

Becoming Wise

Biblical Wisdom Literature Survey

Becoming Wise: James and Proverbs

Course Schedule

- I. **Pure and undefiled Religion** In this class, we will study James Chapter 1. This class will provide a framework towards understanding the source of Godly Wisdom and how it compares and conflicts with Worldly Wisdom. We will then see that true Godly Wisdom provides the believer with a means to pursue pure and undefiled religion [James 1:27].
- II. **If Sinners Entice You...** This class will focus on the two archetypes of foolishness found in Proverbs: the adulterous woman and the violent man. We will carefully study these two personalities, using both Old and New Testament sources to understand what they are about and why they are to be avoided.
- III. **Your Father's Instructions and Your Mother's Teaching** In this class, we will examine the 10 Commandments to see how they operate as the primary ethic throughout Wisdom Literature, in both the Old and New Testaments.
- IV. **Call** In this final class, we will focus on the concept of call. Call is a useful framework towards understanding what jobs we should take, where we should live, and how we should participate in the ministry of the Church. This is also where Godly Wisdom and Earthly Wisdom clash.
- V. **Handout** Survey of various Proverbs quoted in the New Testament.

How to Think?

“Let us reason together says the Lord” [Isaiah 1:18]

Scripture	Reason
Tradition	Experience

- I. Biases
 - A. Isagesis – Inserting unsupported meaning or doctrine into a passage of Scripture
- II. Exegesis – What does the biblical text actually say?
- III. Bias Assumptions
 - A. Scripture is true and reliable.
 - B. Reason is valuable and necessary to understand the Scriptures
- IV. Tradition and Experience are valuable, but not necessarily reliable

Pure and Undeified Religion

James 1

James 1:1-12

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. ² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. ⁹ Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. ¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

James 1:13-21

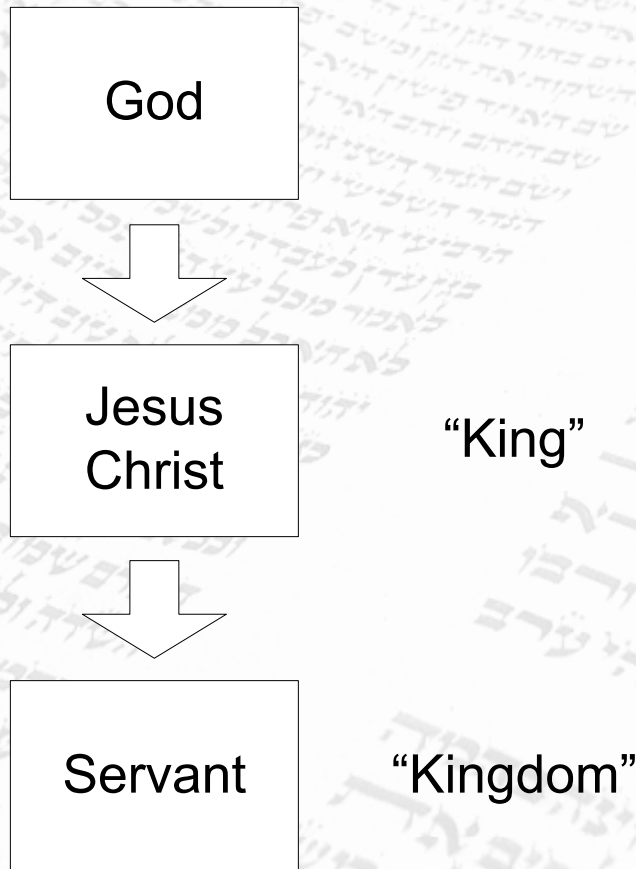
¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creation. ¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

James 1:22-27

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. ²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Christ's Lordship

Analysis of James 1:1



Trials and Testing

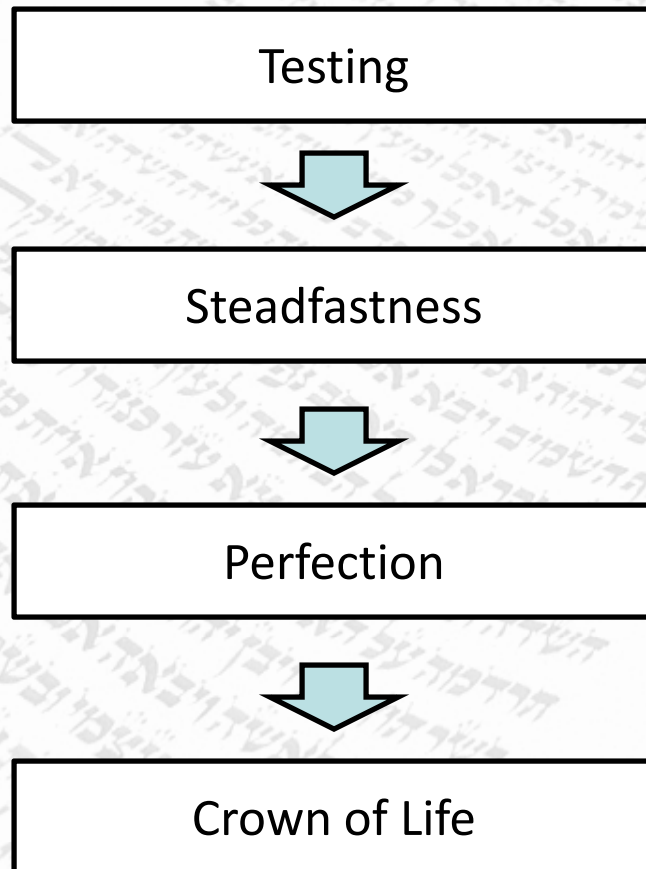
James 1:2-4,12

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

James 1 Outline

Analysis of James 1:2-4,12



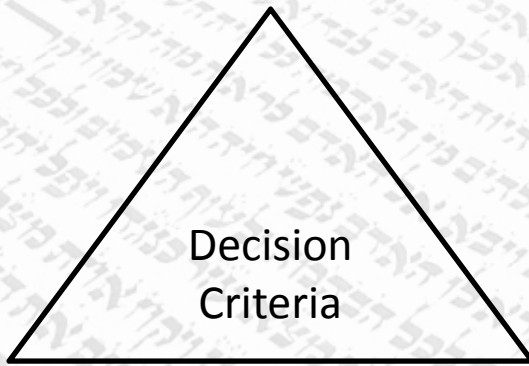
- **Trials**
 - Should be understood as ethical dilemmas, where a moral decision must be made
 - Should not be understood as suffering (i.e. in the case of Job), unless it becomes a theological or ethical issue (i.e. Job)
- **Testing**
 - God tests faith [Deut 8:2]
 - God temps no one [James 1:13]
 - Remember the Genesis 3 class
- **Steadfastness**
 - Steadfastness or patience is demonstrated through works [Rom 2:7]
- **Perfection**
 - Works performed in faith conform us towards righteousness [Matt 5:16]
 - God conforms us towards the His Image made known in Jesus Christ [Rom 8:29]
- **Life**
 - You become who you are...

What is a Trial?

Perhaps a useful framework

Structure

- Fear – if lacking
- Otherwise Security



COVENANT



Information

- Anxiety – if lacking
- Otherwise Confidence

Resources

- Frustration – if lacking
- Otherwise Contentment

REMEMBER

PROMISES

REMEMBER THE COVENANT PROMISES

God Gives Generously to All

James 1:5-8

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Which covenants are operating here?

Wisdom from Above

James 3:13-18

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. **¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.**

How does the Holy Spirit operate in terms of the New Covenant?

Gifts of the Spirit

Wisdom from Above

Holy Spirit



Spiritual Gifts



Works



Spiritual Fruit

- Holy Spirit
 - The Holy Spirit is the source of Wisdom and other spiritual gifts (faith, hope, love, etc.) [1 Cor 12:8]
- Spiritual Gifts
 - True wisdom is a gift from God [2 Chr 1, Ps 111:10, 1 Cor 2:13]
 - Worldly wisdom is the antithesis of Godly Wisdom [1 Cor 3:19, James 3:15]
 - Spiritual gifts equip us to do good works (teaching, administration, prophesy, generosity, etc.) to build up the body of Christ [Eph 4:11-12]
- Works
 - God is the author of all our good works [John 10:32]
 - We cannot take credit for good works [Matt 5:16]
 - Good works are not an end to themselves but for God's own glory towards accomplishing His purposes
- Spiritual Fruit
 - The fruit of the spirit (love, patience, kindness, etc.) [Gal 5:22]) results WITH NOT FROM good works
 - Building up the character of God's people, the first fruits of Creation, are the end of good works
 - See James 5:7, "See how the farmer waits for the 14 precious fruit of the earth..."

Poor Brothers and Rich People

James 1:9-11

⁹ Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

From the Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 6:24-34

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. ²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? **Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,** ²⁹ **yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.** ³⁰ **But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?** ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. ³⁴ "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

The Ministry of John the Baptist

Isaiah 40:1-9

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶ A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" **All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.** ⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

James 1:9-11 Outline

War Between Two Worlds

Kingdom of God

- God the Father
- Jesus Christ
- Holy Spirit
 - **Imparts Wisdom from Above**
- Poor Brothers
 - Servants of God and the Lord
 - Jesus doing good
 - Poor in the standards of the World but rich in the Kingdom of God
 - Suffering on behalf of righteousness
 - Ministering to the weak
 - Unstained from the world

Kingdom of Satan

- Satan
- False Christs
- Spirit of Anti-Christ
 - **Imparts Wisdom of the World**
- Rich People
 - Servants of Satan and the demonic powers doing evil
 - Rich in the standards of the World but bankrupt in the Kingdom of God
 - Persecuting Poor Brothers and righteousness
 - Devouring the weak
 - Full of the world's ethos

Temptation

James 1:13-15

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Reconciling the Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:7-15 [ESV]

⁷ “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread,

¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ and...

[“**may you not carry us into judgment**”, μή εισενέγκης ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν]

but deliver us from...

[“**the Evil One**”,]

¹⁴ For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,

¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

We Are Tempted by Our Own Desire

Cannot blame God or even Satan, only ourselves

Temptation



Desire



Sin



Death

- Temptation

- “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” [1 Corinthians 10:13]

- Desire

- “So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.” [2 Timothy 2:22]

- Sin

- “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions.” [Rom 6:12]
- “The time that is past ... for ... sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.... [God]... is ready to judge the living and the dead.” [1 Peter 4:3-5]

- Death

- Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 21 [Romans 6:16]

Do Not Be Deceived

James 1:16-21

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ **Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.** ¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Faith Works

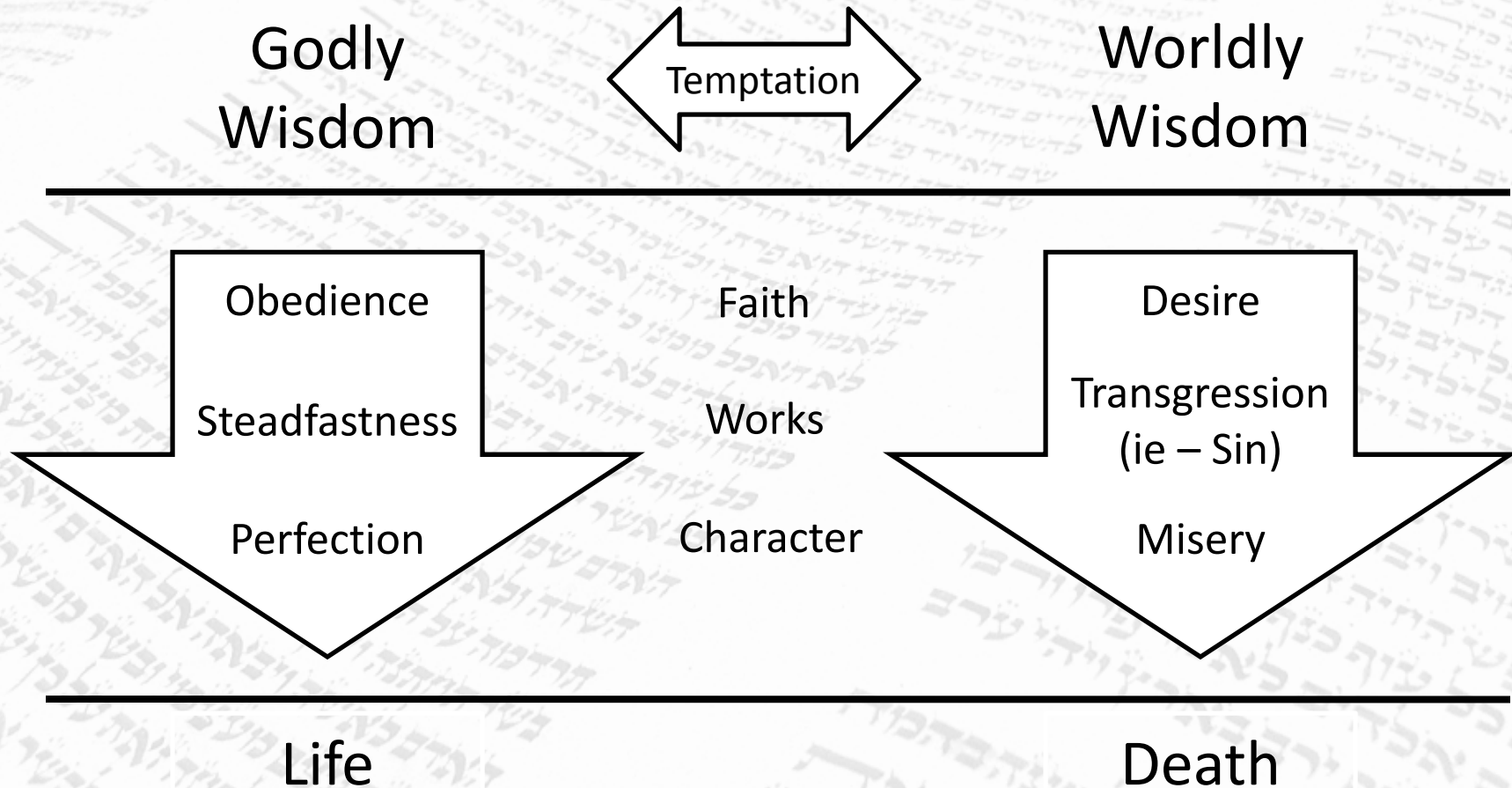
James 1:16-21, 2:17

1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. ²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

2:17 *So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

All Moral Decisions are either Godly or Demonic

Summary of James 1: Faith Works Character



“We Become Who We Are”

Summary

1 John 5:13-21

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ **And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.** ¹⁵ **And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.** ¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life- to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. ¹⁷ All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death. ¹⁸ **We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.** ¹⁹ **We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.** ²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. ²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

Rahab's Dilemma

A Biblical Theology

Abraham and Rahab

James 2:14-26

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹ **Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?** ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ **And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?** ²⁶ For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. ²⁷

Two Young Men Visit Jericho

Joshua 2:1-7 [ESV]

¹ And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there. ² And it was told to the king of Jericho, “Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land.” ³ Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land.” ⁴ But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, “True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. ⁵ And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them.” ⁶ But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof. ⁷ So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

Rahab Hides the Two Young Men

Joshua 2:8-16 [ESV]

⁸ Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof ⁹ and said to the men, “I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. ¹¹ And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. ¹² Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father’s house, and give me a sure sign ¹³ that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.” ¹⁴ And the men said to her, “Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the Lord gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.” ¹⁵ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall. ¹⁶ And she said to them, “Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned. Then afterward you may go your way.”

The Two Young Men Return

Joshua 2:17-24 [ESV]

¹⁷The men said to her, “We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear. ¹⁸Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father’s household. ¹⁹Then if anyone goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be guiltless. But if a hand is laid on anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head. ²⁰But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless with respect to your oath that you have made us swear.” ²¹And she said, “According to your words, so be it.” Then she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window. ²²They departed and went into the hills and remained there three days until the pursuers returned, and the pursuers searched all along the way and found nothing. ²³Then the two men returned. They came down from the hills and passed over and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and they told him all that had happened to them. ²⁴And they said to Joshua, “Truly the Lord has given all the land into our hands. And also, all the inhabitants of the land melt away because of us.”

New Testament Witnesses

Hebrews 11:30-31 and James 2:20-26 [ESV]

Hebrews 11:30-31 ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

James 2:20-26 ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"- and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the **messengers** [ἄγγέλους] and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Sodom and the Two Angels

Genesis 19: 1-10 [ESV]

¹The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth ²and said, “My lords, please turn aside to your servant’s house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way.” They said, “No; we will spend the night in the town square.” ³But he pressed them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house. And he made them a feast and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. ⁴But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house. ⁵And they called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them.” ⁶Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him, ⁷and said, “I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly. ⁸Behold, I have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof.” ⁹But they said, “Stand back!” And they said, “This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them.” Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and drew near to break the door down. ¹⁰But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them and shut the door.

Levite and His Concubine

Judges 19:22-30 [ESV]

²² As they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, worthless fellows, surrounded the house, beating on the door. And they said to the old man, the master of the house, "Bring out the man who came into your house, that we may know him." ²³ And the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brothers, do not act so wickedly; since this man has come into my house, do not do this vile thing. ²⁴ Behold, here are my virgin daughter and his concubine. Let me bring them out now. Violate them and do with them what seems good to you, but against this man do not do this outrageous thing." ²⁵ But the men would not listen to him. So the man seized his concubine and made her go out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until the morning. And as the dawn began to break, they let her go. ²⁶ And as morning appeared, the woman came and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, until it was light. ²⁷ And her master rose up in the morning, and when he opened the doors of the house and went out to go on his way, behold, there was his concubine lying at the door of the house, with her hands on the threshold. ²⁸ He said to her, "Get up, let us be going." But there was no answer. Then he put her on the donkey, and the man rose up and went away to his home. ²⁹ And when he entered his house, he took a knife, and taking hold of his concubine he divided her, limb by limb, into twelve pieces, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel. ³⁰ And all who saw it said, "Such a thing has never happened or been seen from the day that the people of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt until this day; consider it, take counsel, and speak."

Rahab's Dilemma

5 Approaches

- I. Lesser Evil Approach – Choose the lesser of the evils
- II. Greater Good Approach – Choose the greater (greatest) good
- III. Non-Conflicting Absolutes – God's law doesn't conflict
 - A. See 1 Corinthians 10:13 – “God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”
 - B. See Exodus 20:16 and Deuteronomy 5:20
- IV. Proverbs 26:4-5 – **“Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.”**
 - A. See 1 Kings 22:22-23 and 2 Chronicles 18:21-22
 - B. See Exodus 20:16 and Deuteronomy 5:20
- V. 1 Timothy 2:14 – “... the woman was deceived and became a transgressor...”
 - A. See Genesis 3:15
 - B. See Judges 4:14-22, especially the Song of Deborah Judges 5:24-27

If Sinners Entice You...

Archetypes in the Wisdom Literature

James 1:9-11 Outline

War Between Two Worlds

Kingdom of God

- God the Father
- Jesus Christ
- Holy Spirit
 - **Imparts Wisdom from Above**
- Poor Brothers
 - Servants of God and the Lord
 - Jesus doing good
 - Poor in the standards of the World but rich in the Kingdom of God
 - Suffering on behalf of righteousness
 - Ministering to the weak
 - Unstained from the world

Kingdom of Satan

- Satan
- False Christs
- Spirit of Anti-Christ
 - **Imparts Wisdom of the World**
- Rich People
 - Servants of Satan and the demonic powers doing evil
 - Rich in the standards of the World but bankrupt in the Kingdom of God
 - Persecuting Poor Brothers and righteousness
 - Devouring the weak
 - Full of the world's ethos

If Sinners Entice You...

Proverbs 1:8-10

⁸ Hear, my son, your father's instruction,
and forsake not your mother's teaching,

⁹ for they are a graceful garland for your head
And pendants for your neck.

¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice you,
do not consent.

Warnings Against Worldliness

James 4:1-5

¹ What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² **You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.** ³ **You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.** ⁴ **You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.** ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?

Questions:

- 1. James addresses the two archetypes found in the Wisdom literature; Why are these two archetypes so similar?**
- 2. What are the passions that James is speaking about?**
- 3. What are the sources of these passions?**

The Violent Man

A Biblical Survey

Lamech

Genesis 4:19-24

¹⁹ And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. ²⁰ Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. ²¹ His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. ²² Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah. ²³ Lamech said to his wives:

“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say:
I have killed a man for wounding me,
a young man for striking me.

²⁴ If Cain's revenge is sevenfold,
then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold.”

Questions:

1. **What are Lamech's sin(s)?**
2. **Why is this so abominable?**

Come With Us

Proverbs 1:11-19

¹¹ If they say, “Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood;
let us ambush the innocent without reason;

¹² like Sheol let us swallow them alive,
and whole, like those who go down to the pit;

¹³ we shall find all precious goods,
we shall fill our houses with plunder;

¹⁴ throw in your lot among us;
we will all have one purse” —

¹⁵ my son, do not walk in the way with them;
hold back your foot from their paths,

¹⁶ for their feet run to evil,
and they make haste to shed blood.

¹⁷ For in vain is a net spread
in the sight of any bird,

¹⁸ but these men lie in wait for their own blood;
They set an ambush for their own lives.

¹⁹ Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain;
it takes away the life of its possessors.

Seven Things the Lord Hates

Proverbs 6:16-19

¹⁶ There are six things that the LORD hates,
seven that are an abomination to him:

¹⁷ haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
and hands that shed innocent blood,

¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked plans,
feet that make haste to run to evil,

¹⁹ a false witness who breathes out lies,
and one who sows discord among brothers.

Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:21-26

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘**You shall not murder**; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²² **But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.** ²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶ Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

I Hate Divorce

Malachi 2:13-16

¹³ Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. ¹⁴ You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. **¹⁵ Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.** ¹⁶ "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.

The Violent Man

Summary

- I. Slave of his passions
 - A. Lust
 - B. Gluttony
 - C. Greed
 - D. Sloth
 - E. Wrath
 - F. Envy
 - G. Pride
- II. Violent, Sexually Immoral, Thieving, Abusive, Slandering
- III. Devours other people and takes great pride in doing it
- IV. No fear of God

The Adulteress Woman

A Biblical Survey

Beware the Forbidden Woman

Proverbs 5:1-14

- 1 My son, be attentive to my wisdom;
incline your ear to my understanding,
- 2 that you may keep discretion,
and your lips may guard knowledge.
- 3 For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil,
- 4 but in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
sharp as a two-edged sword.
- 5 Her feet go down to death;
her steps follow the path to Sheol;
- 6 she does not ponder the path of life;
her ways wander, and she does not know it.

Beware the Forbidden Woman (Cont.)

Proverbs 5:7-14

⁷ And now, O sons, listen to me,
and do not depart from the words of my mouth.

⁸ Keep your way far from her,
and do not go near the door of her house,

⁹ lest you give your honor to others
and your years to the merciless,

¹⁰ lest strangers take their fill of your strength,
and your labors go to the house of a foreigner,

¹¹ and at the end of your life you groan,
when your flesh and body are consumed,

¹² and you say, “How I hated discipline,
and my heart despised reproof!

¹³ I did not listen to the voice of my teachers
or incline my ear to my instructors.

¹⁴ I am at the brink of utter ruin
in the assembled congregation.”

Do Not Forsake Your Parents' Teaching

Proverbs 6:20-28

²⁰ My son, keep your father's commandment,
and forsake not your mother's teaching.

²¹ Bind them on your heart always;
tie them around your neck.

²² When you walk, they will lead you;
when you lie down, they will watch over you;
and when you awake, they will talk with you.

²³ **For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light,
and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,**

²⁴ **to preserve you from the evil woman,
from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.**

²⁵ **Do not desire her beauty in your heart,
and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes;**

Write the Commandments on Your Heart

Proverbs 7:1-5

- 1 My son, keep my words
And treasure up my commandments with you;
- 2 keep my commandments and live;
keep my teaching as the apple of your eye;
- 3 bind them on your fingers;
write them on the tablet of your heart.
- 4 Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,”
and call insight your intimate friend,
- 5 to keep you from the forbidden woman,
from the adulteress with her smooth words.

The Adulteress Lays a Trap...

Proverbs 7:6-10 (Cont.)

- ⁶ For at the window of my house
I have looked out through my lattice,
⁷ and I have seen among the simple,
I have perceived among the youths,
a young man lacking sense,
⁸ passing along the street near her corner,
taking the road to her house
⁹ in the twilight, in the evening,
at the time of night and darkness.
¹⁰ And behold, the woman meets him,
dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart.

...She is Promiscuous and Enticing

Proverbs 7:11-17 (Cont.)

¹¹ She is loud and wayward;
her feet do not stay at home;

¹² now in the street, now in the market,
and at every corner she lies in wait.

¹³ She seizes him and kisses him,
and with bold face she says to him,

¹⁴ “I had to offer sacrifices,
and today I have paid my vows;

¹⁵ so now I have come out to meet you,
to seek you eagerly, and I have found you.

¹⁶ I have spread my couch with coverings,
colored linens from Egyptian linen;

¹⁷ I have perfumed my bed with myrrh,
aloes, and cinnamon.

...She Captures the Sinful

Proverbs 7:18-23 (Cont.)

¹⁸ Come, let us take our fill of love till morning;
let us delight ourselves with love.

¹⁹ For my husband is not at home;
he has gone on a long journey;

²⁰ he took a bag of money with him;
at full moon he will come home.”

²¹ With much seductive speech she persuades him;
with her smooth talk she compels him.

²² All at once he follows her,
as an ox goes to the slaughter,
or as a stag is caught fast

²³ till an arrow pierces its liver;
as a bird rushes into a snare;
he does not know that it will cost him his life.

... And Devours Him

1 Peter 5:8-9

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

... And He Goes Down into Hell

Proverbs 7:24-27 (Cont.)

²⁴ And now, O sons, listen to me,
and be attentive to the words of my mouth.

²⁵ Let not your heart turn aside to her ways;
do not stray into her paths,

²⁶ for many a victim has she laid low,
and all her slain are a mighty throng.

²⁷ Her house is the way to Sheol,
going down to the chambers of death.

Drink from Your Own Cistern

Proverbs 5:15-20

¹⁵ Drink water from your own cistern,
flowing water from your own well.

¹⁶ Should your springs be scattered abroad,
streams of water in the streets?

¹⁷ Let them be for yourself alone,
and not for strangers with you.

¹⁸ Let your fountain be blessed,
And rejoice in the wife of your youth,

¹⁹ a lovely deer, a graceful doe.

Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight;
be intoxicated always in her love.

²⁰ Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman
and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?

The Adulterous Woman

Summary

- I. Slave of her passions
 - A. Lust
 - B. Gluttony
 - C. Greed
 - D. Sloth
 - E. Wrath
 - F. Envy
 - G. Pride
- II. Violent, Sexually Immoral, Thieving, Abusive, Slandering
- III. Devours other people and takes great pride in doing it
- IV. No fear of God

Seven Deadly Sins

General Survey With Biblical Commentary

Lust

Deadly Sin #1

Definition: Lust (or lechery) is usually thought of as excessive thoughts or desires of a sexual nature. Giving in to lusts can lead to sexual or sociological compulsions and/or transgressions including (but not limited to) sexual addiction, fornication, adultery, bestiality, rape, perversion, and incest.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Colossians 3:5-6 ⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

Question: What is the Worldly View of this sin?

Gluttony

Deadly Sin #2

Definition: Gluttony is the over-indulgence and over-consumption of anything to the point of waste. It is considered a sin because those who have do not share and withhold from the needy.

Jeremiah 5:26-29 ²⁶ For wicked men are found among my people; they lurk like fowlers lying in wait. They set a trap; they catch men. ²⁷ Like a cage full of birds, their houses are full of deceit; therefore they have become great and rich; ²⁸ they have grown fat and sleek. They know no bounds in deeds of evil; they judge not with justice the cause of the fatherless, to make it prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy. ²⁹ Shall I not punish them for these things? declares the LORD, and shall I not avenge myself on a nation such as this?"

Psalms 73:3-9 ³ For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. ⁴ For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek. ⁵ They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind. ⁶ Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment. ⁷ Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies. ⁸ They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression. ⁹ They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth.

Greed

Deadly Sin #3

Definition: Greed is applied to the acquisition of wealth. St. Thomas Aquinas wrote that greed was "a sin against God, just as all mortal sins, in as much as man condemns things eternal for the sake of temporal things."

Colossians 3:5-6 ⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness [**Greed**], which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

2 Peter 2:14-15 ¹⁴ They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! ¹⁵ Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing...

1 Corinthians 5:11-13 ¹¹ But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler- not even to eat with such a one. ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³ God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."

Sloth

Deadly Sin #4

Definition: Sloth is a sin of laziness or indifference, of an unwillingness to act, an unwillingness to care (rather than a failure to love God and his works).

Matthew 25:24-30 ... ²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master answered him, '**You wicked and slothful servant!** You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Proverbs 6:10-11 ¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, ¹¹ and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.
[See also Proverbs 24:33-34]

Wrath

Deadly Sin #5

Definition: Wrath is unrighteous anger, meaning anger that results from passions and self-righteousness.

Genesis 4:3-7 ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

James 1:19-20 ¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires.

Ephesians 4:25-27 ²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil.

Envy

Deadly Sin #6

Definition: Those who commit the sin of envy resent that another person has something they perceive themselves as lacking, and wish the other person to be deprived of it.

Exodus 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

James 4:2-3 ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

Ephesians 5:3-5 ³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Pride

Deadly Sin #7

Definition: Considered the original and most serious of the seven deadly sins, identified as a desire to be more important or attractive than others (especially holding self out of proper position toward God)

1 John 2:15-17 ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world- the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions- is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

James 4:6-7 ⁶ ... "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

1 Peter 5:5-8 ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Foolishness

A Biblical Survey

Flesh vs. Spirit

Romans 8:5-17

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ **For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.** ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. ¹² **So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.** ¹³ **For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.** ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs- heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. ⁶⁷

The Fool Says in His Heart...

Psalm 14 [see also Psalm 53]

¹To the choirmaster. Of David. **The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”** ²They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good. ³The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. ⁴**Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the Lord?** ⁵There they are in great terror, for God is with the generation of the righteous. ⁶You would shame the plans of the poor, but the Lord is his refuge. ⁷Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

The Man Folly

Job 36:5-15

⁵ "Behold, God is mighty, and does not despise any; he is mighty in strength of understanding. ⁶ He does not keep the wicked alive, but gives the afflicted their right. ⁷ He does not withdraw his eyes from the righteous, but with kings on the throne he sets them forever, and they are exalted. ⁸ And if they are bound in chains and caught in the cords of affliction, ⁹ then he declares to them their work and their transgressions, that they are behaving arrogantly. ¹⁰ He opens their ears to instruction and commands that they return from iniquity. ¹¹ If they listen and serve him, they complete their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasantness. ¹² But if they do not listen, they perish by the sword and die without knowledge. ¹³ **"The godless in heart cherish anger; they do not cry for help when he binds them. ¹⁴ They die in youth, and their life ends among the cult prostitutes.** ¹⁵ He delivers the afflicted by their affliction and opens their ear by adversity.

The Woman Folly

Proverbs 9:13-18

13 The woman Folly is loud;
she is seductive and knows nothing.

14 **She sits at the door of her house;
she takes a seat on the highest places of the town,**

15 **calling to those who pass by,
who are going straight on their way,**

16 **“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!”**

And to him who lacks sense she says,

17 “Stolen water is sweet,
and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”

18 But he does not know that the dead are there,
that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

Snare of Inequity

Proverbs 5:21-23

²¹ For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD,
and he ponders all his paths.

²² The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him,
and he is held fast in the cords of his sin.

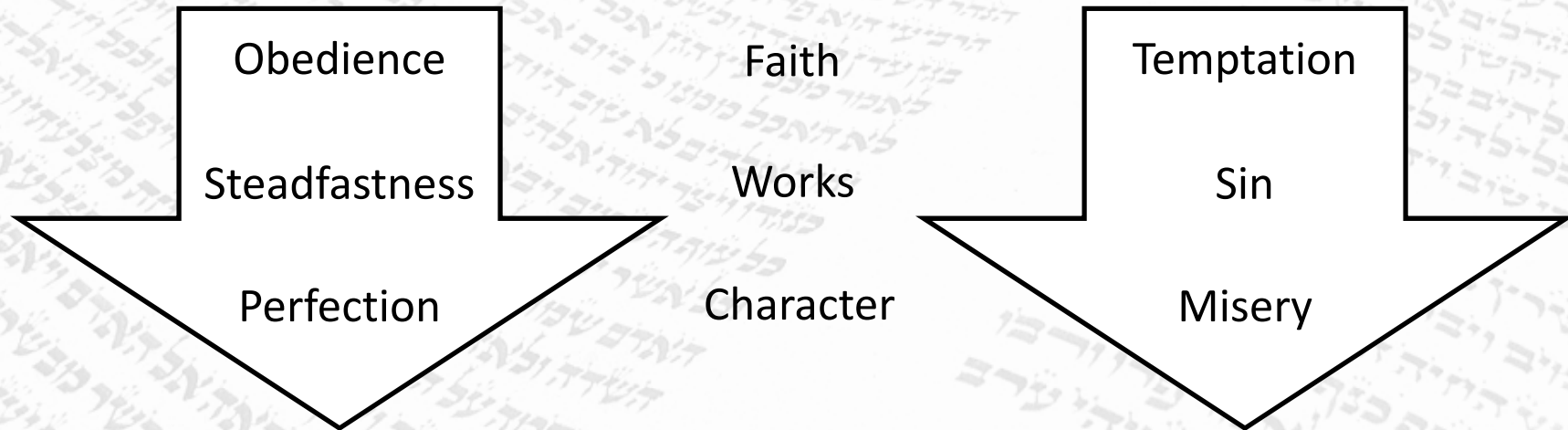
²³ He dies for lack of discipline,
and **because of his great folly he is led astray.**

All Moral Decisions are either Godly or Demonic

Violent and Adulterous People Lead to Death

Godly
Wisdom

Worldly
Wisdom



Life

Death

“We Become Who We Are”

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a page from a book, likely the Bible, showing Hebrew text. The text is arranged in columns and is written in a traditional Hebrew script. The lighting is soft, and the focus is shallow, with the text in the foreground being sharper than the text in the background.

The Commandments

The Primary Wisdom Ethic

Instruction/Commandments

Some References from Proverbs

Proverbs 1:7-9 ⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. ⁸ **Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,** ⁹ **for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.**

Proverbs 3:1-3 **My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments,** ² for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. ³ Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; **bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.**

Proverbs 4:1-4 Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, ² for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching. ³ When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, ⁴ he taught me and said to me, "**Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live.**"

Proverbs 7:1-3 **My son, keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you;** ² **keep my commandments and live;** keep my teaching as the apple of your eye; ³ bind them on your fingers; **write them on the tablet of your heart.**

10 Commandments

Exodus 20:1-10 [ESV]

¹ And God spoke all these words, saying, ² “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³ “You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷ “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. ⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.

10 Commandments (Cont.)

Exodus 20:11-21 [ESV]

¹¹ For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. ¹² “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³ “You shall not murder. ¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ “You shall not steal. ¹⁶ “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.” ¹⁸ Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off ¹⁹ and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” ²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.” ²¹ The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

Grace and Law

Biblical Data Points

I. Consistent Biblical Pattern

- A. Grace
- B. Law

II. Examples

- A. Genesis 2:4-17
- B. Genesis 9:1-7
- C. Exodus 20:1-11 (see also Deut 5:6-21)
- D. Romans 8 – “Law of the Spirit”

The Very First Commandment

Genesis 2:15-17 [ESV]

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Prohibition Against Murder

Genesis 9:5-7 [ESV]

⁵ And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. ⁶ “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. ⁷ And you, be fruitful and multiply, teem on the earth and multiply in it.”

The Commandments [Mitzvoth]

General Data [Traditional View]

- I. 613 Commandments [Jewish Tradition]
- II. 2 Greatest Commandments
 - A. Love God with all your heart, mind, and strength [Deut 6:5]
 - B. Love your neighbor as yourself [Lev 19:18]
- III. 10 Commandments
 - A. First 5 generally apply to the 1st [Loving God]
 - B. Second 5 generally apply to the 2nd [Loving People]
- IV. 601 Other Commandments
 - A. Expositions on the above 12 commandments [Kaiser's View]
 - B. Do some commandments no longer apply?
 1. IE – “stoning Sabbath breakers” [Num 15:32]

Which commandments are missing?

10 Commandments

Crime and Punishment

Commandment		Punishment
1	No Other Gods Deut 5:7, Exod 20:3	Death by stoning Deut 13:10
2	No Idolatry Deut 5:8, Exod 20:4	Death by stoning (Deut 13:10)
3	No Blaspheming God's Name Deut 5:11, Exod 20:7	No Explicit Punishment – However, God will not hold the offender blameless, implying eternal consequences
4	No Sabbath Violations Deut 5:12, Exod 20:8	Death by stoning Exod 31:14, Numb 15:35
5	Honor Parents Deut 5:16, Exod 20:12	Death by stoning Deut 20:21
6	No Murder Deut 5:17, Exod 20:13	Death Num 35:19
7	No Adultery Deut 5:18, Exod 20:14	Death Deut 20:10
8	No Stealing Deut 5:19, Exod 20:15	Repayment and Restitution Exod 22:1
9	No False Witness Deut 5:20, Exod 20:16	Depends on the severity, but not capital except in capital cases – i.e. lying in a murder trial (Deut 19:18-19)
10	No Coveting Deut 5:21, Exod 20:17	No Explicit Punishment

The Three Greatest Commandments

Structure

I. Two Greatest Commandments

- A. Love God with all your heart, mind, and strength [Deut 6:5]
- B. Love your neighbor as yourself [Lev 19:18]

II. The New Commandment

- A. Love one another as I have loved you [John 15:12]

III. Summary

- A. Love God
- B. Love the Church as Christ loves it
 - 1. Love brothers and sisters in Christ more than yourself
- C. Love your neighbor as yourself
 - 1. Love yourself
 - 2. Love everyone outside the Church as much as yourself

IV. Critical Issue – What is Love?

If You Keep My Commandments...

John 15:9-17 [ESV]

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ **If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.** ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹² **"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.** ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

What Is It to Love God?

1 John 5:1-3 [ESV]

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ² **By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.** ³ **For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.**

Loving the Church

Paul's Framework

I. Forgive One Another

A. Ephesians 4:32; Romans 14:13

II. Accept One Another

A. Romans 16:16

III. Care-for One Another

A. 1 Corinthians 12:25; 2 Corinthians 13:11

IV. Encourage One Another

A. 1 Timothy 5:11

V. Serve/Support One Another

A. Ephesians 4:2; Galatians 5:14

VI. Submit to One Another

A. Ephesians 5:21

New Testament Law

Regulates Love

I. Loving One Another

A. FACES – S

II. Loving God

A. Obedience

B. Fear

C. XXXXX – S

1. God doesn't need "FACES"

a. God does not need our forgiveness, acceptance, care, encouragement, or support

2. Submission required!

New Testament Law

Old Testament Legal Implications

I. Hating One Another

- A. The Antithesis of FACES – S

II. Hating God

- A. Disobedience

- B. Not Fearing God

- C. FACES – X

- 1. Pagans believe that God needs “FACES”

- a. God does not need our forgiveness, acceptance, care, encouragement, or support

- i. The essence of idolatry/pagan worship

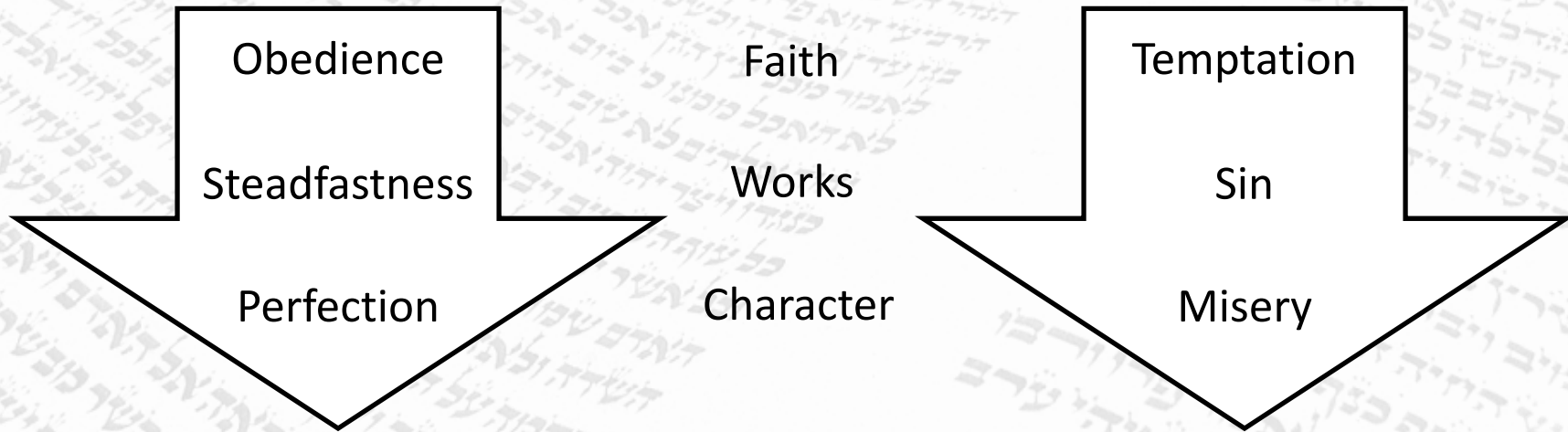
- 2. Will not submit themselves to God

All Moral Decisions are either Godly or Demonic

God's Commandments Are the Center of Godly Wisdom

Godly
Wisdom

Worldly
Wisdom



Life

Death

“We Become Who We Are”

Final Discussion Points

Why Doesn't the Law Justify?

- I. Grace and then Law pattern [Gen 2, 9; Exod 20; Rom 8]
 - A. Diachronic proof that Grace justifies, not Law
 - B. Obedience to the Law is a thanksgiving response to Grace
- II. Original Sin
 - A. Demonstrates that Law brings condemnation, not salvation
 - B. Adam's sin propagates to all Humanity
- III. Old Testament Law (10 Commandments)
 - A. Notice how the 10 Commandments require "work" to break
 1. No "work" required to obey them!!!
 - B. If you break one, you break them all and deserve death
 - C. Everyone breaks them – all sinned and have fallen short
- IV. New Testament Law – Love through Grace
 - A. Love is a Spiritual Gift [1 Cor 13]
 - B. Obedience to Christ is through unmerited grace alone

Call

How do I discern God's will?

How do I discern God's will?

All too common superstitions and heresies

- Picking and Choosing Scripture
 - Liberalism – Some of the Bible is the word of God and some is not
 - Neo-Orthodoxy – The Bible is the word of Man but becomes His word when read through the power of the Holy Spirit
- Adding to and/or re-writing Scripture
 - Islam, Mormonism, Scientology, Christ Scientist, CCD, etc.
- Testing God – “I do X, therefore God ought to do Y”
 - Relationship with the Living and True God works in reverse
 - God tests us – “God did X, therefore I ought to do Y”
- Divination – “God has revealed _____ to me (and only me)”
 - False prophecy (in all its forms) is a form of divination as well
- Fortune Telling – “By this sign, God will _____”
 - Fortune telling blasphemes God's covenants
- Sorcery – “I do X, therefore the spirits do Y”
 - Kabala, superstition, voodoo, etc.

The Christian life is a free life

If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed [John 8:36]

- **Galatians 5:1** For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.
- **1 Peter 2:16** Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.
- **1 Corinthians 9:19** For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.
- **Romans 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.
- **Romans 6:6-12** ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

Through grace, we have freedom and through law, we abide in it

I. Consistent Biblical Pattern

- A. Grace
- B. Law

II. Examples

- A. Genesis 2:4-17
- B. Genesis 9:1-7
- C. Exodus 20:1-11 (see also Deut 5:6-21)
- D. Romans 8 – “Law of the Spirit”

III. We are not slaves to the law or to men but to God

- A. The law helps us love God and Humanity made in His image
- B. The law helps us repent and return to God

How do we make wise choices?

Christian Freedom and Call

- Christians have complete freedom regarding decisions without a moral impact
- 1 Corinthians 8:9 - 9:1 **But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.** For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.
- Marriage, children, career, job changes, housing, and similarly big decisions should probably be examined through call

What is Call?

Beyond Effectual Calling

- God calls His people into all sorts of roles and responsibilities and then equips them with spiritual gifts to do them
- The problem is that sin makes it difficult to discern God's call because we confuse His will with our own fallen desires
- Because of our depraved natures, we must continuously understand that ungodly passions are continuously at work
 - No such thing as a “pure” motive
 - Instead, acknowledge and confess our sinful desires
- Temptation does not nullify God's call but it could pervert it
- Consequently, it's important to practice discerning God's call

How do I discern God's call?

General Guidelines

- Is the _____ forbidden according to the Scriptures?
- Can I do the _____ in good conscience?
- How does the _____ relate to God's covenants?
- Through the _____, what group of people does God want me to minister to?
- Has God equipped me with the necessary spiritual gifts to do the _____?
 - Be careful not to confuse talents with spiritual gifts
 - Inventory which spiritual gifts you may or will need
- What does the church say about the _____?
 - **Matthew 18:20** "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."
 - For example, have you discussed the _____ with your small group?
- How will God shape my character through the _____?

Proverbs in the New Testament

Discussion Slides

Doers of the Law Will Be Justified

Romans 2:6 (Proverbs 24:12)

Romans 2:6-13 ⁶ **He will render to each one according to his works:** ⁷ to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; ⁸ but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. ⁹ There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, ¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. ¹¹ For God shows no partiality. ¹² For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³ **For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.**

See 2 Samuel 7:19

The Lord Gives Grace To the Humble

Proverbs 3:34 (James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5)

The Lord resists the proud; but he gives grace to the humble.

Do Not Despise the Lord's Discipline

Proverbs 3:11-12 (Hebrews 12:5-6)

¹¹ My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, ¹² for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

A Dog Returns To His Vomit

Proverbs 26:11 (2 Peter 2:22)

As when a dog goes to his own vomit, and becomes abominable, so is a fool who returns in his wickedness to his own sin.

Heap Burning Coals On His Head

Proverbs 25:21-22 (Romans 12:20)

²¹ If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, ²² for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.