

Pastor Nathan Schultz
Upper Thames Missionary Church
20 June 2021 (Father's Day)

Welcome – Service Overview

Part One:
“We are All Sons”

Proverbs 3:1-12

-We have all had a father, whether we have known him or not.

-This is a passage of scripture that addresses us all, men and women, about the way of wisdom,

-I think there are two key things in this passage we need to recognize that will help us be the kind of Fathers we are meant to be:

First, verse 1 says– “my son, remember my teaching.”

-We need to recognize what was Good and hold on to it.

We also need to recognize what was not good and let it go. Not let go of our fathers, but let go of the brokenness that we inherit, because we all inherit some.

Question - how is that possible??

It's possible because of the second, and far more important lesson contained in these verses:

Vv. 5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths."

- It is a blessing, yes it is a father speaking to a son, but the most important wisdom a father can pass on to his son is this: **Trust the Lord!!**. Then through God's lens to look for the wisdom of our earthly fathers.)

Walking with Jesus means you have the Lord God of the Universe as your heavenly Father. He will teach you and direct you and give you wisdom. Through Jesus, God is *your* ultimate Father and teacher - look to him to show you what is good and what is evil.

“How?” you ask? Good question.

- God is directing our path all through scripture – for us fathers, there are lessons everywhere – some in stories of the OT and NT

-sometimes as direct teachings - I think of some key ones:

God has taught us to discipline our children but not to exasperate them. (Heb 12:6 / Eph 6:4)
God has taught us to give good gifts to our children but not to spoil them. (Matt 7:11 / Prov 13:24).

- There is a relationship you must pour into first and foremost if you will see long term growth as a father - first, it must be God - renewed devotion to your Heavenly Father is the only thing that will transform your relationships here.

-Don't get weary or frustrated when you keep needing to learn lessons the hard way - take hold of the whole passage of scripture we just read -

My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.

If we embrace the truth of God's love for us, we will also be able to pass that same love and delight on to our own children. Fathers, God LOVES YOU - he delights in you, you are his boys.



Read through Philippians Chapter 1

What is God saying to us?
Partnership in the gospel (1:5)
What will you do?
Generosity - like the gift they sent Paul

Hard Times:

Are you going through a difficult time? Have you been judged, or judged yourself - thinking God must not be pleased with me?

Remember Paul's attitude - in the midst of bleak circumstances, and our weakness God can do the most amazing things.

29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also **suffer** for his sake,

- you are not alone - Remember that in v. 27 scripture tells us clearly that we stand firm TOGETHER in unity.

Chapter 2

Have this common mind / attitude / way of seeing the world among you: the mindset of Christ when he came to die on the cross for us.

Let nothing else replace this as your central form of thinking - let no other example replace the way of Jesus at the centre of your life. Never forget the story, the pattern, and the grace of Jesus Christ.

Look to godly examples of this way of living around you - don't be jealous of them, but be thankful for them - Paul lists himself, Timothy and Epaphroditus here.

You are called to live in the same pattern as these followers of Jesus - whether serving from and centre like Paul or Timothy, or simply obeying God's leading in the small ways he asks you like Epaphroditus. You have a purpose and a role to play in the Kingdom - and its happening RIGHT NOW through obedience - it may be a simple (or as hard) as speaking gently to your family, or as big as a career change and new ministry.

Teresa - Chapter 3

Watch out - church. There are many who will try to lead us astray. They might look good, tempting, powerful, wise.... But they won't look like Jesus in ch 2:6-11. That's the key.

Legalism and self-effort, these are all crouching at the door to attack us as we leave - the power of Sin will use any tool he can.

Instead, we are called to shun those worldly avenues of power and embrace the future hope of the resurrection - being content with whatever happens today, because we know our future is secure and unshakable when Christ returns.

Des - Chapter 4

-Rejoice

-Be gentle

-Do not be anxious

-and when you are, stop, Pray and give thanks

-don't dwell on the dark things of the world - don't dwell on yourself or your sin and inadequacy

-set your mind on what is good and true

This is the shape of the life we are to live and the life we are to share with the world.

Again, remember to be unified in your work, and continue to partner together in the gospel. God has chosen to share his hope with the world through YOU, Upper Thames Missionary Church,

and who knows what churches, individuals, and ministries will be blessed years from now by the obedient work of the people of this church for the gospel.

Last of all, and most importantly,

The **Grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ go with your Spirit. We've all messed up, and will mess up again - it is only by grace that we carry on. Grace made known to us through Jesus, our **saviour** and our **example**.