

Our vision is to ignite a movement of authentic followers of Christ by reaching 1000 people with the gospel and releasing 200 equipped leaders from the next generation for Church leadership by 2028.

For more information about Ignite and our path for sustaining, growing, and expanding our church's ability to impact the world with the gospel, please visit WhitesburgBaptist.org/Ignite.



Day 1: Making Wise Choices

**"To know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding."
Proverbs 1:2**

A sign on the Alaskan highway reads: "choose your rut carefully." C.S. Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity*, "...every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part that chooses, into something a little different than it was before. And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, you are slowly turning this central thing either into a Heavenly creature or into a hellish creature..."

How can I make wise choices? Making wise choices requires you to follow God's truth and guidance. The Bible is filled with wisdom. There are specific books that are called "wisdom literature." Wisdom literature includes: Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, and certain Psalms. The first Proverb challenges us to seek God's wisdom and to submit ourselves to His wisdom. In Proverbs 1:2, there are three key words:

- Wisdom – the art of living, ability to use wisdom right
- Instruction/Discipline – the way wisdom is acquired
- Understanding/Discernment – ability to make distinction, to decide upon right or wrong.

Proverbs 1:7 reminds us, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction."

•Scripture Reading: Proverbs 1

•Prayer Focus: As we seek to release 200 equipped next generation leaders into the life of the Church, pray for leaders who walk in the wisdom of God. Pray for any decision you are facing, asking God to give you His wisdom to guide you.

Day 2: The Road Best Traveled

**"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."
Proverbs 3:6**

Robert Frost's famous poem, "The Road Not Taken" states, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled by." In life, we reach a destination based on roads we take. Proverbs 3:5-6 teaches us to lean into God and let Him guide our paths. In 1903, George Horace Lorimer published a book entitled *Letters from a Self-Made Merchant to His Son*. The letters were written by John Graham, the head of a meat-packing company in Chicago, to his son Pierrepont, who had recently started his freshman year at Harvard. The letters themselves are full of wisdom and direction from the love of a father who wants his son to become a man. In the very first letter, Graham writes this to his son: "I'm anxious that you should be a good scholar, but I'm more anxious that you should be a good clean man. And if you graduate with a sound conscience, I shan't care so much if there are a few holes in your Latin. There are two parts of a college education – the part that you get in the schoolroom from the professors, and the part that you get outside of it from the boys. That's the really important part. For the first can only make you a scholar, while the second can make you a man." Remember: The road you choose reveals the destination you want.

Steps to take "The Road Best Traveled:"

1. Trust God with everything.
2. Evaluate everything in light of God's Word.
3. Humble yourself daily to His Lordship.

•Scripture Reading: Proverbs 3 (I encourage you to memorize verses 5-6)

•Prayer Focus: Ask God to show if the road you are on is leading into a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Him. Pray for a clear direction and willingness to follow God throughout your life. Pray for our church to seek His leadership and direction in ministry and the MCP.

Day 3: Things God Loves

**"There are six things which the Lord hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him."
Proverbs 6:16**

God's announcement of what He hates reveals to us things that God loves. Proverbs 6:16-19 contains what is called a numerical proverb, which is a form of Hebrew poetry that uses a series of items in order to build suspense with added emphasis on the final item. Thus, the "six...yes, seven" format is not to be understood as seven abominations with God hating only the first six; but as seven abominations hated by God with special attention on the last item. The question may be asked then, "What's significant about the last item?" And the answer may be, perhaps, that one who spreads strife does so because all the preceding sins are a reality in his life.

We learn from this Proverb:

1. **God Loves Humility**
2. **God Loves Truthfulness**
3. **God Loves Life**
4. **God Loves a Heart That Dwells on Things That are Good**
5. **God Loves Feet That are Quick to Run From Evil**
6. **God Loves a True Witness**
7. **God Loves a Person Who Seeks Unity Among the Brethren**

•Scripture Reading: Proverbs 6 & Matthew 22:37-40

•Prayer Focus: Pray that your life and our church family will reflect the things that God loves. Pray using each one of the 7 items listed above as a specific request.

Day 4: Listen

“Does not wisdom call,
and understanding
lift up her voice?”
Proverbs 8:1

In her book *Lord Teach Me Wisdom*, Carole Mayhall has a chapter entitled, “Hearing: A Requirement for Wisdom.” She says, “A wise person hears.” A wise person doesn’t filter out what they don’t want to hear, nor filter in only what he wants to hear. God is interested in us hearing His wisdom. That is why in Proverbs 8, wisdom is personified. Wisdom takes on a personality and cries out for men to listen and hear what wisdom has to say. When the proverb calls for us to listen to wisdom, we are being encouraged to listen to God. As Warren Wiersbe often said, “When you open your Bible, God opens His mouth.” The best way for you to listen to God’s voice is to read His Word.

Proverbs 8 reminds us of the excellent qualities of wisdom (vs. 1-22): noble, truthful, valuable, understanding, power, and fruitful. When we cultivate a heart for listening to God, we understand our obedience brings Him glory. Andrew Murray said, “The secret of true obedience is the clear and close personal relationship to God. All our attempts after full obedience will be failures until we get access to his abiding fellowship. It is God’s holy presence consciously abiding with us that keeps us from disobeying Him. I must consciously include the Lord in every thought, activity, and conversation until the habit is established.”

•**Scripture Reading:** Proverbs 8;
Isaiah 28:23; & Luke 11:28

•**Prayer Focus:** “Lord, help me to be still, quiet, and listen to You speak. Speak to me through Your Word, let the wind of Your Spirit blow across my mind, and speak Your truth into my life.” Pray for your church to be one that listens and obeys the voice of the Lord.

Day 5: Cardiac Care

“Every man’s way is right
in his own eyes, but the Lord
weighs the hearts.”
Proverbs 21:2

Helen Good Brenneman, well-known devotional writer, speaks of the need of kindness: “There was once a man who had a heart transplant but the operation was a total failure. For the man was a mean man and the heart was a kind heart. His body simply rejected it.” The Bible tells us, however, of a heart transplant that was successful. “And I will give them a new heart and put a new spirit within them. I will take out the stony heart. I will take the stony heart out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh that they may walk in my statutes and keep my ordinances and obey them. And they shall be my people and I will be their God.” (Ezekiel 11:19-20)

Proverbs 21 reminds us that God is most concerned with the condition of our hearts. The Bible mentions the heart almost 1,000 times. The heart is that spiritual part of us where our emotions and desires dwell. Jesus pointed out the fallen condition of our hearts in Mark 7:21-23.

Only God can give a person a new heart and that occurs by the power of God in response to faith in Jesus Christ. “With the heart one believes unto righteousness” (Romans 10:10). The heart is the core of our being, and the Bible sets high importance on keeping our hearts pure: “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life” (Proverbs 4:23).

•**Scripture Reading:** Proverbs 21;
Psalm 24:3-4 & 51:10; & Matthew 5:8

•**Prayer Focus:** Ask God to show you the condition of your heart. Have you been given a “new heart,” repented of sin, and placed your faith in Jesus Christ? If you are a Christian, ask God to be your greatest treasure. Pray that our church will display Christ’s heart toward others.



PRAYER GUIDE
by Pastor Darryl Craft
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WHITESBURG
BAPTIST CHURCH