preface to our study this week, please read Proverbs 30 in its entirety. Now, please go back and re-read verses 2-3. Sometimes the first step in learning is humbly admitting, "I don't know...". King Agur had that humility. But he also had the desire and the wonder to learn. He took the time to look at God's Word (vv.5-6) and God's creation (vv.4, 15-33) carefully observing them both. So, how's your willingness to learn these days? Will you say along with King Agur, "I don't know... but I'm willing to take a good look at God's Word and God's creation and learn"? Pray and ask God for a humble openness to His Spirit today.

Tuesday: *Tested, tried and verified...* In Proverbs 30:5-6, we see a great commentary on God and His Word. Let's reflect on v.5... What is the importance of a test? What does it prove? Also, take the time to compare v.6 with Revelation 22:18-19. What is God telling us about how He views His Holy Word? What adjectives would you use to describe it? And, why do you think there are such serious repercussions for those who add / take away from it?

Wednesday: *The first request...* As we see in v.7, King Agur asked God for two things in his life – the first of which Pastor Sherm summarized as "integrity" (v.8a). How would you define deception? How is it different from simply lying? And, why should we seek to keep a great distance from both of them? Please read Psalm 25:21, Proverbs 11:3, 1 Chronicles 29:17, and Ephesians 4:15 to help with your answer.

Thursday: *The second request...* OK, let's be honest. There's just something in our human nature that makes us want to be rich. It's a fairly universal trait of humanity. But in this timeless word of wisdom (v.8), King Agur simply asks God for his "portion" – neither poverty nor riches. What is the wisdom in that? How does that principle of moderation play itself out in other areas of our daily living? Chuck Swindoll says that, "The adversary of our souls (Satan) is the expert of extremes." Why are extremes so dangerous (physically, spiritually, etc.)? Is there an area of your life where you're playing with fire because you're too far "out there" in the battle of temptation? Make King Agur's prayer your prayer today – so that you too can avoid the same consequences with which he was concerned. (v.9)

Friday: *What matters most at the end of the day...* Finally, if we'll look a little harder at v.9, we'll see the true heart of this king. At the end of the day, two things matter the most to him: 1) the relationship with the Lord in his life, and 2) the reputation of the Lord through his life. Would you please take some time to meditate on those two desires? How would your life look differently this week if you adopted those two desires as your primary ones and made them a matter of daily prayer? What would you add in to your life? What would you cut out? Take some time to write those things down and focus on them this week. May God grant you wisdom; and may His name be praised because of you!

Questions for GROUP DISCUSSION

- What are the 2 things you are asking God for in your current season of life?
- Our enemy can get us very busy with good things. With regard to balance in your life, how do you choose between the good, better & best use of your time?
- Why can contentment be difficult at your current stage of life? How do you stay grounded in godly contentment?