Don't Wait Too Late
Proverbs 1:24-28; 27:1; 29:1

The writers of Proverbs deals with over 50 issues of life in the Book of Proverbs. He deals with anger, temptation, the thought life and the attempt to cover or hide our sin. He talks about the parent-child relationship as well as the marriage relationship. He talks about the process of aging and he tells us how we are to manage our money. But the subject he deals with more than any other is our relationship to God.

-This wise man, Solomon, says in the Book of Ecclesiastes that we are to “remember our creator in the days of our youth”, for without God in our life, all will be vanity or empty or a waste.

Three passages in Proverbs warns us that we are not to wait too late about making our decision of commitment to trust Christ as our Savior and Lord and to receive forgiveness for our sins. Proverbs 1:24-28 is God's invitation to man to respond to God's offer of mercy and grace. These verses tell, in part, what will happen to man if he refuses God's invitation. Proverbs 27:1 presents to us the man who thinks he has many “tomorrows” to get right with God, but does not realize that, for him, there may not be another “tomorrow.” Proverbs 29:1 presents a picture of an oxen who has a yoke put about its neck so that the master can lead it in the direction that he wants it to go. But the ox is rebellious and will not go in the right direction. The yoke rubs on the neck until a callous is formed and the animal becomes insensitive to the pulling of the reins by the master. The only thing to do now is to destroy the animal; to put it to death, for it is of no further use to the master. Rather than the ox being useful, it becomes a burden and a problem because of its rebellious nature. God is saying something very important to us. We are not just beast. We are people that He loved, died for, and wants to bring control and direction to our lives.

As I tie these three passages together, God is saying to us, “Don't wait too late. Come to Jesus while there is still time.”

The Bible is a book about salvation, from the opening verses of Genesis to the closing verses of Revelation.

Three truths are presented in the Word of God:

1. Not all men are going to Heaven.

   Somehow many have seen only the love of God and failed to recognize the wrath of God. The sad truth is that not all are going to Heaven and men will go to Hell.
   -We don't hear messages on Hell like we once did. I think there are several reasons for that, but I will mention only a few. First, so-called men of God do not believe in a literal place called Hell. Second, preaching on Hell is not politically correct. Folks don't want to hear about Hell, so preachers preach a “feelgood” message. Third, in days gone by, people had church only once or twice a month. Therefore, there was more emphasis placed on evangelism; on getting saved; on repentance and forgiveness; and on Heaven and Hell.
   -But just because preachers don't preach on the subject of Hell as they once did does not mean that the Hell the Bible talks about no longer exist. It does! What is the Hell the Bible talks about
like? It is

a place of literal, everlasting fire and torment. It is a place of outer darkness; a place of pain and
suffering; there is no love or light or water or peace in Hell. No answered prayer. No hope of
escape. No compassion. No concern for anyone. It is a place of regrets, sorrow, unsatisfied
desires. It is the place of the Second-Death – ever dying and, yet, not being able to die and
escape the pain and suffering.

2. Many more folks are going to Hell than are going to Heaven.

**Mat 7:13** Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and
many there be which go in thereat:

**Mat 7:14** Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

3. Many who expect to go to Heaven will discover they are going to Hell.

**Mat 7:21** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the
will of my Father which is in heaven.

**Mat 7:22** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast
out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

**Mat 7:23** And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

**Three things I want us to see:**

I. The Tendency of Man – Prov. 27:1

James picks up on this very verse and speaks about the dangers, the foolishness, and even the
sinfulness of presuming that tomorrow will come for you.

- **Jas 4:13** Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy
and sell, and get gain:

**Jas 4:14** Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth
for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

**Jas 4:15** For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

**Jas 4:16** But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

**Jas 4:17** Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

We have known yesterday – the past – and we are experiencing the present, but we have no
certainties of tomorrow. To count on tomorrow is to neglect the duty of today!

-Tomorrow is the worst time for making a decisive choice and the Bible declares that Today is
the best time. If you are to make a choice upon which eternity depends, then Solomon says we
are to distrust the future, for tomorrow may not come for us. “Behold, now is the accepted time;
behold, now is the day of salvation.” “Tomorrow” is the devil's greatest tool; “Now” is God's
greatest weapon to defeat the devil.

It is not often that men reject that God is God or that Jesus is God's Son who died on the cross
and shed His blood to forgive us of our sins. It is not that the Holy Spirit is failing to perform His
ministry of conviction of sin that men are not saved. Most lost folks know they are in sin and
they know they need God in their life and they want God's life – But Not Today – Tomorrow!
But Today and not Tomorrow is “THE ACCEPTED TIME!”

Time, considered by itself, is very insignificant; but Time in its own right place is more important than eternity. There is a span in every man's life that is germ time for immortality. This earth is the nursery for heaven.

-“Now” is Mercy's offer. “Now” is the invitation from God, reaching down from heaven. Tomorrow you may find the door shut. Tomorrow may be too late!

Have you ever been in the position where you had to meet a certain group of people to go somewhere and if you were not there at that time, you would be left behind? I've had some close calls. I've been late. I broke the speed limit to get there on time. I didn't want to miss out and I didn't want to be left behind. Maybe you got there just in time to see your ride going over the top of the hill. Your heart falls.

The word “boast” means “to shine or to make bright”. Tomorrow will be a better day to get serious about God. Live it up, today! Do it your way, today! Tomorrow is the day to get serious with God. The truth is that if God gave us many more “tomorrows”, most of us still wouldn't get serious about God.


II. The Insistence of God – Pro. 1:24-28

“I have called ...you have refused...you shall call...But I will not answer.” What sad, terrifying words!

How does the Lord call? By His Word. Through conscience. Through His preachers. But you refused. Man is the only creature in all of creation that resist the Lord's voice.

-God stretched out His hand to offer help and pardon and blessing, and you would not accept His offer. God says, “You wouldn't listen to my reproof or my correction. You would not give ear to my counsel. You have said “No” to the many ways God sought to redeem you. How will God respond to those who reject Him when they stand to give an account to Him at the Great White Throne Judgment?

1. God will Laugh – 1:26

This is not a laugh of delight or “I got you.” It's a mocking laugh. God's heart will break because the person rejected Him, but it will be a mocking laugh at the insanity that one would reject His many attempts to reach the person that rejected Him. “I will mock when your fear comes.” What fear a person will experience as they stand alone before God, knowing they are condemned, because the evidence is presented to him, knowing it is too late, but crying for mercy anyway.

2. God will be Silent – 1:28a
Their prayer, that would have once been answered, is now powerless. God will have nothing else to say to the lost sinner after He says, “Depart from me.” He will leave them alone to their choices.

3. He will Hide – 1:28b

To be forsaken by God is awful at any time, but how much more at the final judgment.

4. God will announce His Judgment – 1:31

The fruit of their sin is eternal separation from God. They will see Him no more. Doom is announced - The Second Death through eternity. We would like to soften the truth here, but we dare not. The day of grace has its limits. There is a knock that will be the last knock.

How many lost folks know what they ought to do and should do and plan to do ONE DAY. They have their plan to trust Christ someday intact, but they never do it.

It's a true story. A man was a professional skydiver. His thirteen year old son idolized his dad. His dad had taken him up with him many times. He had taught him on ground level the procedures and he seemed to have everything down. He asked that for his fourteenth birthday, he could jump solo. The day came. The weather was perfect. The large red “X” where he was to land was clearly marked. The dad watched as his son got into position to jump from the plane. It was a beautiful jump. He floated down just as he had been taught. Time came for him to pull his rip-cord. He reached over to pull it, but missed it. He had to re-balance himself and again pulled for the rip-cord, but missed again. He continued to fall. The dad began to scream, “Son, pull the rip-cord...pull the rip-cord,” but he never did. Instead the boy's body hit the target where the big “X” was. His friend, who was also a professional skydiver, said, “Target fixation. Target fixation. Your son had target fixation. He knew what to do and how to do it, but he was so fixed on the target that he couldn't pull the rip-cord.” How many folks know they need to be saved and plan one day to be saved. They plan to. They want to — someday, but they never do what they need to do to be saved. Everything is in place except that eternal choice to total commitment to Jesus. They die in their sins, not doing what they know they should do.

Amos 4:

4:6 “I gave you cleanness of teeth by sending you famine and drought so they would turn back to God – yet you have not returned to me.”

4:7 “I withheld rain from you so you would return – yet you have not returned to me.”

4:9 “I sent blight and mildew and locust – you have not returned.”

4:10 “Your young men were killed in battle with a sword – yet you did not return to me.”

4:12 “Because you will not return to me, prepare to meet your God.” And meet Him without
ever turning to Him in life on earth. Meet Him – Condemned.

III. The Urgency of Today – Pro. 29:1

If God stirs your heart toward Himself, this is your urgent day.
• Deut. 30:15 “I have set before you THIS DAY life and death.”
• Joshua 24:15 “Chose ye THIS Day whom you will serve.”
• 1 Kings 18:21 “How long will you halt (dance, limp) between two opinions? If God is God, follow Him – Now!”

There will never be a better time. God may never speak to you again as He is now.

Frogs are cold-blooded. You can take a frog, put him in a big black pot filled with boiling water, and

he'll jump out. But you can take that same frog, put him in the same big black pot with cold water in it, and the frog will swim around happily. If you then build a fire under the pot, let the frog gradually
get used to the water as it gets hotter, the frog will stay there until it boils to death. That's what happens to the lost man when he says “no” to the convicting of the Holy Spirit. He gradually gets used to the convicting of the Spirit until he is no longer is bothered by the convicting.

Michael Spalding, 29 years old – strong, healthy; in the army – was stationed in Anchorage, Alaska at Fort Richardson. This young man went on a hunting trip with some of his buddies. They went out on a tidal flat and he turned around and started to go back and he could not move his right foot. He tried to move his left foot and it would not move. Both feet were stuck, ankle deep and as he looked down he saw that he was standing in quick sand. He kept trying to get his feet up but he couldn’t. His buddies were not far off, so he called to them and told them what was happening and they laughed, thinking he was joking. Finally they came and all their attempts to free him failed. One of them started to go get some help and he was so frightened he begged him to stay. His buddy knew he had to get help so he called the fire department and they came. They put two ladders out – one on each side of him - thinking they could walk out there to him and pull him up from each side. Now he was down to his waist. They tied a rope around him, started to pull, and something popped in his back and he could not take the pain. Now, he was up to his armpits. A fireman went and got a hose from the truck and started blasting the quick sand from his body. It took three hours of blasting away but he was finally freed and lifted out. Some are bound down by sin but Jesus comes and can loosen you and set you free.

In loving kindness Jesus came, my soul in mercy to reclaim. And from the depths of sin and shame, Tho' grace He lifted me From sinking sand, He lifted me, with tender hand, He lifted me, from shades of night to plains of light, O praise His name, He lifted me!