

Message for February 25, 2018

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

Staying on Track

Proverbs 3:5-6 Living Bible (TLB)

⁴⁻⁵ If you want favor with both God and man, and a reputation for good judgment and common sense, then trust the Lord completely; don't ever trust yourself. ⁶ In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success.

Trust God...

Get to know Him intimately...

Acknowledge Him as Lord of your life...

He will give direction and meaning and purpose...

To Trust God means to give Him your thoughts, your heart, your possessions, and your decisions.

It is through a life of reading the Word of God and Prayer that leads to this kind of intimacy.

The most reoccurring thing in anyone's life is a new day. And with the beginning of every new day we decide how much of ourselves we are going to give to God, and that determines how God can direct our life and influence our decisions and when we allow God in, that determines our success in living life, and reaching our God given potential.

Philippians 3:20 New Living Translation (NLT)

²⁰ But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

Paul again reminds his readers that they may be citizens of Rome but they have a higher citizenship and are only aliens on this earth.

Philippians 1:27 New Living Translation (NLT)

²⁷ Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.

Conduct usually describes one's life as a citizen. The city of Philippi prized its Roman citizenship and it is at this point that the Apostle Paul reminds his readers that the most important way of behaving is to be like citizens of the Kingdom of God.

Colossians 3:7 New Living Translation (NLT)

⁷ You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. You used to live by the world's standards, but not anymore.

Colossians 3:17 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

¹⁷ Everything you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

How do you do that, what does it look like?

Paul says throw off your old self and your old lifestyle, you are now a new person in Christ.

Don't be harsh or rude in your relationships.

Begin to align your emotions and your passions with the character of Christ.

Now put on the new you. You have taken the old off, now put on the new.

Put on love, learn to be tender, humble, show mercy and make a habit of forgiving others... You are a citizen of Heaven.

Let the peace of Christ rule your emotions and thoughts and then lastly, be thankful.

Proverbs 3:5-6 is talking about a full and complete commitment. We are to trust Him for the salvation of our souls and for the direction of our lives.

It is being able to say, I don't know but I trust God.

Listen to what Jeremiah the prophet says about this matter:

Jeremiah 10:23 The Message (MSG)

**²³ I know, GOD, that mere mortals
can't run their own lives,**

That men and women

don't have what it takes to take charge of life.

So correct us, GOD, as you see best.

When we defer everything to God... then He promises to direct us through life.

God gives us direction in many ways:

- (1) Through the Bible**
- (2) Through other Christians**
- (3) Through the converging of circumstances**
- (4) Through the inward peace of the Spirit**
- (5) Or through a combination of these**

The important thing to remember, you are not alone, ever. But be listening.

Don't get ahead of God, and don't lag behind.

We don't wait to get to heaven to start living like citizens of heaven. We are to live that way now.

Remember who you are and to whom you belong.

AMEN