

“How Peter Wised-Up”

Mission Village Christian Fellowship

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Recent worship studies at MVCF have engaged the importance of wisdom. Attention to the OT book of Proverbs has been part of this, prioritizing life gifts/skills of insight and integrity, devotion and discipline – *knowing what best to do with what you’ve got!* Solomon’s declaration is foundational: “The reverent awe (Hebrew *yare*) of the Lord (*Yahweh*) is the beginning of wisdom.” **Confession: *Yare Yahweh!*** The Apostle Peter, as Messianic Jew, declares this beautifully in I Peter 1:17-21..

*“Since you call on a Father who judges each one’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here with **reverent fear**. For you know it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the **precious blood of Christ**, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the foundation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him, you believe in God who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.*

Peter references the book of Proverbs more than any NT writer. The Gospels reveal his struggles with doubt (Mt 14:30), impulse (Mk 8:32), pride (Mt 26:33) and denial (Jn 18). Yet his character was *refined* (I Peter 1:7, see Proverbs 17:3) by the Lord’s wisdom. As faithful under-shepherd (John 21:15-19, I Peter 5:1-4) he calls out to us:

Proverbs 3:34 -> I Peter 5:5

“All of you, clothe yourselves in *humility* [Latin *humus*=earth] toward one another, because ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’”

Submission

Proverbs 10:12 -> I Peter 4:7-8

“Be clear-minded and self-controlled so you can pray. Above all, *love* [Greek *agape*] each other deeply, because ‘Love covers over a multitude of sins.’”

Affection

Proverbs 11:21 -> I Peter 4:18

“It’s time for *judgment* [Greek *krima*=verdict] to begin with God’s family... ‘If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what... of the ungodly and sinner?’”

Attention

Proverbs 26:11 -> II Peter 2:22

“Of these [persons] the proverbs are true: ‘A dog returns to its *vomit*’ and ‘A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.’”

Confession

PopCulture - In 1969, Lawrence J. Peter authored a best-seller called *The Peter Principle*. In it, he stated a core rule of group dynamics: “people rise to the level of their own *incompetence*.” **Gospel** – St. Peter’s principle sees life together which transcends labels and sustains fellowship: “Each one should *use whatever gift* they have received to serve others, *faithfully administering God’s grace* in its various forms” (I Peter 4:10). As the Lord’s wise children, we each have a place at the Table!