



Times of Worship

- Sunday Bible Classes:** 9am
- Sunday AM Worship:** 10am
- Sunday PM Worship:** 5pm
- Wednesday Bible Study:** 7pm

Join us Online

Church Website:

<https://www.westfayettechurchofchrist.com/>

YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGckN8D9NwwX3KUuQ4GRKyA>

Interested in a Bible Study?

Please send an email to patcawthon@gmail.com

Evangelist

Patrick Cawthon

Responding to Reproof

Proverbs 15:31-32 - *“He whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise. He who neglects discipline despises himself, but he who listens to reproof acquires understanding”*

How do you think Solomon organized the book of Proverbs? Chapters 1-9 is all about priming the reader for chapters 10-31. The first part of the book Solomon is helping us understand the great value of wisdom. The second part of the book is giving us godly wisdom from the wisest person in the world.

The proverbs given in chapters 10-31 are usually thought of as random statements of wisdom. One proverb may be teaching about our words and the next proverb about the importance of work. A closer look at this book shows the proverbs are not as random as they may seem. Certainly these two proverbs (15:31-32) go together very well.

There is another connection when you look at verses 28-31 of this chapter. Verse 28 mentions the heart and mouth. Verse 29 mentions how God hears the prayer of the righteous. Verse 30 talks about “bright eyes.” Verse 31 mentions the ear receiving life-giving reproof. Putting all these verses together, Solomon is describing how the senses of the righteous should be acting.

Week of February 18

Attendance

- ✦ **AM Service** - 49
- ✦ **PM Service** - 34
- ✦ **Wednesday** - 46

Contribution

- ✦ Weekly Budget \$2,400
- ✦ Contribution - \$2,200

Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries

- ✦ Clark Ferguson (3/8)
- ✦ Betsy Morgan (3/8)
- ✦ Julia Fesmire (3/10)

Calendar Items

Men's Meeting on Feb. 25 at the building at 4pm

Women's Bible Study on Tuesdays at 11am at the building

Song Learning Class on Mar. 10 at the building at 4pm

Teen's Bible Study at the Cawthons on Friday Mar. 22 from 7-9:30

GOSPEL MEETING with brother Harold Carswell Jr. March 24-27

One theme that Solomon touches on several times in this book is the importance of listening to rebuke. If we reject everyone who is telling us we need to change in some way, we are acting like a fool. There is no way we are going to make a positive change in our life if we keep doing the same thing over and over. Solomon clarifies that we need to listen to "life-giving" reproof.

If we listen to every voice telling us how we need to change, we will be a mess because people are going to have different views of what they believe is right. The advice we need to listen to is advice that is from God. Jesus teaches the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world. He later says, "I am the bread of life." Many stop following Jesus after this teaching and He asks his apostles if they are leaving too. Peter replied, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (**Joh 6:33-68**)

We have two choices when receiving "life-giving reproof." We can either listen to it and make the necessary changes or we can ignore it. If we choose to ignore it, we are only hurting ourselves; Solomon tells us we are despising ourselves.

A constant teaching Solomon gives again and again is the principle of you reap what you sow. If we choose to ignore godly counsel, we will reap the bad consequences of our actions. Instead we need to listen to those who are giving us godly counsel. The one who listens acquires understanding and is associated with the wise. If we ignore reproof, we don't acquire any understanding and are associated with the fools.

One of the best ways to grow and mature is not by people telling us how great we are but when they tell us how we can improve. May we listen, change, and thank them for their reproof.

Patrick