

Message #2- Precepts Sermon Series- Isaiah 11: 2 “Free Resources!”

Introduction: IL- Yard/garage sales sometimes have very nice things for sale and at other times what is there is not worth spending money on or asking if you could have it for free! Adage: “Not every sofa is neat, clean and stain free!” God’s gifts to His children are vastly different- His resources for us to live our lives to His glory and for His purposes! Isaiah gives us truths about the Messiah but ultimately there is application for you and me as well.

If you are a believer, you need to know and value six resources given to you by the Holy Spirit:

-Wisdom And because of him¹⁶ you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption. I Corinthians 1: 30 And we are accountable to Him for how we use the wisdom He gives us! We need daily a keen sense of right and wrong. We need to determine the right way for each of us to go, separating the good and useful from the bad and useless. Some expositors believe that the root word behind the English word ‘wisdom’ means, “a skilled craftsman”. Truth is, we are accountable to God for how we use the wisdom He sends our way. The Bible is full of reference to the practical value of God’s wisdom. For example, the word wisdom is found 37 times in the book of Proverbs alone! Divine wisdom is worth more than anything the world could possibly offer! A good example is in 1 Kings 3 where God offers Solomon anything his heart desires but Solomon, to his credit, asks only for wisdom to rule God’s people in a way that would honor God! Wisdom takes on the intellectual side of the mind, the practical side of how we use our minds and bodies, and the spiritual relation to God that truly gives Him glory for His truth implanted in us. Yes, the best resource we have is one we can hold in our hand and go to every day for a word from God through His holy Word, the Bible. According to 2 Peter 1: 4 we have become “partakers of the divine nature, so that the gift God has given us is worth more than anything– James 1: 16, 17– Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. True wisdom comes only from God– James 1: 5 tells us that if we lack wisdom, we can ask God and He will give it to us liberally! Then we can know with certainty what actions to take next, which principle to apply in a given situation, the right thing to do in a given situation, so that our lives are blessed and those around us are touched! **IL-** Charles Spurgeon– “To know how to use our knowledge is to have wisdom!” Bottom line: truth is to be lived out, with understanding...

- Understanding The more I understand the written Word, the more I will know experientially the Living Word, Jesus Christ. God the Holy Spirit will give us more and more an ability to perform a specific task and carry out a specific rule. He will enable us to desire new qualities that will please the Lord. He will also help us steer clear of the lure of sin and the lies of false doctrine. The result will be that our purposes will, over time, align with God’s! The natural (unsaved) man will focus more on what the world can offer, but it becomes a messy landfill of ungodly ideas and sinful practices. The Spirit will enable us to see beyond mere facts to what, how, why and who should be in our plans for the future. And in the process, we realize who God is, who we are and who God wants me to be before Him. And the result is a humility before the Lord and a yieldedness that honors Him moment by moment.

-Counsel This kind of divine counsel enables me to form right conclusions because the counsel comes not from a psychologist or psychiatrist but from the Lord Himself! Hebrews 4:

15-16- For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. God's counsel through His indwelling Holy Spirit helps us know what to do and choose the best course of action through divine discernment based on Scripture! God longs to have us put His Word to the test and experience truth for real. We can know what is true about any who claim to be truth-bearers but may in reality be a false religion. **IL-** The Ba'Hai faith in Kalamazoo, MI. The Spirit's counsel enables to know what needs to be done, and gives us power to do that very thing alone or in concert with others of like faith and commitment to wisdom with understanding. When it comes to counsel from an individual, we need to pray that it is full of advice of the truly helpful kind!

-Might Isaiah 41: 10- Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

God promises His strength to accomplish what wisdom has put before us, and we HAVE the inherent ability to accomplish any task and then to offer up powerful praises to God. So, we are talking now about divine power to do what HE wants me to do without question or lack of faith! Heading out into a new day with His strength to carry out His plans means, simply, that when the day or the task comes to an end I can rest in Him and give Him all the praise He truly deserves, since He led me to do it and empowered me to stick with it! Next, we will consider knowledge and how it is different from wisdom or understanding or counsel...

-Knowledge 2 Peter 1: 3- His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.

Some teachers of the Word have referred to this as "Active knowing" that involves both comprehension and application. It seeks solid answers to questions like-"Who is God and what is He up to these days?" The believer who is seeking to put these resources to best use desires to distinguish any false things bandied about from what is eternally true in Scripture! This person also is committed to knowing short-term pleasures from long-lasting joy in the Spirit! Our Savior, the Lord Jesus, had this kind of knowledge even as a child. Luke 2: 47- And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. Jesus, while on earth, had many disciples or followers. The word literally means "learners" and that is what we ought to long to be for the rest of our lives- no better pursuit can be discovered! ALL of the above, wisdom, understanding, counsel, might and knowledge hinge beautifully and perpetually, on this final resource- the fear of the LORD.

-the Fear of the LORD Psalm 111: 10- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever! The fear of the Lord is best understood as a reverential and obedient response to the LORD and the Word. Along with the obedience that is proof-positive that we reverence God, there is an intensifying awe of Him and trust in Him. We are to honor Him in reverent worship, not wanting to offend Him by our foolish self-focus. It means we want to please Him in all we do or say or think! **IL-** William Bradbury, 1858: Holy Bible, Book divine- precious treasure, Thou art mine! Mine to tell me whence I came, mine to teach me what I am!" The challenge before me and you is to fear man less and God more. This is not some kind of holy "dread" where we seek to hide our faces and cower in a corner. Rather, this holy fear inspires carefulness in public and an opening of the doors of our hearts in private to let God do the

soul-searching! It comes down to a proper view of God that leads us to a mind set on service from the heart!

Conclusion: If YOU come to Him in prayer today with no ulterior motive, none other than whole-hearted worship and praise and an honest searching of heart and mind about the matter of knowing more truth so I can live more truth, then God will do a HUGE work in you and through you. Matthew 28: 20 (b)- And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”