



Sermon Notes — Pastor Thomas Keys, SRMBC

Wisdom—The Principle Thing I: The Walk of Wisdom (God’s Way Or The World’s Way)
Scriptures: Psalm 1

INTRODUCTION

As many of you may know one of my favorite movies of all time is “The Wizard of Oz” – starring Judy Garland. In the story Dorothy, during a violent tornado is whisked away from her home Kanas to a magical land called OZ. In order get back home is instructed to travel down the yellow- brick road to see the Wizard.

Along the way one of the 1st characters Dorothy runs into is a Scarecrow – who lets Dorothy know that he really wishes that He had a “brain”

Ah, but the good news is that we don’t have to go OZ, to a wizard, a Grand Poobah or anything like that. The wisdom we need to walk through this life successfully is made available to every man, woman, boy and girl – regardless of race, nationality or status through having the Mind of Jesus Christ through walking out His living Word!!!

SERMON POINTS

The Psalms are a collection of 150 poems (written mostly by King David and other OT priests, kings, and others) set to music used to for worship in the OT Temple. As we look at the 1st Psalm it sets the context for the rest of the songs. The unknown writer sets the tone be presenting wise counsel – blessed is the man who does not walk in worldly wisdom but in the counsel of the Lord. It here that test begins. As God lays out the blessings of walking in Godly Wisdom, the battle begins: The influence of world, our own temptations and failures in our flesh and the attacks of the enemy all seek to get us off the path of God’s Wisdom.

So, here we are, at the 1st Psalm that encourages us to walk in God’s wisdom so that no matter what is going on in the world around us – a global pandemic, economic downturn, political upheaval, we will see and experience the Lord’s blessings. So, what I want to do in this message is from Psalm 1 is the discover the Fruits, avoid Forsaking and keep our Focus on God’s wisdom so we can enjoy His blessings now and into eternity.

I. Following God’s Wisdom Produces Good Fruit (vv. 1 – 3)

You know, most have heard from our parents or have said to our kids now that we are parents have said to our kids after they have questioned our wisdom or instruction “Why?” (clean my room, get up, take the trash out...) “Because I said so!!!” Now, God is the supreme authority in the earth and in heaven. I searched all over and couldn’t find nobody, looked high and low still couldn’t find nobody greater than You. My point is that although our motivation to obey and follow God’s should simply be “Because He said so!!!” God condescends to show us the reasons why we it is wise/beneficial for us to know and to follow His wisdom.

The tallest building in the world, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, rises more than 2,700 feet—over half a mile tall. It has 160 floors and is twice as tall as the Empire State Building in New York City. But the secret to the stability of this massive building is found underground. The foundation contains some 58,900 cubic yards of concrete weighing more than 110,000 tons. The building is safe because the foundation is solid.

When we live according to God’s principles of wisdom, we receive His blessing, but we also establish a firm foundation for our lives and our families. O, the world may have tried to bend us and break – but we are on the wisdom and the promised of Jesus – and He is Solid as a Rock!

II. Forsaking Of God’s Wisdom Is Folly (vv.4 – 5)

When people think so much of themselves and their own wisdom – they will fail to appreciate God’s wisdom and leave themselves open other sinful folks that are all around us. In other words’ forsaking God’s wisdom is foolish and leads dire and ultimately irreversible and eternal consequences

Forsaking God’s wisdom - not believing in Him and trusting describes a person as ungodly – no regard for God, His Word, or His Son – Jesus. When a person lives like and thinks like ungodlily, you may prosper for a while – eventually the wind of God’s judgment will blow you away. That’s why we don’t always need to fight against ungodly people – God will deal with them in his time. That’s because sinners, ungodly folks, are not able to be among the righteous – sooner or later they’ll get exposed (no future, in frontin’).

The sad thing is that people who know the Lord – sometimes don't walking in the wisdom of God. I remember when used to teach the teens during VBS. And we used to have unchurched kids join the church kids in our classes. I hope that our church kids would influence the world kids who didn't know Jesus, but it was the other way around!! And too often we who know the Lord – in our attempt to fit in and be liked by the world act as if we don't know His wisdom. O, but let's as believers and disciples of Christ not to be ashamed to let God and world know that we are unashamedly the congregation of people made right in the Blood of Jesus Christ

O, beloved we need to be sure, very sure the that our anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ – anything less or anything else means a person is lost and will not stand before God and will lift up their eyes in hell – eternal separation and torment. But as the Lord says in Isa. 1:18 Come let us reason together – though your sins be as crimson I will make them white as snow (through Jesus Christ). In other words, the Lord has laid the way of life and blessing vs. death and suffering and is asking us that we make a wise choice.

III. Focus On the Eternal Finality On God's Wisdom (v.6)

A Sunday school teacher was telling the story of the rich man and Lazarus. She said that Lazarus sat outside the rich man's gate covered with sores and begging for food. And that the rich man passed Lazarus without even seeing him. But when they both died Lazarus went to Heaven, while the rich man found himself in hell, which the teacher described most graphically. When she had finished, she asked the children, "Now which would you rather be—the rich man or Lazarus?" One little fellow answered, "I would like to be the rich man until I die and then Lazarus afterwards."

O, beloved far too many believers, preachers and churches have been promoting a mindset that we can live like the devil and then march into heaven when our lives are over. Now I know that we want to avoid the thought of being so heavenly minded that we are no earthly good. But as I said many times that we won't be any earthly good unless we are heavenly minded. Here's an acronym that can help to remind us **A.L.I.V.E.** (**A**lways **L**ive **I**n **V**iew of **E**ternity). As Moses writes in Psalm 90 that we ought to number our days and apply our hearts to wisdom. In other word's when we think about and commit keeping our focus on where we are going rather than on where've we been on where we are – we can walk in God's wisdom that will lead to His blessings now and forever...

As I close, I heard a story from a Pastor who watched Jim Cramer on CNBC the other night as he gave financial advice to people who called in to his show. Someone called in because they were afraid about investing their money in the unstable market.

The Pastor said he would never forget what Jim Cramer said in response to that caller. Cramer said, "In this economy you don't want to put your money in a risky investment. You want to put your money in a stable investment." He then spent the next ten minutes trying to come up with a list of stable investments.

Well, I don't need ten minutes to come up with a stable investment. In these unstable times, Jesus is the only stable investment. Throughout eternity, Jesus has always been the only stable investment.

◆ His Gospel is a Stable Investment

- ⇒ It Based on His Death According to the Scriptures
- ⇒ It is Based on His burial. According to the Scriptures
- ⇒ It is Based His Resurrection According to the Scriptures
- ⇒ And it is Based on His Blood that will never, ever lose it power...

Beloved, If you want to be wise and see all the blessing of God in your life today and in days to come Put your faith and trust in Jesus.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- ◆ What areas of your life do you need to more closely follow the counsel of the Lord?
- ◆ How can we make a greater effort to know and find our delight in the Law of the Lord?
- ◆ Who can you help in your family or your church to come out of the counsel of the ungodly?
- ◆ In what ways can we keep eternity in view in order to make wise decisions in our lives?