

## **Living The Good Life: The Foundation**

Pastor Kevin Donoho

February 18, 2024

### **Opening Discussion**

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

### **Thought #1: Where are we looking for happiness and joy?**

**The enemy wants us to look everywhere else other than Jesus to discover happiness and the disposition of Joy (that all is well).**

### **Romans 1:21-23**

*“Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.”*

How can incorrect ideas about God lead to dark and confused minds, according to the passage? Can you think of examples from our culture where people exchange the truth about God for lies?

In what ways do people today worship "idols made to look like mere people and

birds and animals and reptiles," as described in Romans 1:23? How might modern society's idolatry manifest itself?

How does the misuse or distortion of God's gifts contribute to the spiral of sin described in the passage?

### **Romans 3:10-18**

*“As the Scriptures say, “No one is righteous—not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.” “Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave. Their tongues are filled with lies.” “Snake venom drips from their lips.” “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” “They rush to commit murder. Destruction and misery always follow them. They don’t know where to find peace.” They have no fear of God at all.”*

### **Romans 3:23**

*“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”*

Discuss the progression of sin described in the passage above. How can small actions or attitudes lead to a downward spiral into behaviors characterized by foul speech, lies, bitterness, and violence?

Consider the statement, "Sin starts out so small but can spiral into an ugly mess."

Have you experienced or witnessed this progression in your own life or the lives of others? How does recognizing the potential for sin to escalate influence our approach to decision-making?

How does the message of Romans 3:10-23 challenge believers to confront their own sinfulness and embrace the grace and forgiveness offered through Jesus Christ? What practical steps can individuals take to acknowledge their need for redemption and live in alignment with God's standards of righteousness?

**Thought #2: The good life is directly connected to our relationship with God.**

How does the promise of a beautiful life contrast with the messiness and ugliness of sin? In what ways does God's invitation to follow Him offer hope and restoration to those who feel trapped by the consequences of sin?

Reflect on the idea of following God as a journey of transformation. What role does obedience to God's teaching play in experiencing the beauty and abundance of life that He offers?

Consider examples from your own life or from the lives of others where the consequences of sin led to a mess. How did the invitation to follow God provide a path toward healing and restoration?

**Matthew 7:24-29**

*“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”* When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.”

Reflect on your own life experiences or observations of others who have faced trials. How has a foundation rooted in Jesus' teachings helped individuals navigate difficult circumstances?

Consider the cultural influences that may challenge our ability to build our lives on the solid rock of Jesus' teachings. How can we resist the temptation to conform to worldly values and remain grounded in our faith?

Reflect on ways in which you can actively apply the teachings of Jesus in your daily life. How can you ensure that your spiritual foundation remains strong and resilient, even in the face of adversity?

**Thought #3: The truth of God's Word holds us steady.**

**Matthew 7:25**

*“Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock.”*

Reflect on the imagery of a house built on bedrock in the passage above. How does this image illustrate the stability and security found in God's Word, even in life's storms?

Discuss the idea of how we can become accustomed to the “rocking of the boat” in life. How does this phenomenon contribute to a sense of complacency or acceptance of instability?

Consider the role of Scripture in holding us steady amid life's uncertainties. How does regular engagement with God's Word help to stabilize our hearts and minds toward truth?

Discuss practical ways to prioritize and integrate Scripture into daily life as a means of maintaining spiritual stability and resilience.

**Thought #4: A life built on anything else will not hold up.**

### **Matthew 7:26-27**

*“But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”*

Discuss the concept of chasing happiness. How have you seen this impact your own life or the lives of others? Can you think of examples where the pursuit of temporary happiness resulted in disappointment or regret?

Pastor Kevin shared the statement "Our culture lures us to the pleasures of the day that, at the end of the day, leave us in misery." How does this observation challenge cultural narratives about happiness and fulfillment? How have you seen the desire for fulfillment become twisted or unhealthy?

As believers, we are called to build our lives on the ways of Jesus rather than getting lost in the ways of the world. What practical steps can individuals take to cultivate a Christ-centered life amid competing demands and distractions?

Discuss the role of community and accountability in helping believers stay grounded in the teachings of Jesus. How can we support and encourage one another in pursuing lives of obedience and faithfulness?

Questions for Pastor Todd Keller or Julie Burch regarding your REMIX group?

- Email: Todd [tkeller@collegechurch.com](mailto:tkeller@collegechurch.com)  
Julie [groups@collegechurch.com](mailto:groups@collegechurch.com)

\*\*\*Remember to record your attendance for the week. Thank you.

**How can we pray for each other this week?**

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