

Teaching Outline

Series: Making Wise Choices

Week Four

Prov 3:1-20 (NLT) My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart.² If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying.

God wants us living a _____ life.

³ Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart.⁴ Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation.

Favor: excessive kindness or unfair _____; preferential treatment.

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

Doesn't mean that we're _____ ... we still need to use the _____ God gave us.

⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

The quality of our life-journey is contingent upon "seeking God's will in all we do" and not relying only on what we know or think we know.

⁷ Don't be impressed with your own wisdom.

This isn't a _____ ... it's just that we may not know what we don't know!!

Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil.⁸ Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones.

The most important healing we need is for our pride.

⁹ Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce.¹⁰ Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

Honor the Lord: recognize that He is the One that gives us everything.

¹¹ My child, don't reject the LORD's discipline, and don't be upset when he corrects you.¹² For the LORD corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.

Discipline is God's way of showing us that there is an _____.

¹³ Joyful is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding.

Joy in our lives may be one of the more under-rated factors in reaching others with the Good News!

¹⁴ For wisdom is more profitable than silver, and her wages are better than gold.¹⁵ Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.

Knowing and following God's will has more to offer us than _____ can provide.

¹⁶ She offers you long life in her right hand, and riches and honor in her left.¹⁷ She will guide you down delightful paths; all her ways are satisfying.¹⁸ Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her; happy are those who hold her tightly.

Tree of life: blessing of shelter and food, sustains and enhances life; fruitful.

¹⁹ By wisdom the LORD founded the earth; by understanding he created the heavens.²⁰ By his knowledge the deep fountains of the earth burst forth, and the dew settles beneath the night sky.

The _____ of God was at work in providing us a place to have a quality life.

For further reflection: Is my life-journey characterized by joy, humility, and no regrets?

Closing Song: Good, Good Father, by Chris Tomlin