September 4, 2011

Proverbs 3:1-12

 Good Morning My Sisters and Brothers in Christ. I greet you this morning in the name of Jesus. Jesus, who suffered, bled, died, and rose again in order that you and I might be restored to God the Father. I greet you this morning in the name of Jesus who by His death and resurrection created a new covenant for us. A covenant based on remembering His body and His blood. I greet you this morning with a prayerful and thankful heart. Prayer and thankful because God has seen fit to let us be in this place one more time. If you are thankful - PRAISE HIM. If you are grateful - PRAISE HIM. If you know, that you know He died for you - PRAISE HIM.

 This morning we begin a new Adult Sunday School book and curriculum. We will be studying Proverbs during September and the first week of October. The overall focus will be on Teaching and Learning. I invite you to come to Sunday School and get some in depth study on this series of lessons. Adult Bible Study also resumes this week and we are studying about prayer. Again, I remind you that there is plenty of room at the table at 1:00p and again at 6:30p.

 Although we have looked and considered Proverbs as an Adult Bible Study and I have preached from Proverbs in the past, I think it is important to remind you that the words of Proverbs are short statements, which tell us about something, which is true, or tell us about rules of conduct. Many of the statements also contain promises. However, I want to caution my young listeners, that everything in Proverbs might not happen immediately or just as it is written.

 One way to think about Proverbs is to think of the entire book as being a conversation a parent is having with a child; a teacher is having with a student; an elder is having with a younger person. Stay with me for a minute.

Anybody remember a mother/father starting a conversation about why you should do your homework first and by the time they finish they are talking about how you ought to raise your children. I don't know about you but that kind of conversation always made me crazy until I got older and realized that in my mother's mind and now in my mind all of those homework conversations were related to how I live my life - even now.

 Solomon the primary author of the Proverbs was an unusual man, when provided with the opportunity to ask God for anything he did not ask for riches, fame or a good looking wife; instead he asked for wisdom and God answered his prayer. Therefore, it is save to trust the wisdom of Solomon as recorded in the sacred text and seek ways in which it can be applied to our lives.

 There is a lot of information in the 12 verses, which we have read this morning but I want to invite you to consider with me 5th and 6th verses for our time together. Often I make a deliberate effort to speak to our Kingdom Seekers, but that morning I want to speak particularly to the adults. So I ask you to pray for me and with me over this theme: LEAN ON ME!

SHALL WE PRAY!

 God of Heaven and Earth, hallowed me your name. We come this morning asking to hear from heaven. We ask that you clear our ears, our hearts and our minds. Help us not to lean, not to trust our own limited intelligence, but instead to seek and trust you and you alone. Help us to make you a part of everything that we plan and do. In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray.

AMEN.

LEAN ON ME!

 Bill Withers

 Conclusion: A **community**, which was struggling, needed to lean on his other.

LEAN ON ME!

**Children** come into this world unable to care for themselves - food, clothing, shelter,

 walking, talking, reading,

 potty training, eating alone, making friends

All are behaviors that must be taught.

Conclusion: They need parents they can lean on!

 The **sick, aged, disabled** come to a point in their lives where they too will need someone to lean on.

 doctors appt, meds, transportation

 financial, emotional, mental health

 walking, talking and feeding ones self

CONCLUSION: Need someone to lean on!

 Where do **communities, parents, care providers** and others find the strength to do what must be done?

 Solomon under the divine inspiration of God tells us

to LEAN ON GOD.

 A. TRUST HIM WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART

 B. MAKE HIM A PART OF ALL YOUR DECISIONS

 C. ASK HIM FOR GUIDANCE AND KNOWLEDGE

and here is the promise - HE WILL MAKE YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT

**5-12** Trust God from the bottom of your heart;

   don't try to figure out everything on your own.

Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go;

   he's the one who will keep you on track.

Don't assume that you know it all.

   Run to God! Run from evil!

Your body will glow with health,

   your very bones will vibrate with life!