

# The Abiding Word

Back To The Bible & Let The Bible Speak

November 19, 2019

Reflections No. 1

## INTRODUCTION

The Abiding Word and Cross Link Counseling started as outreach ministries of the church of Christ. In the 1960s The Abiding Word was a radio program on WOKO, an Albany Radio Station hosted by the late Perry O. Newton, then minister with the Albany Church of Christ. Over the years The Abiding Word has developed into a print and online Bible Study Resource promoting Bible-based study guides and resources.

Cross Link Counseling was begun by Edward E. Healy in the 1980s as a mission outreach and counseling ministry through the Albany Church of Christ. Since the beginning the focus has been on Christ-centered Biblical Christian Counseling.

Since 2000 these two ministries have merged to focus mainly on promoting Biblical Principles for Christian Growth.

With the website [www.TheAbidingWord.com](http://www.TheAbidingWord.com) this ministry provides FREE Online Bible Study Resources and eBook Study Guides.

Now living in the Adirondacks, Edward E. Healy is a retired Minister, Evangelist, Missionary with the church of Christ and serves as a volunteer interim preacher, Bible teacher and Christian Counselor as needed.

## ABOUT REFLECTIONS

This is the first issue of The Abiding Word newsletter called "Reflections" in which I plan to share my thoughts on how the Word of God has meaning and purpose in every aspect of life today, just as it had in the past and as it will have in the future. In the Word of God is the revealing of God's Eternal Purpose and Plan for His creation.

This newsletter will be a weekly publication sent via email as a PDF file to friends and all who subscribe. Please share and send me your comments, questions, and topic requests to [EEHealy@veren.com](mailto:EEHealy@veren.com).

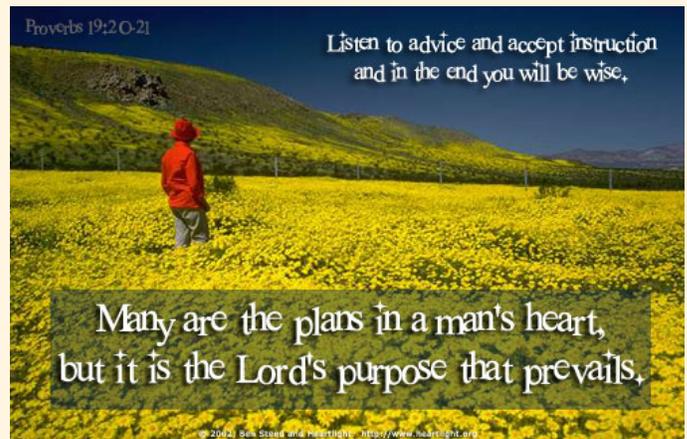
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## PROVERB FOR THE DAY

One of the key methods I have learned over the years for dealing with the everyday challenges that living throws my way is to meditate on the Word of God each day as I walk with God.

I have found that reading the Proverb for the day in the morning and reflecting on that Proverb and seeing how I can put it to action in my life as I go through the day has become a great faith builder and strength when trials and conflicts come my way.

Each day has its own Proverb and in one month I have applied all 31 Proverbs ready to do it again the next month. It really works, try it.



Each Wednesday evening we host a Bible Study in our home. We are currently in the Book of Hebrews. This reminded me of an article I had written earlier and so I'll share it here as an introduction and encouragement. Starting January 8, 2020 we will begin a series on the Letters of Paul starting with Galatians. If you are near and able, Joy and I invite you to join our study group.

*Heb 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. (NIV)*

In the opening verses of Hebrews 12, the author impresses upon the reader that as Christians we have a race to run that will lead to ultimate victory and reward. In the running, however, we must realize that sin is an extra burden we bear, a weight that slows us down and makes the job harder.

The thought is carried further that we have a help from God in ridding ourselves of this extra weight, that of the discipline through His word contained in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Just as the discipline of a natural parent seems unpleasant, so the discipline of our spiritual Father seems unpleasant for the time.

But even that burden is made lighter when we realize the truth that God would not chasten us if He did not love us, and that the correction will produce in us much good fruit - righteousness, peace, calmness, and a tranquil heart.

Do not be offended when the gospel of Christ points out to you the discrepancy between your way of living and the way Christ would have you live. Give thanks always that you have had the opportunity to see God's will for you... the opportunity to, *do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Rom 12:2 (NIV)*

*2 Cor. 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (NIV)*

The three materialistic idols which are most popular with worldly people - wealth, pleasure, power - are all to endure but a short time. Soon they will vanish away. So it is also with the things that try us - pain, sorrow, and tears. The most costly palace will decay; the finest city will fall to ruins; a painful and lingering disease will soon cease. There is nothing that we can see or touch or hear that will not pass away.

The joys of the life to come are eternal and will never pass away. There will be no cessation, no recession, no end. God is eternal and will ever be with those who are His saved, those who receive His crown of life. Our friends who are there are eternal for they shall die no more.

Eternal also will be the woes of hell. Sorrow there shall never cease; the body raised up "to the resurrection of damnation" will never again die either. Satan and his angles will be constant companions in that life also.

So the choice is yours. Accept the discipline of God with joy looking for the eternal reward. Or, reject God, following the way of self and sin to the punishment of eternal sorrow.

