

RECOGNIZING WHAT MATTERS MOST Working Smart – Part 2 of 4

“If the ax is dull and its edge is unsharpened more strength is required. But skill will bring success.” Ecclesiastes 10:10

HABIT AND SKILL #2: Learning to recognize what’s most **IMPORTANT** and what isn’t.

“...this one thing I do...” Philippians 3:10b

“Everything is permissible but not everything is beneficial!” 1 Corinthians 6:12

KEY TRUTH #1: Your values **DETERMINE** your stress, your success, and the influence your relationship with Christ has on you.

Four Questions That Will Help You Recognize What Matters Most:

QUESTION #1: Who is going to be my **AUTHORITY**?

KEY OBSERVATION #1: The **SOURCE** of your values determines the **QUALITY** of your values.

- **OPTION #1: MYSELF**

“The human mind is the most deceitful of all things! It is incurable. No one can understand how deceitful it really is!” Jeremiah 17:9

KEY OBSERVATION #2: My **PERCEPTIONS** say more about **ME** than they say about other people.

“There is a way that seems right to humans, but in the end, it leads to death.” Proverbs 16:25

“5 Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

- **OPTION #2:** The **CULTURE**

“15 Don't love what the world offers and values; Those who love the world don't have the father's love in them. 16 For what the world values – physical gratification, greed, and prideful, self-centered lifestyles – does not come from God our Father.” 1 John 2:15-16

1. **LOOKING** good
2. **FEELING** good
3. Having the **GOODS**

- **OPTION #3:** What **JESUS** says

“31 If you continue in my Word...32 you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free!” John 8:31-32

“The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7

“...The pleasures of sin only last for a short time.” Hebrews 11:25b

“...Real life is not measured by how much we own.” Luke 12:15b

QUESTION #2: What’s going to last the **LONGEST**?

“The world and its desires will pass away, but those who do the will of God will live forever.” 1 John 2:17

KEY TRUTH #2: Temptation is always a dilemma between **NOW** or **LATER**.

“We focus our attention not on what we can see around us, but on what we cannot see with our eyes. For everything that we see is temporary and will only last a short time but what is unseen is eternal and will last forever.” 2 Corinthians 4:18

QUESTION #3: Will I choose what’s **EASY** or what’s **RIGHT**?

If I Live what I Claim to Believe that Might Mean...

- Changing what I **WATCH** and **CONSUME**

“Turn my eyes away from worthless things...” Psalm 119:37a

- Changing some **FRIENDSHIPS**

“Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character.” 1 Corinthians 15:33

“Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong...” Exodus 23:2a

- Changing how I spend my **MONEY**

“19 Don't store up treasures here on earth where they can erode away or may be stolen. 20 Store them in heaven where they will never lose their value!” Matthew 6:19-20

- Changing how I **TREAT** other people

“So, from now on, we regard no one from a worldly point of view...” 2 Corinthians 5:16a

“I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power.” Philippians 4:13

QUESTION #4: Is it **WORTH** the price?

“What profit is there if you gain the whole world — and lose eternal life? What can be compared with the value of eternal life?” Matthew 16:26

KEY TRUTH #3: Every temptation is a choice between **GOD** or **ME**.

“7 I once thought all these things were so very important, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done for me. 8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Him!” Philippians 3:7-8