

God's Wisdom for Our Lives – Week 3

Please, Don't Follow Your Heart – Lead It!

Review

1. Over-Arching Theme: Wisdom
 - a. Biblical wisdom is “the skill of living in reference to God”
 - b. The foundation of Biblical wisdom: The fear of the LORD (Prov 1:7, 9:10, 31:30)
 - i. “Lord, I trust you, and what you say goes, no matter what”.
2. Proverbs shows us what it looks like to embrace God's covenant and live it out in everyday life.
3. The fear of the Lord leads to godliness in everyday life.
 - a. Connecting salvation to the ordinary: All of life belongs to Him...
 - i. Salvation results in living in reference to God. This begins with the fear of the Lord, and it moves into every nook and cranny of our existence.
4. Key Theme: There are only two ways to live:

There is a way to life. That way is called wisdom, which is living in reference to God, in the fear of the Lord.

There is a way to death. That way is called folly, which is rejecting or living without reference to God.

5. As Bible-believing Christians, how are we tempted toward the path of folly like the foolish builder?
 - a. Are there bold ways and, perhaps, more subtle ways that we might do this?
6. What difference should it make if we understand and apply this key theme (two ways to live) to:
 - a. Our daily lives?
 - b. Large decisions?
 - c. Relational difficulty or conflict?

Key Theme: Don't Follow Your Heart – Lead It!

7. How is this key theme at odds with the majority of our culture?
 - a. Is this true even among evangelicals? How?
 - b. Where are we and our children receiving instruction to “follow your heart”?
8. What makes us so susceptible to the ideology of “follow your heart”?

Read Proverbs 3:1-7

9. What's the command given in verse 1?
 - a. What does it mean to “let your heart keep my commandments”?

b. How does verse 1 instruct us to think about our responsibility to lead and not follow our heart?

i. What does obedience to this lead to (vs 2)?

10. How does the language in verse 3 strongly reiterate our responsibility to lead our hearts?

11. Consider verses 5-6... What are the two opposing ideas that are juxtaposed in verse 5? a.

What does it mean to lean on your own understanding?

b. Consider Proverbs 14:12... why is it critical that we “lean not on our own understanding”?

12. In the context of this passage, what does it mean to trust in the Lord with all your heart? 13.

What does it mean to acknowledge the Lord in all your ways (verse 6)?

c. How does the Lord make our paths straight when we acknowledge Him?

14. What does it mean to be wise in your own eyes (verse 7)?

a. What’s the alternative to being “wise in your own eyes” (verse 7b)?

Read Jeremiah 17:5-10

15. Who is the bush in the desert that get’s scorched and doesn’t thrive? (vs 5)

16. Who is the tree that’s planted by the water and thrives, even in adversity? (vs 7)

17. According to verses 9-10, what are we being warned against in this section?

18. Let’s get practical... What are the situations when you find it difficult to trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and instead tend to lean on your own understanding?