

## **Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.**

**Sunday April 22, 2018.**

***"The Last Arrow: Living the Last Arrow life thru your stages of life"*.**

**From the book *"The Last Arrow"* by Erwin Mcmanus.**

### **A. Intro.**

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work thru from the message on Sunday. Whether you were able to attend the worship service or not, this devotional is free-standing and you can still go thru it to help you dig deeper in your own spiritual walk. Take as long as you need to dive into this material and feel free to share it.

### **B. Recap.**

This is the third stop in our series, ***"The Last Arrow"***. The first Sunday we talked about living as a hero in the movie of your life, the second Sunday we talked about burning down our past and embracing forgiveness to help us move forward. and this past Sunday we talked about how to live in a world and a personal life that constantly changes.

We seek something solid to stand on, and often we want our world, and our personal life to stay the same, and we end up trying to fabricate some nostalgic life from our past, and we miss out on living forward with intentionality.

So, this Sunday we talk about what can we make our 'rock', that solid place for us to find security, in a world that is constantly changing.

As usual a couple of thought provoking opening questions.

How do you react to a constantly changing world?

Do you have any fears or anxieties about the future? If so what are they?

We really only have three choices as our world changes.

1. Cling to some awkward reconstruction of a perceived past and try to recreate it.

2. Try to stop time, and do this; *"nobody move there's a bomb"* freeze trying to keep everything just like it is now.

3. Realize the future is coming, and do the best we can to get ahead of it.

? Answer is obvious isn't it?

We have to find a way to intentionally design, craft, a life to help us move forward.

So what would that look like?

What practices, habits can we work into our everyday ordinary walking around life to help us?

Paul gives us kind of a picture of this in a very famous passage.

1 Corinthians 13:9-12.

**9 Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! 10 But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless.**

**11 When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. 12 Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.**

Paul seems to be saying; as he's grown and matured, he designed his life to do that. In this process he has found the need to examine his life closely, remove things that don't grow him, and embrace things that do. And that this is a continual process.

So let me give you five things that you can place into your life to help you not only grow in maturity but also handle well changes.

### **5 Things that can help build a sense of stability and solidness.**

-This is not an exhaustive list, but a few things you can incorporate into your life.

#### **1. Know what you want.**

-Figure out who you want to 'BE', not what you want to 'DO'.

#### **2. Determine your values.**

-You will never get clarity about the future, but having clarity of your specific values and beliefs will give you clarity of about the future.

#### **3. Find your people.**

-You are a composite of the five closest people around you. Choose them wisely.

-This may mean changing how you relate to some of the people around you.

#### **4. Simplify.**

-Clutter, both physical and emotional, is suffocating and distracting. And it keeps us from having focus we need. And clutter weighs us down. Get rid of everything you don't absolutely need.

#### **5. NEVER stop being a student.**

-It's too easy to be a critic about everything new or different than what you believe. Choose being a student examining and learning about the new rather than the easy route of critic.

Where could you do some honest work to help you become not only a more mature person but to handle the changes in the world and in your own personal life?

Where could you use some help, and need to reach out to someone to help guide you?

Change is always disorienting. But God wants to help guide and grow us to better handle change both in the world and also in our personal lives.