

52. PROVERBS 16 – THE CHALLENGE TO LIVE IN RIGHTEOUS WISDOM.

The Lord's work on man's heart. Proverbs 16:1-9

God cares about how our lives are lived.

1. Our _____.

Proverbs 16:1–3 The preparations of the heart in man, And the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

- Examples of people where God overruled their speech.

Balaam. Numbers 23:1-30. Caiaphas. John 11:49-51.

- *preparations* = "plans" aspirations.

Make sure that the things that you are determining are "in the Lord."

Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Beware. God has the FINAL say.

Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart deviseth his way: But the Lord directeth his steps.

- Do you need to make a decision? God warns us not to _____ our own _____.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; And lean not unto thine own understanding.

Proverbs 19:21 There are many devices in a man's heart; Nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.

- KNOW! God will have the _____ say!

Example: The nations today are ramping up into full Ps 2 mode!

Psalms 2:1–6 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? ²The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, ³Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. ⁴He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. ⁵Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. ⁶Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

Philippians 2:9–11 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. Our _____.

²All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; But the LORD weigheth the spirits.

- What was in the heart in Vs 1 is now _____ here in Vs 2.

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: But he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, But the end thereof are the ways of death. **(Proverbs 16:25)**

FIRST: God's people decline into sin because they _____.

Example: Israel

Judges 1:19 And the Lord was with Judah; and he drove out the inhabitants of the mountain; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron.

They compromised the call of God on their life because it was hard. **The problem?**

Judges 2:1–3 And an angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you. ²And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this? ³Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you.

The result?

Judges 2:10–12 And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. ¹¹ And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim: ¹² And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the Lord to anger.

Judges 3:5–7 And the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites: ⁶ And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods. ⁷ And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and forgat the Lord their God, and served Baalim and the groves.

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

SECOND: We have the wrong _____!

The world says, "Follow your **heart**. Follow your **conscience**."

Proverbs 21:2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: But **the Lord pondereth the hearts.**

What God has found.

Matthew 15:18–20 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the **heart**; and they defile the man. ¹⁹ For out of the **heart** proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: ²⁰ These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

Jeremiah 17:9 The **heart** is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Titus 1:15–16 Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and **conscience** is defiled. ¹⁶ They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

We make wrong comparisons!

2 Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

We must have the right standard for our own _____.

Ephesians 4:11–15 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² **For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:** ¹³ **Till we all come in the unity of the faith,** and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:** ¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

God's plan for us is for us to be _____ to the _____ of Christ.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

To live Christ is everything. That is our standard for living.

- KEY: We don't have wait until we meet God to find out how we're doing. God has given us

a _____ to examine our lives!

Hebrews 4:12–13 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Psalm 139:23–24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: Try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴ And see if there be any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

3. Our Works

³Commit thy works unto the LORD, And thy thoughts shall be established.

- Decide that you're going to _____ what the Word of God _____ you to.

Example: No little child knows how to think right.

This is why we MAKE them do what they are TOLD. They must simply trust and obey.

- God is a _____ Father. Just _____ what He _____ you to _____.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Soon you will be thinking God's thoughts after Him. **Philippians 2:5**

Proverbs 4:26 Ponder the path of thy feet, And let all thy ways be established.