

# WISE LIVING

SERMON OUTLINE

## Introduction: What values shape your life?

One family's values discovered through EHS\*:

- Do the best you can.
- Look the best you can.
- Make the most you can.
- God is an idea, not a Living Presence.

*Ps. 1:1 – Blessed is the man ... (or woman!)*

## 1. The why of wise living

*Ps. 1:3-5 – 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*

*4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.*

*5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous...*

- Fruit = godly character and gospel influence

## 2. The way of wise living

*Ps. 1:1-2 – Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

- Negative dimension: Avoid harmful influences

*Luke 6:37-42 (NIV84) – 37 “Do not judge, and you will not be judged ... 41 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 42 ... You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.*

*1 Cor. 15:33 (NIV84) – Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”*

*Proverbs 22:24-25 (NIV84) – Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.*

*1 Cor. 10:23 (NCV) – “We are allowed to do all things,” but not all things are good for us to do. “We are allowed to do all things,” but not all things help others grow stronger.*

- Positive dimension: Pursue a renewed heart (= mind, will, emotions)

*“According to Cranmer’s anthropology, what the heart loves, the will chooses, and the mind justifies.” - Canon Ashley Null*

*Jeremiah 17:9 – The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?*

*Ezekiel 36:26a – “I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you...”*

*Matt. 4:4 (NIV84) – (Jesus said) ... “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”*

*Ps. 119:105 (NIV84) – Your word is a lamp to my feet ... a light for my path.*

*Ps. 119:92 (NIV84) – If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.*

## 3. The power for wise living

*Ps. 1:3 – He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.*

*Ps. 1:6 – ... for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.*

*John 7:38, 39 (NIV84) – (Jesus said) Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” 39 By this he meant the Spirit...*

*Ps 1:6 (NIV84) – For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.*

Purposeful reflecting...

- Ask the Lord to speak, then spend five minutes in silence. (Start with less if that helps.) When you catch your mind wandering, gently re-direct your attention to the presence of God. Time in silence is how we develop the skill of paying attention to God.

Experience

- Have you enjoyed seasons of “fruitfulness” in your spiritual life? If so, what happened to you or through you? What did that do for you?
- Looking back over your life, have there been times when God enabled you to persevere, even prosper, through times of difficulty? What happened? How did God help you get through those times?

Transform

- When the topic of harmful influences comes up, does one thing rise to the top as something that would be beneficial to eliminate or minimize in your life? Be specific. What needs to happen to help you with that? Is there a person in the community who could help?

- Do you have any regular time set aside for focused listening and reflection on what God may be speaking to you through Scripture? If not, is that something you’d like to start doing? Ask God for the power to do it and make a plan. (Hint: start small. Even 10 minutes will bless you.)

Share

- We often need encouragement and sometimes exhortation or correction. Give permission to someone who knows you well to offer you those things as needed. Risk telling them to be completely honest.
- Which Christian friend of yours would be blessed if you shared what you observe about his or her growth in “fruitfulness”? Look for an opportunity to do that.

\*EHS = EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY TRAINING COURSE

TRANSLATION KEY: UNLESS NOTED, ALL VERSES ARE FROM THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION. NIV84 = NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION, 1984 ED. NCV = NEW CENTURY VERSION.