

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and grief's to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Would you like to be able to call God your friend? God has bridged the gulf which our sins had placed between him and us. Now all you need to do is surrender your life over to Jesus, acknowledging your sins and your need of him as your savior. Jesus is faithful and will receive you. He has borne all the sins of his people. He will walk with you and watch over you more closely than any earthly friend that you have.

That is all that is required.

Become a follower of Jesus Christ, committed to getting to know him better and he will become your very best friend. Do it now, take this moment and surrender your life over to Christ.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon and can be picked up from the table at the back of the sanctuary and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>.

Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com

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The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 42

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passages that will be the basis of the sermon next week.

Topical Series: Wisdom Lived out in Community

This Week's Key Passage: Proverbs 13:20

Sermon Date: August 3, 2008

Choose your friends wisely.

"Friends", we use that term so much and we use it freely. How many real close friends do you have. The more that we ponder this question, the smaller the circle of friendship and number of our "friends" becomes.

Have you ever thought about yourself as someone's friend? Are you a "good friend"? What qualities make a person a good friend? Friends are reliable. They stick with us when times are tough. Friends tell us things that we do not want to hear but nevertheless, need to hear.

This week's study is on choosing our friends wisely. These are choices which pull a long train of consequences behind them. Yet they are choices which we often feel we have made without ever making a decision. We will need God's hand on our lives to exercise wisdom in this area. Let's see what Proverbs has to say about choosing friends.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have.
2. The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

| Scripture | Your Observation & Questions |
|---|------------------------------|
| <p>Key Text: Proverbs 13:20 NIV 13:20 He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.</p> <hr/> <p>1:8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.</p> <p>1:9 They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.</p> <p>1:10 My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them.</p> <p>1:11 If they say, "Come along with us; let's lie in wait for someone's blood, let's waylay some harmless soul;</p> <p>1:12 let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit;</p> <p>1:13 we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder;</p> <p>1:14 throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse"-</p> <p>1:15 my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths;</p> | |

| Scripture | Your Observation & Questions |
|---|------------------------------|
| <p>1:16 for their feet rush into sin, they are swift to shed blood.</p> <p>1:17 How useless to spread a net in full view of all the birds!</p> <p>1:18 These men lie in wait for their own blood; they waylay only themselves!</p> <p>1:19 Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the lives of those who get it.</p> <p>12:26 A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.</p> <p>17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.</p> <p>18:24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.</p> <p>22:24 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered,</p> <p>24:19 Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of the wicked,</p> | |

| Scripture | Your Observation & Questions |
|---|------------------------------|
| <p>24:20 for the evil man has no future hope, and the lamp of the wicked will be snuffed out.</p> | |
| <p>25:19 Like a bad tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in times of trouble.</p> | |
| <p>27:6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.</p> | |
| <p>27:9 Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel.</p> | |
| <p>27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.</p> | |

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

| Observation What does it Say? | Interpretation What does it mean? |
|---|---|
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3. The subject of this weeks study is choosing friends. Review this week's verses. What are some ways that friends can be valuable.
4. Proverbs 12:26 speaks about a righteous man being cautious in friendship. Why should one be cautious in our friendship?
5. Proverbs 27:6 says "wounds from a friend can be trusted". What does this mean and why can we trust the wounds from a friend? Consider Proverbs 28:23 and 29:5
6. Looking at Proverbs 27:17, how and in what ways do friends sharpen each other?
7. Jesus is our Lord and Master, yet in John 15: 14-15, he calls us his friends. What can we learn about friendship from this passage and the fact that Jesus calls us his friends? Consider also Exodus 33:11-23, John 15:14-15 and Psalm 25:14.
8. What does it mean to be able to have Jesus call us his friend?
9. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 27:17

27:17 As iron sharpens iron,
so one man sharpens another.