

**THE ULTIMATE GIFT**

**26<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**HillSide's Supernumary Minister – Rev' Ron Robertson**

**WEEK 4 - LEARNING**

Blurb:

*Parents - what was the most frustrating question your children asked over and over again when they were young? Why? Why? Why?*

*Most of us (parents) on looking back on those days have moments when we wondered if our children ever learned anything, inspite of their enquiring minds!!! Most often though - if truth be told - the question was not about their quest for understanding, but an attempt to get out of doing something we'd asked them to do.*

*Jason's journey, at his great uncle's request, was also about asking that same question - why? Because what he was asked to do was seen more as an instruction / an inconvenience than an invitation. An invitation to learn something new - about himself and about the world beyond his limited, selfish, spoilt world. Let's take a moment today to explore together the gift of learning.*

**Proverbs 2**

**The Message**

**Make Insight Your Priority**

**2**<sup>1-5</sup> Good friend, take to heart what I'm telling you;  
collect my counsels and guard them with your life.

Tune your ears to the world of Wisdom;  
set your heart on a life of Understanding.

That's right—if you make Insight your priority,  
and won't take no for an answer,

Searching for it like a prospector panning for gold,  
like an adventurer on a treasure hunt,

Believe me, before you know it Fear-of-GOD will be yours;  
you'll have come upon the Knowledge of God.

<sup>6-8</sup> And here's why: GOD gives out Wisdom free,  
is plainspoken in Knowledge and Understanding.

He's a rich mine of Common Sense for those who live well,  
a personal bodyguard to the candid and sincere.

He keeps his eye on all who live honestly,  
and pays special attention to his loyally committed ones.

<sup>9-15</sup> So now you can pick out what's true and fair,

find all the good trails!  
 Lady Wisdom will be your close friend,  
 and Brother Knowledge your pleasant companion.  
 Good Sense will scout ahead for danger,  
 Insight will keep an eye out for you.  
 They'll keep you from making wrong turns,  
 or following the bad directions  
 Of those who are lost themselves  
 and can't tell a trail from a tumbleweed,  
 These losers who make a game of evil  
 and throw parties to celebrate perversity,  
 Traveling paths that go nowhere,  
 wandering in a maze of detours and dead ends.  
<sup>16-19</sup> Wise friends will rescue you from the Temptress—  
 that smooth-talking Seductress  
 Who's faithless to the husband she married years ago,  
 never gave a second thought to her promises before God.  
 Her whole way of life is doomed;  
 every step she takes brings her closer to hell.  
 No one who joins her company ever comes back,  
 ever sets foot on the path to real living.  
<sup>20-22</sup> So—join the company of good men and women,  
 keep your feet on the tried-and-true paths.  
 It's the men who walk straight who will settle this land,  
 the women with integrity who will last here.  
 The corrupt will lose their lives;  
 the dishonest will be gone for good.

## **Romans 12:1-2**

### **The Message**

#### **Place Your Life Before God**

**12** <sup>1-2</sup> So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.