

RockPointe Church Sermon Notes

Pastor Ron Holton “How can we make biblically wise decisions?”

Sunday, August 3 | RockPointe Church Central Campus

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Proverbs 9:10 ESV The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 ESV “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Dictionary Definition of Wisdom: wisdom encompasses the ability to make sound judgments, discern what is true and false, and choose appropriate actions.

What is wisdom? Four Types of Wisdom

1. Natural Wisdom – Common Sense
2. Intellectual Wisdom – Knowledge and ability to learn & reason
3. Ungodly Wisdom – Knowing how to deceive and manipulate for personal gain. (James 3:13-18)
4. Godly Wisdom – God centered discernment that honors God regarding practical issues of life

Godly Wisdom

- The right heart leads to Godly wisdom - Proverbs 16:9
- Self-gratification vs Gratitude
- Heart/Spirit - What is best for the kingdom? What is best for my relationship with others/God?
- Body/Flesh - How does this make me feel? How does this make me look?
- Your priorities and values greatly impact your ability to be wise.
- Godly wisdom is more about direction vs destination. – Proverbs 16:3
- "We don't drift into good directions; we discipline and prioritize ourselves there." Stanley
- “John Newton” – What you will / When you will / How you will

How do we Cultivate Godly Wisdom

- Trust God wholeheartedly Proverbs 3:5-6 - First and foremost – acknowledge God in all your ways and steps. Living in light of eternity changes what you prioritize and value.
- Scripture – Meditation, remembering and recalling wisdom and truth by reading Matthew 5-7. Pastor Ron encourages us to read Sermon on the Mount daily for the next 42 days. Psalms and Proverbs.
- Prayer - Psalm 25:4-5 - God will mold my heart to His
- Purge - 2 Timothy 2:21 - Don't overlook what needs to be addressed, confess your sins, repent, turn away and pursue righteousness.
- Counsel - Proverbs 11:14 - Seek godly counsel and insight often, particularly before major decisions.
- Plan - Proverbs 16:9 - What is your plan? Trust the Lord with each step. Stay open-handed.

What are your priorities? /What do you value most? Matthew 6:44, 22:37-38, Colossians 1:10

Sermon Discussion Questions

Have a few different people read the verses below aloud, prior to beginning discussion:

Scripture Passages : Proverbs 9:10, 16:3, 9, Deuteronomy 6:4-5, James 3 :13-18

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Ice breaker question: When you were growing up, how did your parents make decisions? Did you see your parents reading scripture, seeking godly counsel, and/or spending time in prayer and fasting regarding their decisions and plans?

1. What was one takeaway you had from worship, the teaching or the baptisms this week?
2. How does our relationship with God impact our daily decisions? (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)
3. How does the fear of the Lord lead to wisdom and how does knowledge of the Holy One relate to understanding according to Proverbs 9:10?
4. What were the four types of wisdom that Pastor Ron mentioned, and what are the differences?
5. What are the characteristics of "earthly wisdom" according to James 3:13-18?
6. What are the characteristics of "wisdom from above"?
7. How do these two types of wisdom differ in their effects?
8. How can you discern between earthly and heavenly wisdom in your own life?
9. Pastor Ron shared 6 ways we can cultivate godly wisdom? What are they and which of these practices would you like to grow in?
10. What is one practical step you can take towards seeking and applying God's wisdom this week?

For further application and next steps

1. Memorize - Proverbs 9:10 or Deuteronomy 6:45 this week.
2. Read - Take Pastor Ron's challenge and spend the next 42 days reading the Sermon on The Mount in Matthew 5-7. Read one chapter a day for 14 days and repeat three times.
3. Prayerfully consider - In what areas of your life do you tend to rely on worldly wisdom rather than God's?
4. Serve - If you aren't already volunteering/serving, consider how can you pass on Godly wisdom to the next generation?