

A devotion on Proverbs 箴言15:31-33 given by Brother Payton Chen in the Prayer Meeting on Oct. 10, 2018

<sup>31</sup> Whoever heeds life-giving correction will be at home among the wise. <sup>32</sup> Those who disregard discipline despise themselves, but the one who heeds correction gains understanding. <sup>33</sup> Wisdom's instruction is to fear the LORD, and humility comes before honor.

“聽從生命責備的，必常在智慧人中。棄絕管教的，輕看自己的生命；  
聽從責備的，卻得智慧。敬畏耶和華是智慧的訓誨；尊榮以前，必有謙卑。”

I remember when I was a kid; I watched some TV drama that talks about stories in Ancient China. Back in those days, teachers are highly regarded and respected by the society. Sometimes, if a young man wanted to learn something from a teacher, he had to pack his stuff to visit a master with humility. Once a young man is accepted to be his apprentice, he might need to perform some trivial task for his master in the beginning, such as cleaning up the house, until the master is willing to teach them.

I think everyone would appreciate wisdom in life. We want to know how to make good decisions in different circumstances. When I started working at EY, I realized I need a lot of wisdom from the Lord to deal with different things at work. I think I would appreciate “recognition” from my supervisors and coworkers, but only to a certain extent. Because if I take these feedbacks to heart, it might make me prideful, which covers my sight and prevents me from seeing the real picture of myself. On the other hand, many of them might be polite. But what I would really appreciate is if my supervisor could give me some constructive feedback, or even constructive criticism. I think those are the feedbacks that help me grow as a young professional. Those are the feedbacks that allow me to see where I need to improve. Of course, I still hope that they could put positive feedback on my YE review, that's a different story. Just like the proverbs says, 31, 32.

Similarly, I think we also need constructive feedback from God once a while. When we are busy with work and life, we may forget some of the lessons that we had learned in the past. We need God to let us know how we are doing. Does what I am doing please the Lord? Am I keeping His commandments? Am I living the way that God wants me to live? When everything is going well, am I taking credits for what the Lord has done? Did I take them for granted and forgot to give thanks to the Lord? When things are not going well, then we know we need the Lord.

After all, if we want to learn, I think we need to be humble first. Keep humility before God and before men. Nobody would like to teach a prideful individual. The last verse was what touches me the most (Verse 33). Fearing the Lord is the prerequisite of receiving wisdom from the Lord. Humility comes before honor. I think we can find countless examples from Bible and from human history. That's a great wisdom. And we have a great example – “You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet.” Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him, but we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”