



03
JAN 2021



**PROVERBS  
29:1-9**

## SINCERE PRAISE

Who doesn't like to be praised? I bet, no one! Everyone feels happy each time they are complimented. Compliment is a positive thing while flattery is the opposite. Flattery is excessive and insincere praise, given especially to further one's own interests.

The difference between flattery and compliment is flattery has an insincere motivation while compliment is a sincere acknowledgement of admiration to praise someone else.

Flattery is not sincere and a praise that is given without sincerity is basically a lie. That is why we should avoid giving flattery. Flattery is harmful both to the giver and receiver. It is dangerous to the giver, because God will judge him for it as he is telling lies. It is dangerous to the receiver because it can lead him to do what he should not.

Be like Jesus who always speaks in love and always speaks only the truth, but He never resorted to flattery for personal gain. Jesus is always full of wisdom in choosing words to compliment, remind and correct His children.

**Key verse:**  
*Proverbs 29:5  
Those who  
flatter their  
neighbors are  
spreading nets  
for their feet.*

**Prayer**  
*Dear God, may  
I be like Jesus  
to only speak  
the truth with  
love. May all the  
compliments and  
praise coming  
from my mouth  
be sincere from  
my heart. Amen.*





04  
JAN  
2021

**PROVERBS  
30:24-28**

## WISDOM FROM LITTLE CREATURES

**A**gur, the writer of these Proverbs, listed four little creatures that God created and how much wisdom can be learned from each of them.

Ants are very tiny and weak. It can be crushed with a single toe of a human. In summer, they work diligently to accumulate as much food as possible so that during winter they won't be starving. Let's be hardworking and diligent.

The rock badgers are not strong and powerful yet they know how to live in the rocks and survive harsh conditions. Hide yourself wisely when there is threat or danger and avoid sins.

Locusts have no king but they can be very orderly and disciplined. We can learn from them that it is crucial to live in unity in the society, to be selfless and disciplined even when there is no one who supervises you.

A lizard is small and can be easily caught, yet, it is able to sneak into the kings' palaces which are heavily guarded by men. Be persistent and perseverant like a lizard.

### **Key verse:**

*Proverbs 1:5  
Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance*

### **Prayer**

*Dear God, I want to be diligent like ants, to hide myself wisely from sins like rock badgers, to be disciplined like locusts and to be persistent like lizards. Amen.*





05
JAN 2021

**ECCLESIASTES  
3:1-17**

## TIME FOR EVERYTHING

The festive season of Christmas is followed by the festive celebration of New Year. It will last for about a week or two. After that, a new season will happen, followed by the Chinese New Year celebration.

During festive seasons, surely there are lots of happy moments, laughter, dance, love and merriest spirit. Let's enjoy every moment to the full with a grateful heart to God.

However, there are times when you and I are in a low season of life, for example, during the current Covid19 period. It creates lots of worries, anxiety and stress. Fear not! Just like all the other season, this Covid19 time will not last forever. It will stop. It will disappear.

Just like what King Solomon wrote, there is time for everything and everything happens for a reason. Bad times and good times will come and go. Seasons and people change. But, one thing for sure, God will never leave you. God's love never changes.

**Key verse:**  
*Ecclesiastes 3:1  
There is a  
right time for  
everything,  
and everything  
on earth will  
happen at the  
right time.*

**Prayer**  
*Dear God, I know  
that in every  
season of my life,  
You are there  
with me. You  
never leave me.  
My heart is filled  
with thankfulness.  
Amen.*





06  
JAN  
2021

**ECCLESIASTES  
4:9-12**

## TOGETHER IS BETTER

It is easier to break one stick than two or three sticks that are bundled together. It will be more fun to watch a movie at the cinema with your friends rather than watching it alone. It will be merrier to have a meal at the restaurant with your family rather than having it alone.

Having friends is not only fun, but it is also important. Your friends will help to encourage you when you are down. Encouraging friends will lift you up when you are down and always put you in a brighter mood.

When you are about to give up or turn away from God because you are too down, your true friend will help and pick you up so that both of you will be able to stand stronger in God. It is easier to stand up from being stumbled when someone helps you.

Two are better than one because they are stronger together and harder to fall apart. God made you and me to encourage one another so that we can show care and remind and encourage one another.

### **Key verse:**

*Ecclesiastes 4:9  
Two people  
are better than  
one. When two  
people work  
together, they  
get more work  
done.*

### **Prayer**

*Dear God,  
thank You for  
my friends who  
encourage and  
care about me.  
Help me to show  
Your love to  
others through  
my friendship.  
Amen.*





07
JAN 2021

**ECCLESIASTES  
5:1-7**

## BE CAREFUL AND BE TRUTHFUL

When you come to Church, it is not only about singing, praying and sitting down nicely for the sake of listening to the Bible lesson. It is more about your attitude and your heart.

The Bible says when you come to worship Him, you need to ensure that you have a heart that is ready, attentive and receptive to God's word. Sometimes, while we are physically at Church, our heart is miles away. God knows our heart. He appreciates our sincerity and truthfulness.

When you pray to God, it is not about giving beautiful yet meaningless words. It is more about your heart. Do not say something for the sake saying it, but in the end, you fail to keep your words to God. When you talk to God, be sincere and truthful.

**Key verse:**

*Ecclesiastes  
5:2a*

*Think before  
you speak.  
Be careful  
about what  
you promise to  
God...*

**Prayer**

*Dear God, let my  
prayers always  
be sincere and  
truthful. You  
know my heart.  
Guide and teach  
me, oh Lord.  
Amen.*





08

JAN  
2021

**ECCLESIASTES  
6:7-9**

## ONLY GOD CAN TRULY SATISFY

If you are a chocolate lover, you will always want to eat chocolate. Each time you see chocolate, no matter how full you are, you will still want to eat a bit of it. Even sometimes one chocolate bar is not enough for you. You'll end up eating more than one chocolate bar! Eating too much chocolate will not be good for your health. It is important to control your desire.

Just because you like something, it does not mean that you may have it as much as you want it. We must train ourselves to have a contented heart, or to be happy with what we already have.

The TRUTH is only God can fully satisfy your need and desire. This is why it is crucial to always stay connected to God through prayer, worship and reading His Words. His love and His presence in your life will make you feel content.

### **Key verse:**

*Ecclesiastes  
6:9a*

*So it is better to  
be happy with  
what you have  
than always  
to be wanting  
more...*

### **Prayer**

*Dear God,  
capture my  
heart with Your  
love and bring  
me deeper in  
Your presence.  
Only You can  
satisfy my soul,  
heart and desire.  
Amen.*





09
JAN 2021

**ECCLESIASTES  
9:7-12**

## LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST

Have you ever heard or seen or even experienced something that was totally surprising and unexpected before? It was so unexpected that you started to think that life was so unpredictable.

Scientists may be able to calculate time or gravity but no one will ever know about his or her future. No one knows what will happen to them in a year ahead, in a week ahead or even in the next hour as no one can predict the various circumstances or opportunities in life.

This is why we should live life to the fullest with God being at the center of it all. King Solomon writes that we should see the length of our days on earth as a gift from God thus we should maximize the gift of life and enjoy each moment God has granted us. We should cherish and treasure every moment we have.

Be kind to your dad and mum. Be caring to your brother or sister. Be thoughtful to your friends. Be helpful to your teachers and neighbours.

**Key verse:**

*Ecclesiastes  
9:9b...  
Enjoy all the  
days of this  
short life God  
has given you  
here on earth.*

**Prayer**

*Dear God, I want  
to maximize every  
moment that I  
have on earth to  
the fullest and  
to enjoy every  
second of it with  
thankfulness.  
Amen.*

