

I. Topics for Tough Times #3 – Wisdom – the Essential Discipline

A. Definition of Wisdom

Wisdom: The Holy Spirit produced result of a true fear of the Lord which enables a believer to understand the commands and principles of the Word of God and to skillfully and consistently apply them to every aspect of life.

- 1. The Holy Spirit produced result*
- 2. Of a true fear of the Lord*
- 3. Which enables a believer*
- 4. To understand*
- 5. The commands and principles of the Word of God*
- 6. To skillfully and consistently*
- 7. Apply them*
- 8. To every aspect of life*

B. The Importance of Wisdom

- 1. Wisdom is essential to accomplish God's will*
- 2. Wisdom is essential to bring God glory*
- 3. Wisdom is essential to make Christ look great*

C. The Acquiring of Wisdom

- 1. The barriers to wisdom*
 - a) Sin – world, the flesh, the devil**
 - b) False teaching**
 - c) Ignorance**
 - d) Foolishness**
- 2. The pursuit of wisdom*
 - a) Spiritual discipline**
 - (1) The Word*
 - (2) Prayer*
 - (3) Worship*
 - (4) Discipleship*
 - b) Careful practice**

D. The Exercise of Wisdom

- 1. Be watchful and alert*
- 2. Know the circumstances*
 - a) Discern the facts**
 - b) Consider the consequences**
- 3. Know my inner man*
 - a) Discerning my motives/affections**
 - b) Discerning my thoughts**
 - c) Discerning my attitudes**

- d) **Discerning my emotions**
- e) **Cultivating my conscience**
- 4. ***Consider my priorities/roles***
 - a) **Personal – personal devotion to God**
 - b) **Toward my family – husband/wife, son/daughter, sister/brother**
 - c) **Toward my church – exercise of gifts**
 - d) **Toward my friends**
 - e) **Toward my school/job**
 - f) **Toward society/government**
 - g) **Toward the world**
- 5. ***Maximize my time***
 - a) **Number my days**
 - b) **Develop my priorities**
 - c) **Analyze my time**
 - d) **Plan my schedule**
 - e) **Seek accountability/counsel**
- 6. ***Making wise decisions***
 - a) **Practicing Discernment**
 - (1) *Verify the decision*
 - (a) **What is being asked/said?**
 - (b) **What needs to happen?**
 - (2) *Clarify the decision*
 - (a) **What exactly am I trying to decide?**
 - (b) **What is the real issue here?**
 - (c) **What is the cost?**
 - (3) *Assess the issues*
 - (a) **How important is this?**
 - (b) **Where does it fit in my list of priorities?**
 - (4) *Consider the approaches*
 - (a) **Is there more than one way to do this?**
 - (b) **What is involved in different approaches?**
 - (5) *Consider you resources*
 - (a) **Do I have enough money/energy/time for this?**
 - (6) *Pray*
 - (7) *Assess your feelings*
 - (a) **How do I feel about this?**
 - (b) **Why do I feel this way?**
 - (8) *Assess your conscience*
 - (a) **Do I believe this to be right/wrong?**
 - (b) **Do I believe this to be wise/foolish?**
 - (c) **What Scriptural principles/commands are informing my conscience currently?**

- (9) *Assess you thinking*
 - (a) **What do I think about this?**
 - (b) **Why do I think this way?**
 - (c) **In what ways is my thinking biblical/unbiblical?**
- (10) *Consider the Scriptures*
 - (a) **Commands**
 - (b) **Principles**
- (11) *Consider the physical circumstances*
 - (a) **Is there anything that has to change to make this possible?**
 - (b) **How much effort will this require?**
 - (c) **Can I afford this?**
- (12) *Consider the consequences*
 - (a) **What will this affect?**
 - (b) **Who will this affect?**
 - (c) **What will be beneficial?**
 - (d) **What will be harmful?**
- (13) *Consider you motives*
 - (a) **Why do I want to/not want to do this?**
 - (b) **What factors might be tainting my motives?**
- (14) *PRAY*
- (15) *Make a preliminary decision*
 - (a) **Biblical**
 - (b) **Experiential**
- (16) *Reassess your decision*
- (17) *Make a final decision*
- (18) *Apply the decision*
 - (a) **Check your attitude**
 - (b) **Make changes as necessary**
- (19) *Evaluate the decision and its consequences*
 - (a) **Rejoice in what was good**
 - (b) **Repent of what was evil**

E. The Reward of Wisdom

- 1. *Reward #1 – Life and Peace***
- 2. *Reward #2 – Favor and Good Repute***
- 3. *Reward #3 – Straight Paths***
- 4. *Reward #4 – Healing and Refreshment***
- 5. *Reward #5 – Plentiful Resources***
- 6. *Reward #6 – Loving Reproof***