

Competing Calls

The Call Of The Wise:

Proverbs 9:1-6 3:5-6 1:7 Matthew 7:13-14

- ✓ “I will **protect** and **provide** for you.”
- ✓ “I will truly **satisfy** you.”
- ✓ “It’s a lifetime of **no regrets**.”

The Call Of The Wild:

Proverbs 9:13-18 7:24-27 14:12 26:11

- ✓ “It’s just a little **step** off the right **path**.”
- ✓ “Don’t think **it through**.”
- ✓ “Live for the **moment**.”

The Call Of The Wise

Personal invite

Strategic

Intentional

Satisfies

Eternal

Spirit

Life

vs.

The Call Of The Wild

Public broadcast

Undisciplined

Reckless

Gratifies

Temporary

Flesh

Death

The Path Of Wisdom Begins And Ends With:

Proverbs 3:5-6 13:20 1 Corinthians 15:33

- ✓ Our **decisions**
- ✓ Our **actions**
- ✓ Our **companions**

Food for Thought for the Week of August 23, 2015

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This weekend we heard Chris talk about two “competing calls” we must choose between as Christians. Similarly to what Chris mentioned, Ephesians 5:8-14 contrasts living a life of “darkness” and a life of “light.” As you read through this passage, make a list of all the things that fall under “Living in Light.”

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.” *[NIV]*

Go through your list and evaluate how you’re doing in each area.

Are there any areas you’d like to improve or work on this week?

2. One of the best things we can do to follow the “Call Of The Wise” is to have a plan for how we’ll deal with stressful or tempting situations before they actually happen. What sort of action plan could Psalm 1 give to someone who’s trying to be proactive in avoiding going down the wrong path?

3. As Chris said this weekend, we are greatly influenced by whom we surround ourselves with. How do the following verses depict how friends can positively and negatively impact each other?

Proverbs 27:17

¹⁷ As iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens another. *[NIV]*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

⁹ Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor:
¹⁰ If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls
and has no one to help them up.
¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?
¹² Though one may be overpowered,

two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. *[NIV]*

Proverbs 22:24-25

Saying 3

²⁴ Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person,
do not associate with one easily angered,
²⁵ or you may learn their ways
and get yourself ensnared. *[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>