

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Lighting the Future

SERMON REFERENCE: Proverbs 3:5-6

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2193

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) One question that is asked perhaps more than any other is this:
 - i) How can I know the will of God for my life?
- b) Man is clever, but he has lost his way in the darkness.
 - i) Daniel 12:4
 - ii) We live in a day of guided missiles and misguided men.
- c) God has promised to guide us.
 - i) Isaiah 58:11
 - (1) As Christians we can say, “Day-by-day, moment-be-moment, Almighty God is guiding me.”
 - ii) Psalm 32:8
 - (1) “Guiding with the eye” is a very intimate guidance.
- d) Ephesians 2:10
 - i) God has a plan for each of us that He has ordained.
 - (1) We have a Heavenly Father above us Who is in ultimate control.
 - (2) We have a Savior before us so that we can walk in His footsteps.
 - (3) We have the Holy Spirit within us impressing our hearts so that we can find a way in a dark, dark day.
- e) God doesn't deal with us in mass; He deals with us as individuals.
 - i) God makes no duplicates.
 - ii) Everything that God makes is an original.
 - iii) Psalm 37:23
 - (1) Every step we take is in His plan and His purpose.
 - (2) A plumber who has been called to be a plumber is more pleasing to God than a preacher who was not called to preach.
- f) The highest calling is to do the will of God, whether it is in business or in the home.
 - i) Leaving what God has planned for you to do something else is to take second-best.
 - ii) Isaiah 58:11
 - iii) Dr. Stephen Olford said, “God's great plan is for us to find, to follow, and to finish the will of God in our lives.”
- g) Proverbs 3:5-6
- h) There are three basic steps that we can follow in order to find God's will for our lives.

2) WE MUST LET GOD CHOOSE THE WAY

- a) How do we let God choose the way?
 - i) There must be a full confidence in God.
 - (1) Many of us do not trust God enough to let Him choose the way for us.
 - (2) Proverbs 3:5
 - (3) You cannot trust somebody that you do not know and you cannot know somebody that you do not spend time with.
 - (a) When you trust somebody, it is because you spent time with them.

- (b) If they are trustworthy, you come to love them and you can trust them.
- (4) The reason that many of us do not trust the Lord intimately is because we do not really know Him intimately.
 - (a) We must trust in Him with our whole heart.
 - (b) In order to trust Him with all our heart, we have to know Him intimately.
- (5) Do not trust your own understanding.
 - (a) We take the Word of God and parade it past the judgment bar of human understanding, our understanding, and we try to weigh it out to see if that is really best rather than just trust God.
 - (i) People do not tithe because they do not trust God.
 - 1. Malachi 3:10
 - a. If we believe this passage, we would tithe more.
 - (b) Proverbs 14:12
 - (i) Our minds do not lead us directly.
 - (c) Jeremiah 10:23
 - (i) It is not that we are not to have understanding, but the understanding is to come from the Lord.
 - (d) Proverbs 2:1-6
 - (i) God is not saying that we are not to have understanding, He is simply saying not to lean on our understanding.
 - (ii) Get into the Word of God and search for God's way, as you would search for silver and gold, and God says that you will find it.
- ii) There must be a faithful compliance to God.
 - (1) Proverbs 3:6
 - (2) We don't surrender to a plan; we surrender to God.
 - (a) God's plan for your life is not a roadmap; it is a relationship.
 - (3) We must acknowledge God in every situation: "Lord, what do You want me to do here?"
 - (4) Most people want to acknowledge God only in certain areas of life.
 - (a) They believe that they are only required to give a tenth of their income and a seventh of their time to God and that makes them a good Christian.
 - (b) This is wrong; it all belongs to God. All of your money and time come from God and belong to God.
 - (c) Do not segment your life into yours and His; it is all His.
 - (d) "Tis but one life, will soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last."
 - (i) "Anywhere, anytime, any cost."
 - 1. As Christians, we struggle with this because we do not fully trust God.

3) WE MUST LET GOD CONFIRM THE WAY

- a) It is one thing for God to choose the way; but it's another thing for God to confirm the way that He has chosen.
 - i) Many Christians say that they are willing to do God's will for them, but they do not know what it is.
 - b) God guides us by His Word, the Bible.
 - i) Psalm 119:105
 - ii) Many of us desire to know God's will for our lives, but we are not obeying the revealed will of God in the written Scriptures.
 - (1) They want God to show them something else when it is plain what God wants in some areas and they have not done that.
 - iii) Three occurrences in the Bible where it states specifically that this is the will of God:
 - (1) To be saved.
 - (a) 2 Peter 3:9
 - (b) It is God's will that everyone be saved.
 - (c) Have you given your heart to Christ?
 - (2) To be Spirit-filled.
 - (a) Ephesians 5:17-18
 - (b) Do not be unwise, but be understanding of what the will of God is.
 - (c) Do not be drunk with wine, but be filled with the Spirit.
 - (d) As a Christian, if you are not filled with the Spirit, you are out of the will of God.
 - (3) To be sanctified.
 - (a) 1 Thessalonians 4:3
 - (b) If we did just these three steps, the rest would be self-evident.
 - (i) "Abstain from fornication"
 - 1. Fornication is sex outside the sacred bonds of marriage.
 - (ii) God does not change His mind and His Word to satisfy our desires.
 - iv) God's will is what you would want for yourself if you had enough sense to want it.
 - (1) Psalm 84:11
- c) God guides us through prayer.
 - i) Acts 1:24
 - ii) Prayer is a two-way street; it is not, "Listen Lord, Your servant speaks," but rather, "Speak Lord, Your servant listens."
 - (1) Do you have a quiet time in your prayer?
 - (a) This is a lost art of listening to God; when God will speak directly to your heart.
 - iii) Acts 8:29
 - (1) Story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch.
 - (2) God will impress our spirit with the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit speaks to us.

- iv) Acts 13:2
 - (1) The Holy Spirit speaks.
 - (2) God guides through His Word.
 - (3) God guides when we pray and the Holy Spirit of God speaks to us.
 - d) God guides us through wisdom.
 - i) James 1:5
 - ii) What is wisdom?
 - (1) Wisdom is not simply reading something in Scripture, although that is valid.
 - (2) Wisdom is not simply praying and letting the Holy Spirit impress our hearts, although that is valid.
 - (3) Wisdom is sanctified common sense.
 - (a) Using your own mind is not leaning on your own understanding if your mind is filled with the Spirit of God.
 - (i) Get your heart clean and your motive clear, search the Scriptures, pray, and then do what you think you ought to do.
 - (ii) Donald Gray Barnhouse: “90% of wisdom is found between the ears.”
 - 1. God gives wisdom.
 - (4) Wisdom is not emotionalism.
 - (a) It is not getting wet eye lashes, a warm heart or liver shivers
 - (5) Wisdom is sanctified common sense. It is seeing life from God’s point of view.
 - (a) There are some things that we do not need to pray about because God gave us a mind and expects us to use it.
 - (6) Romans 12:1
- e) God guides us providentially.
 - i) Revelation 3:7-8
 - (1) God will providentially open doors and shut doors and guide you.
- 4) WE MUST LET GOD CLEAR THE WAY
- a) God has to make a way for you; to clear the way.
 - b) Proverbs 3:6
 - i) The Hebrew word “yashar,” “He will direct your paths” – has the idea of clearing obstacles.
 - ii) Isaiah 40:3-4
 - (1) Referring to the ministry of John the Baptist, the phrase, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord” is the same phrase that is used for, “Direct your paths.”
 - (a) God will straighten the road, remove the mountains, straightens crooked roads, fill in the low places, and smooth out the rocky places.
 - (b) God will choose the way.
 - (c) God will confirm the way.

- (d) God will clear the way when you get in the will of God.
- (e) God will open and no man will shut and God will shut and no man will open.
- (f) God Himself will take away the obstacles that keep you from His will for your life.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- b) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16