

How To Make Wise Decisions

WISDOM: It's not what **you know**, it's how **you live**.

3 Questions For Making Godly Decisions:

Proverbs 3:5-7, 12:15, 14:12, 15:22, 19:2-3 & 20-21, 21:30-31/ James 3:13-18

- (1) What does God's **Word say**?
1 Samuel 15:1-26
- (2) What do Godly **people say**?
1 Kings 12:1-17
- (3) What does God's **Spirit say**?
Joshua 9:1-27

4 More Questions If The Answer Isn't Clear:

Proverbs 3:5-7/ 1 Corinthians 6:12/ 1 Timothy 6:17

- (1) How does this affect me **5 or 10 years** from now?
- (2) Can I live with the **worst case scenario**?
- (3) What am I going to **regret not doing** the most?
- (4) What do I **want to do** the most?

1 Thing To Always Keep In Mind:

Proverbs 3:5-7/ Matthew 6:31-34

- (1) God's will for my life is **relational** not **rational**.

In other words: God blesses **disciples**, not **decisions**.

Food for Thought
For the week of July 19, 2015
(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

1. This week Chris gave us three questions for godly decision-making and four more to ask when the decision continues to remain unclear. How do the following passages further impact our decision-making process?

Colossians 3:17

¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. *[NIV]*

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

¹¹ and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, ¹² so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. *[NIV]*

2 Peter 1:5-8

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. *[NIV]*

2. King Rehoboam in the Old Testament made some critical mistakes in his decision making and leadership as a king. As you read his story in I Kings 12 & 14:21-30, jot down your observations on mistakes he made that violate what we heard this weekend regarding decision-making.

Now read James 3:13-18 and jot down what it says about the core characteristics of wisdom and how to discern advice worth listening to

James 3:13-18

Two Kinds of Wisdom

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. *[NIV]*

Are there any adjustments you need to make when it comes to seeking counsel?

3. When we ask for wise counsel sometimes the word we receive can be difficult to hear. Read the following verses and make a list of some of the benefits of accepting "tough words said" as well as the dangers of ignoring them.

Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom's Rebuke

²⁰ Out in the open wisdom calls aloud,
she raises her voice in the public square;
²¹ on top of the wall she cries out,
at the city gate she makes her speech:
²² "How long will you who are simple love your simple ways?
How long will mockers delight in mockery
and fools hate knowledge?
²³ Repent at my rebuke!
Then I will pour out my thoughts to you,
I will make known to you my teachings.
²⁴ But since you refuse to listen when I call
and no one pays attention when I stretch out my hand,
²⁵ since you disregard all my advice
and do not accept my rebuke,
²⁶ I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you;
I will mock when calamity overtakes you—
²⁷ when calamity overtakes you like a storm,
when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind,
when distress and trouble overwhelm you.
²⁸ "Then they will call to me but I will not answer;
they will look for me but will not find me,
²⁹ since they hated knowledge
and did not choose to fear the LORD.
³⁰ Since they would not accept my advice
and spurned my rebuke,
³¹ they will eat the fruit of their ways
and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.
³² For the waywardness of the simple will kill them,
and the complacency of fools will destroy them;
³³ but whoever listens to me will live in safety
and be at ease, without fear of harm." *[NIV]*

Proverbs 3:11-12

¹¹ My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline,
and do not resent his rebuke,
¹² because the LORD disciplines those he loves,
as a father the son he delights in. *[NIV]*

Proverbs 15:31-32

³¹ Whoever heeds life-giving correction
will be at home among the wise.
³² Those who disregard discipline despise themselves,
but the one who heeds correction gains understanding. *[NIV]*

Proverbs 19:25

²⁵ Flog a mocker, and the simple will learn prudence;
rebuke the discerning, and they will gain knowledge. *[NIV]*

SEEKING GODLY WISDOM / Proverbs Daily Reading Plan:

Read the chapter that corresponds to the day of the month and consider these questions:

- ⇒ What applies to me today?
- ⇒ Where have I seen this in others?
- ⇒ Where have I experienced this?

Go to this link for more info: <http://www.northcoastchurch.com/proverbs-reading-plan>