

Proverbs 22:29

Advent and Excellence

Sermon Notes for December 8, 2013, by Pastor Dennis R. Tuuri

Intro - Advent and Voluntarism, Excellence, Beauty and Joy What is Excellence?

1. The Advent of Excellence

Mk 7:37; Dt. 32:1-4; 2 Sa. 22:31; Ps. 8:1; Isa. 12:1-5; Heb. 1:1-5; 8:6; Daniel

2. Our Calling to A Creaturely Excellence

2 Pet. 1:3; Rom 6; Col. 3:23; Ecc. 9:10; 1 Cor. 15:58; 10:31; Pr. 31:29

3. Wisdom and Excellence - Pr. 22:29 (See Attached)

4. Characteristics of Excellence

5. Motivation for Excellence

Col. 3:23; 1 Cor. 10:31; Deut. 6:45; Matt. 23:37,38; 1 Pet. 2:9

Conclusion - I've Got A Glory!

Discussion Questions

1. Give some examples of child-rearing techniques that will motivate children to excellence.
2. Do you think it's a good thing to start the day by saying "I will strive for excellence today"?
3. Which characteristics of excellence from today's sermon might be good for you to focus on?
4. Do you have a ministry here at RCC? How might you do it more excellently?
5. Do you strive for excellence in the anonymous tasks you do?
6. Do you have a "glory?"

Excellence and Wisdom

22:17-23:11 The Sayings of the Wise, First Ten of Thirty Sayings, The First Four Commandments

Intro to all 30 sayings 22:17-21

¹⁷Incline your ear and hear **the words of the wise**, And apply your heart to my knowledge; ¹⁸For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you; Let them all be fixed upon your lips, ¹⁹So that your trust may be in the LORD; I have instructed you today, even you. ²⁰Have I not written to you excellent things [**thirty sayings**] Of counsels and knowledge, ²¹That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth, That you may answer words of truth To those who send to you?

I. Saying 1 YHWH Saying Concerning the Objects of Grace, Vertical, Father vv. 22,23

²²Do not rob the poor because he is poor, nor oppress the afflicted at the gate; ²³For the LORD will plead their cause, And plunder the soul of those who plunder them.

II. Saying 2 - Concerning Friendships (warning against angry men), Horizontal, Son vv. 24,25

²⁴Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go, ²⁵Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul.

III. Saying 3 Concerning Covenants (warning against surety) Spirit

²⁶Do not be one of those who shakes hands in a pledge, One of those who is surety for debts; ²⁷If you have nothing with which to pay, Why should he take away your bed from under you?

IV. Sayings 4-10 Work and Its Rewards, 4th Commandment

A. Don't Steal

²⁸Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set.

B. Be Excellent At Work

NOTE: In this entire set of ten, this is the only positive exhortation, emphasizing the theme of work in this set.

²⁹Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before unknown men.

C. No Gluttony

^{23:1} When you sit down to eat with a ruler, consider carefully what is before you; ² and put a knife to your throat if you are a man given to appetite.³ Do not desire his delicacies, for they are deceptive food.

D. No Greed

⁴ Do not overwork to be rich; because of your own understanding, cease! ⁵ Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle toward heaven.

C. No Gluttony

⁶ Do not eat the bread of a miser, nor desire his delicacies; ⁷ for as he thinks in his heart, so is he. Eat and drink! he says to you, but his heart is not with you. ⁸ The morsel you have eaten, you will vomit up, and waste your pleasant words.

B. Warning Against Fools (the Slothful?)

⁹ Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words.

A. Don't Steal (From the Objects of God's Grace)

NOTE: Warning here forms a bracket to entire set of 10, returning to God's care for the poor

¹⁰ Do not remove the ancient landmark, nor enter the fields of the fatherless; ¹¹ for their Redeemer is mighty; He will plead their cause against you.