

Subject: Sermon Recap: Confrontation and Worldly Philosophy - Job 17-18 – Part 1

Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you well. Below is a brief recap of our recent sermon for your reflection and encouragement throughout the week. For a copy of the teaching notes and a number of discipleship materials, please go [\[HERE\]](#).

Summary: The sermon explored Job chapters 17 and 18, examining the intensifying back-and-forth between Job and his friends and what their exchange reveals about the dangers of worldly philosophy in matters of faith. Job, though broken and suffering, clings to God with humility and trust, even as his friends offer counsel rooted in man-made wisdom rather than godly understanding. The sermon challenged us to examine the difference between a works-based faith rooted in human effort and a grace-based faith rooted in trust in God alone, with profound implications for how we process suffering, community, and our relationship with God.

Takeaways:

1. Our questions for God are not the problem; the problem arises when those questions presume we have God fully figured out, which can lead us away from genuine faith and toward self-reliance.
2. Job's humility throughout his suffering stands as a reminder that righteous faith is not about holding ourselves above others, but about remaining desperate for God's wisdom even in our darkest moments.
3. Those walking faithfully with God must guard against allowing the misguided counsel of others to derail the ongoing work God is doing to grow our faith and deepen our trust in His promises.

As Romans 8:37 reminds us, in all things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Job's story is a testament to that truth. Even in his hopelessness, even in his pain, the transforming faithfulness of God was at work. May that same faithfulness be your anchor this week.

In His Service,

Pastor Jim

Job 17-18, Confrontation & Worldly Philosophy – Part 1

Discussion Prompts

Don't be shy or embarrassed, this is a safe place to talk, learn, and grow. All of us should walk with an attitude of grace and Godly love in encouraging one another to contribute to our shared growth in the Lord.

For more discussion questions helping your faith to grow, please download the sermon documents typically posted the day after each sermon on the watch tab of our App or website.

1. Job's spirit was broken and he felt he had nothing left, yet he continued to pray and wrestle with his faith — what does this tell us about the role of persistent prayer even when we feel spiritually and emotionally depleted? Note: If you have the time, you can consider the other end of the spectrum...what is the role of persistent prayer when we are emotionally charged. Note 2: What things get in the way of your having a steady diet of persistent prayer?
2. Job never held himself out as better than his friends even while critiquing their man-wisdom, likely because he understood his own desperate need for God's wisdom. How does recognizing our own need for divine wisdom shape the way we engage with others whose theology we believe or even know to be flawed? Think not only of your response in the moment, but how you may continually be prepared for when those possible conflict moments come.

Job 17-18

Confrontation & Worldly Philosophy – Part 1

I. Introduction: Presumptions are the Problem, Not Questions

II. Job 17:1-9: More Complaints Directed Toward Earth and Heaven

- Some lessons for a broken spirit
- Faithfulness in all seasons...including when loved ones are trying to derail us.

Additional Scripture References: Lev 25; Num 35; Job 19

III. Job 17:10-16: Job's Sense of Hopelessness

- Job had the sense to trust in God's wisdom even in his despair.

IV. Closing: Encouraging & Inspirational

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Job 17-18

Confrontation & Worldly Philosophy – Part 1

I. Introduction: Presumptions are the Problem, Not Questions

1. In my mind's eye, I picture Job and his friends sitting on the dusty ground or on some old furniture with one rising after the other with their various responses. *With each successive discourse, the words between Job and friends become more heated.*

Each of them has a measure of faith, but with wrong theology guiding their responses to some varying degree. *In this back-and-forth verbal warfare, we give Job the victors nod as we learned early on that God considers him to be the most righteous man in that part of the world AND because his friends come across as poor listeners, prideful, and judgmental.*

2. But there is more to this picture as Job, et. al, are also addressing and/or including God as though also having a seat in the circle. *More specifically, here in chapter 17, it seems Job is saying, "Guys, your theology is wrong, unhelpful, and even destructive. And by the way, based on all the unrighteous things that have happened to me, I have a few questions for you also God."*
3. And there is the big dilemma in these chapters and in much of Job to this point...the problem is not that we have questions for God. It's that our questions too often presume we have God figured out.

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II. Job 17:1-9: More Complaints Directed Toward Earth and Heaven

1. Job 17:1-2: Job's spirit is broken and there is nothing left in his tank (at least in the flesh). *Perhaps you have been there?!*
 - A. Yes, this is a continuation of the last chapter with great similarities with all of Job's speeches. *Yet, have you ever noticed some things gain clarity when they are spoken and repeatedly considered?* Job had no power to change his

circumstances, his friends continuing attacks, or his God...but he could pray and otherwise wrestle in trying to make sense of life and his faith therein.

B. Job's human response to being ridiculed and scorned by his friends hurtful attacks is to push back in self-defense OR to at least try to find comfort by eliminating the attacks. While not the source of his trials as Job thinks God is, He (God) has allowed both the enemies and Job's friends attacks. In this, He is using all that is happening to both reveal and bring glory to Himself.

C. Sitting on this side of the cross, we know God is using Job's great faith in leading him (and any others reading this book) away from a worldly philosophy of a works-based faith...And to see more of the fulness of God's majesty. For this is a faith that places salvation within our strength, ability, and willingness to perform. God's salvation comes via His grace in placing our trust in Him.

2. In Job 17:3-9 Job turns his thoughts and words back to God.

A. First up, by asking who will secure him against the unrighteousness he is living through, Job seemingly prefigures the go'el or Kinsmen Redeemer found in **Leviticus 25 and Numbers 35**. *Note that Job will build on this further in Job 19 as well.*

B. Next up we note that even as Job calls for God to defend him, he blames God for his circumstances and for others response to God...for God hides the truth from their hearts. Yet, in verse 5, Job notes that his friends were being self-serving in willingly following what they wrongly thought was God's lead.

C. In verses 7-9, there are a number of nuggets, including:

- i. Job is, again, a broken man, a shadow of his former self, searching for answers and comfort. Yet, we note that Job's response throughout has not been offered in pride,

but in humility. While critical of their man-wisdom, he never once held himself out as better than his friends; likely because he understood his desperate for God's wisdom.

- ii. V9 has a nugget that is easy to miss. Those walking with God do NOT let the lost (even those close to us) derail God's work in continuously growing our faith in Him nor our trust in His promise of salvation.

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III. Job 17:10-16: Job's Sense of Hopelessness

1. In this final section of chapter 17, Job turns to his friends once again. First, with a rhetorical and insulting challenge regarding their man-wisdom. We note that Job is NOT holding himself as having more wisdom than them, but is asking where their Godly wisdom is.
2. Next, with a sense of hopelessness of his fate already being sealed, Job understandably in the flesh and yet still wrongly sought to comfort himself that a bed-of-darkness (or death) was better than no place to rest his weary soul.
3. Verses 15-16 are a masterful conclusion to Job's speech. First, he again assails his friends man-wisdom as offering no hope. Then, as if seeing that there is no hope in his desire for the grave, in vs 15-16, Job's hopelessness goes from implied in v11 to stated. This thought is confirmed and further extended with his rhetorical questions pointing to hope NOT being found in Sheol.

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IV. Closing: Encouraging & Inspirational

1. Job's clinging to his faith is both encouraging and inspirational. He has been through the wringer-and-then-some, but he never loses sight of God. His theology isn't perfect, but he trusts God. In the wounds of his persecution by both Satan and his friends, his God-given identity as a humble and righteous servant of God shines bright.

2. I am not suggesting that Job is perfect for, as we have catalogued, he is not. What I am pointing to is the transforming work and faithfulness of God as the source of our encouragement and inspiration as God fulfills His promise found in Romans 8:37:

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Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. – Romans 8:37

[Prayer]

5-Day Devotional

Job 17-18

Confrontation & Worldly Philosophy - Part 1

Day 1: When the Spirit Is Broken

Reading: Job 17:1-2; Ps 34:18

Devotional: There are seasons in life when the tank runs empty. Job knew this place intimately. His body was wasting, his friends were hostile, and his circumstances offered no relief. Yet even in this desolation, Job continued to speak, to wrestle, and to pray. Psalm 34:18 reminds us that God draws near to the brokenhearted rather than withdrawing from them. Brokenness is not the end of the story. It is often the very threshold where God does His most profound work. When your strength fails, resist the temptation to go silent before God. Keep wrestling. Keep praying.

In what area of your life are you running on empty, and have you brought that specific exhaustion honestly before God? Set aside ten minutes today to write out a raw, honest prayer to God that does not filter your pain or confusion.

Day 2: The Danger of Man-Wisdom

Reading: 1 Cor 1:18-25; Prov 3:5-7

Devotional: Job's friends were not godless men. They believed in God, they showed up, and they spoke with great confidence. The problem was that their confidence rested in their own theological frameworks rather than in humble dependence on God. Proverbs 3:5-7 warns directly against leaning on our own understanding, and Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 1 remind us that God's wisdom consistently confounds human reasoning. Well-meaning advice rooted in pride and incomplete theology can wound rather than heal. The church must cultivate listeners who are slow to speak and quick to acknowledge the limits of their own understanding.

Have you ever offered counsel to someone suffering that was more rooted in your theological assumptions than in genuine listening and prayer? Identify one person in your life who is suffering. Before offering any words of advice this week, commit to simply listening and praying with them first.

Day 3: The Kinsman Redeemer and the Hope He Brings

Reading: Lev 25:25; Ruth 4:14; Job 19:25-27

Devotional: Even in the depths of his despair, Job reached toward something he could not yet fully see. His cry for someone to stand as his defender and advocate foreshadows the concept of the go'el, the Kinsman Redeemer, a figure who steps in to restore what has been lost. This longing finds its ultimate fulfillment not in a legal institution but in a person. Job 19:25-27 captures Job's remarkable declaration that his

Redeemer lives. Sitting on this side of the cross, we know that Redeemer by name. The hope Job strained toward in darkness is the same hope we now hold in the light.

In what area of your life do you most need to be reminded that your Redeemer lives and is actively interceding on your behalf? Memorize Job 19:25 in your preferred Bible translation this week, and recite it each morning as a declaration of faith before the day begins.

Day 4: Faith That Does Not Derail

Reading: Ro 8:35-39; Heb 12:1-3

Devotional: One of the most quietly powerful observations in Job 17 is found in verse 9, where those walking with God are shown to press forward in faith rather than being pulled off course by the words or example of those around them. Hebrews 12 calls us to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, precisely because distractions and discouragements are constant. Romans 8:37 declares that we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. This is not a promise of easy circumstances. It is a promise that no circumstance, no accusation, and no suffering has the final word over a life hidden in God.

What voices or circumstances in your life are most aggressively competing for the focus that belongs to God alone? Write Romans 8:37 somewhere visible in your home or workspace as a daily reminder that your identity and victory are defined by God's love, not your circumstances.

Day 5: Hope Beyond the Grave

Reading: Job 17:13-16; 1 Cor 15:54-57; Jn 11:25-26

Devotional: Job's closing words in chapter 17 are heavy with hopelessness. He looks toward the grave and finds no comfort there, no resting place for his weary soul. His rhetorical questions about hope descending into Sheol are painfully honest. Yet the very despair Job expresses points forward to the answer he could not yet hold. Jesus declares in John 11:25-26 that He is the resurrection and the life, and Paul thunders in 1 Corinthians 15 that death itself has been swallowed up in victory. The grave that offered Job no hope has been conquered. For those who trust in Christ, darkness does not have the final word.

How does the resurrection of Christ practically change the way you face your deepest fears, losses, and uncertainties today? Spend time this evening reading 1 Corinthians 15 in full. Allow its declaration of resurrection hope to reframe one area of your life where hopelessness has taken root.

Small Group Study Guide

Job 17-18

Confrontation & Worldly Philosophy - Part 1

Opening Prayer: Pray that the Lord would open your eyes to see and understand His word as you discuss the sermon.

Key Takeaways: Query the group for takeaways first...you may stay with one or more of those.

1. Questions directed at God are not the problem. The problem arises when those questions presume we have God fully figured out.
2. A works-based faith places salvation in human strength and performance. True salvation comes through grace and trust in God alone.
3. Job's humility throughout his suffering was not incidental. It was the mark of a man who understood his desperate need for God's wisdom rather than his own.
4. Those walking with God are not to allow the voices of the lost, even those close to them, to derail the ongoing work God is doing to grow their faith.
5. God uses every circumstance, including the attacks of enemies and the wounds inflicted by friends, to reveal Himself and bring glory to Himself.

Discussion Questions: Did the Holy Spirit prompt any questions with you? Start with those.

1. Have you ever been in a season where your spirit felt genuinely broken, where there was nothing left in the tank? Without requiring anyone to share details they are not comfortable with, what did that season reveal to you about your faith?
2. The sermon describes Job and his friends as each having a measure of faith but guided by wrong theology to varying degrees. How does wrong theology show up in the way people around us respond to suffering today?
3. The sermon notes that Job's questions for God were not the problem. The problem is when our questions presume we have God figured out. Where is the line between honest wrestling with God and presuming to know better than Him? How do we stay on the right side of that line?

4. Job's friends are described as poor listeners, prideful, and judgmental. In what ways can well-meaning believers today fall into those same patterns when trying to help someone who is suffering?
5. The sermon draws attention to the danger of a works-based faith, which places salvation within our own strength, ability, and willingness to perform. How does this kind of thinking quietly creep into the way we relate to God, even for those who would say they believe in grace?
6. Job seemingly prefigures the concept of a Kinsmen Redeemer when he asks who will secure him against the unrighteousness he is experiencing. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus fulfills that role completely?
7. The sermon highlights that Job never once held himself out as better than his friends, likely because he understood his desperate need for God's wisdom. How does a genuine awareness of our own need for God's wisdom change the way we engage with people who are wrong or even hurtful?
8. In Job 17:15-16, Job's hopelessness moves from implied to stated. He recognizes that hope cannot be found in death or escape. Where are you tempted to look for hope outside of God when life becomes overwhelming?
9. The sermon closes by pointing to Romans 8:37, where Paul describes believers as more than conquerors through Christ who loved us. How does Job's story give weight and texture to what that verse actually means in real life, not just in theory?
10. The sermon states that those walking with God do not let the lost derail God's work in growing their faith. Who in your life, even someone close to you, has the potential to pull you away from trusting God's work in your circumstances? How are you guarding against that?

Practical Applications: Query the group for applications first...you may explore one or more of those.

1. Examine your theology of suffering. This week, take time to honestly assess whether your default response to hardship leans toward a works-based framework. Ask yourself whether you tend to assume suffering is the result of personal failure, and bring that assumption before God in prayer.
2. Practice listening before speaking. Identify someone in your life who is going through a difficult season. Commit to listening to them this week without offering quick answers or theological corrections. Let your presence be the ministry.

3. Audit your sources of hope. Write down two or three things you instinctively turn to when life feels hopeless. Evaluate each one honestly. Are they pointing you toward God, or away from Him?
4. Memorize or meditate on Romans 8:37. Sit with the truth that being more than a conqueror is not the result of your performance but of His love. Let that reshape how you approach whatever difficulty you are currently facing.
5. Bring your questions to God honestly. If you have questions or frustrations directed at God, write them down this week. Do not dress them up. Bring them to Him as Job did, with honesty, but hold them with open hands rather than clenched fists.

Closing Prayer Points:

- Gratitude for a God who is not threatened by our honest questions
- Humility to recognize our need for His wisdom over our own
- Comfort for anyone in the group who is in a season of broken faith or hopelessness
- Confidence in Christ as the ultimate Kinsmen Redeemer who secures us

Discussion Questions

Job 17-18

Confrontation & Worldly Philosophy - Part 1

1. The sermon highlights that the problem is not having questions for God, but that our questions too often presume we have God figured out — in what ways do you find yourself making assumptions about God's character or intentions when you are suffering?
2. Job's friends had a measure of faith but were guided by wrong theology, leading them to be poor listeners, prideful, and judgmental — how can we guard against allowing theological confidence to make us less compassionate toward those who are suffering?
3. Job seemingly prefigures the concept of a Kinsman Redeemer when he asks who will secure him against the unrighteousness he is experiencing — how does understanding Christ as our ultimate Kinsman Redeemer change the way you approach your own seasons of injustice or suffering?
4. The sermon notes that God was using Job's trials to lead him away from a works-based faith and toward a grace-based trust in God — in what areas of your own life might God be using difficulty to expose a subtle reliance on your own performance rather than His grace?
5. Job's hopelessness in chapter 17 reaches the point where death seems preferable to his suffering, yet he never fully loses sight of God — what is the difference between expressing honest despair to God and losing faith in Him altogether?
6. The sermon points out that those walking with God should not allow the lost or misguided people around them to derail God's ongoing work of growing their faith — who or what in your life has the greatest potential to derail your spiritual growth, and how are you guarding against that?
7. God allowed both Satan's attacks and the friends' harmful words to work together for His purposes in Job's life — how does this challenge or comfort your understanding of the circumstances God permits in your own life?
8. Romans 8:37 describes believers as more than conquerors through Christ who loved us — how does Job's story serve as a living illustration of what it means to be more than a conqueror, and how does that truth speak into your current circumstances?

Dinner Conversation Starters

Job 17-18

Confrontation & Worldly Philosophy - Part 1

1. When Life Feels Unfair

Job was suffering deeply and had many questions for God. Conversation starter: Have you ever gone through something that felt unfair? How can we bring our questions to God without assuming we know better than Him?

2. Helpful Words vs. Hurtful Words

Job's friends spoke to him, but their words were often judgmental and unhelpful. Conversation starter: What are some words that help when someone is hurting? What are some things we should avoid saying?

3. Holding On to Faith

Even though Job was confused and hurting, he continued to talk to God and cling to his faith. Conversation starter: What helps you keep trusting God when you don't understand what He is doing?

4. God's Grace, Not Our Performance

The sermon reminded us that salvation is not based on our works, but on God's grace and our trust in Him. Conversation starter: Why is it good news that we don't have to "earn" God's love or salvation?

5. Hope When We Feel Hopeless

Job felt hopeless at times, but his story points us to the need for hope that only God can give. Conversation starter: Where do people often look for hope? How is the hope God gives different from those things?

Family Conversation Guide for Children & Early Teens

Job 17-18

Confrontation & Worldly Philosophy - Part 1

AGES 5-7: SIMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE APPLICATION POINTS

1. **When Someone Is Sad, Be a Helper, Not a Hurter**: Job's friends used words that hurt instead of helped. Teach kids that when someone is hurting, they do not need a lecture; they need kindness, patience, and truth spoken in love.

Discussion Questions:

- a. What could you say to a friend who feels left out?
 - b. What words might make them feel worse?
 - c. How can we show God's love when someone is sad?
2. **It Is Okay to Ask God Questions**: Job had questions for God, but he kept talking to God. Help kids know that God is not upset when they bring Him honest questions. We should ask with trust, not with a heart that thinks we know better than God.

Discussion Questions:

- a. What is something you do not understand that you want to ask God about?
 - b. How can we pray when we feel confused?
 - c. What do we know is always true about God, even when life is hard?
3. **Your Value Is Not Based on Being Perfect**: God's grace is not earned by our good works or performance. Remind them that God loves His children because of His grace, not because they always behave perfectly or win at everything.

Discussion Questions:

- a. Does God love us only when we do everything right?
- b. What should we do when we make a mistake?
- c. How can remembering God's grace help us try again?

AGES 8-12: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Do Not Become Like Job's Friends**: Job's friends assumed they understood everything and judged him wrongly. Encourage kids to avoid quick judgments. Godly friends listen first, speak carefully, and comfort others with truth and compassion.

Discussion Questions:

- a. Why is it easy to judge someone when we do not know the whole story?
- b. What would a wise friend do before giving advice?
- c. How can you stand up for someone being talked about unfairly?

2. **Digital Words Can Help or Hurt**: Hurtful words added to Job's suffering. Teach that online words are still real words. God cares about how we speak in person and digitally.

Discussion Questions:

Have you ever seen someone get mocked online or in a group chat?
What could you do instead of joining in?
When should you leave, report, or tell a parent about an online conversation?

3. **Trust God When You Do Not Understand**: Job did not understand his suffering, but he kept clinging to God. Help kids learn that faith does not mean pretending everything is fine. Faith means turning to God even when things are confusing.

Discussion Questions:

- a. What is something hard in your life right now?
- b. What is the difference between complaining to God and talking honestly with God?
- c. What Bible truth can we remember when life feels unfair?

AGES 11-15: DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Be Careful of "Worldly Philosophy"**: Job's friends had some faith, but their thinking was shaped by wrong theology. Teens need to compare messages they hear with God's truth. Suffering does not always mean someone did something wrong, and success does not always mean someone is righteous.

Discussion Questions:

- a. What are some messages online that sound wise but do not match God's Word?
- b. How do people your age measure worth or success?
- c. How does God define your identity differently?

2. **Be the Friend Who Listens Before Speaking**: Job's friends were poor listeners and quick to correct him. Encourage teens not to rush into fixing, preaching, or comparing pain. A godly friend listens, asks gentle questions, prays, and points to truth with humility.

Discussion Questions:

- a. When someone shares something painful, what responses are actually helpful?
- b. What responses might shut them down?
- c. How can you know when a friend's struggle needs help from a parent, pastor, counselor, or trusted adult?

3. Bring Doubts to God Instead of Hiding Them: Job questioned God, but he did not walk away from God. Teach that faith can wrestle honestly. The danger is not having questions; the danger is assuming we have God completely figured out or letting doubts pull us away from Him.

Discussion Questions:

- a. What questions about God or faith feel hard to talk about?
- b. Why do some people hide their doubts instead of bringing them to God?
- c. Who is a safe, wise person you can talk to when you have spiritual questions?

Tips for Parents

- Be patient and listen: Give your child time to think and respond.
- Relate to everyday life: Use real-life examples and stories familiar to your child to make abstract concepts more tangible.
- Encourage questions: Let your son or daughter know it's okay to ask questions, even if things don't make sense right away.
- Share personal insights: Tell a personal story about a time you experienced these themes, adapting as needed for age appropriateness.

Family Conversation Guide for Gen Z

Job 17-18

Confrontation & Worldly Philosophy - Part 1

1. Don't Confuse Confidence with Godly Wisdom

Bible References:

- Job 17:10 — “But please, come back again, all of you, for I shall not find one wise man among you.”
- Proverbs 18:13 — “He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.”
- James 1:19 — “Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”

Application: In group settings, don't rush to explain someone's pain, correct their emotions, or assume you know why something happened. Job's friends had strong opinions, but they lacked humility and true wisdom. Godly wisdom listens before speaking.

Scenario: A friend in your group says they are struggling with anxiety, depression, family conflict, or doubts about God. Someone quickly says, “You just need to pray more,” or “Maybe this is happening because you're not close enough to God.”

Discussion: When someone shares something painful, how can you respond in a way that is truthful but also humble, patient, and compassionate?

2. Bring Your Questions to God Without Acting Like You Are God

Bible References:

- Job 17:1 — “My spirit is broken, my days are extinguished, the grave is ready for me.”
- Psalm 62:8 — “Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.”
- Isaiah 55:8-9 — “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord.”

Application: God is not offended by honest questions, grief, or confusion. Job wrestled with God, but he kept turning toward Him. The danger is not asking God questions; the danger is assuming we have God fully figured out.

Scenario: You pray for something important—a healing, a restored friendship, relief from stress, or clarity about your future—but nothing changes. You start wondering, “Is God listening?”

Discussion: How can you honestly talk to God about disappointment without letting disappointment become distrust?

3. Reject the Lie That Your Worth Is Based on Performance

Bible References:

- Job 17:9 — “Yet the righteous will hold to his way, and he who has clean hands will be stronger and stronger.”
- Ephesians 2:8-9 — “For by grace you have been saved through faith... not of works, lest anyone should boast.”
- Romans 8:37 — “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

Application: The sermon warned against a works-based view of faith. Your value before God is not based on grades, followers, appearance, athletic success, dating status, or spiritual “performance.” Salvation and identity are rooted in God’s grace, not your résumé.

Scenario: You feel pressure to be the “successful one”—high grades, good college plans, strong social image, perfect Christian reputation, or constant productivity. When you fail, you feel worthless.

Discussion: Where are you most tempted to measure your worth by performance instead of by God’s grace?

4. Be Careful with “Worldly Philosophy” Online

Bible References:

- Colossians 2:8 — “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men... and not according to Christ.”
- Proverbs 14:12 — “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”
- Romans 12:2 — “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Application: Not every viral quote, influencer message, or TikTok “truth” is biblical wisdom. Some ideas sound empowering but lead you away from humility, holiness, and trust in God. Test what you hear against Scripture.

Scenario: You see posts saying things like:

“Cut off anyone who doesn’t serve your happiness.”

“Manifest your destiny.”

“Your truth is all that matters.”

“If you’re suffering, you must be attracting negative energy.”

“You don’t owe anyone forgiveness.”

Discussion: What popular online messages sound wise but conflict with what God says?

These points aim to empower Gen Z to live out their faith genuinely and courageously in various aspects of their daily lives, reflecting Biblical integrity, compassion, and steadfastness.