

## Rules For Life

### I. Slide1 Intro:

- A. Slide2 Have you come up with any **rules** for your life? *Maybe passed down to you (re: \$, morals)*
1. **CM: To Live the Great Commandment. To Fulfill the Great Commission.**
- B. Slide3 Someone gave **4 steps** to **achievement**: *Plan Purposefully. Prepare Prayerfully. Proceed Positively. Pursue Persistently.*
1. **Classical Hinduism** accepts **4 proper goals** or **aims of human life**, known as the *Puru-sarthas*. [means *an object of human pursuit*]
  2. **Buddha** came up with his **4 Noble Truths** & his **8-fold path**.
  3. **Islam** has their **5 Pillars**.
  4. **Judaism** has the **10 commandments** at its core of laws.
  5. **Christianity** has laid it out different ways, like w/**Francis Schaeffer**, *How Then Shall We Live*. **Chuck Colson**, *How Now Shall We Live*.
- C. Solomon has been **experimenting & investigating** *life under the sun*.
1. Slide4 Here he gives **7 ways** that will help us in our **everyday lives**.
    - a) **7 Ways to live**: Live by Faith. Live where you Land. Live w/o Hesitation. Live Submissively. Live Diligently. Live Joyfully. Live Carefully.

### II. Slide5 **RULES OF LIFE FOR ALL PEOPLE (1-6)** [1st 5 here]

- A. Slide6 **LIVE BY FAITH** (1,2)
- B. Solomon seems to give **2 illustrations** here: **A Merchant sending out his ships** (1,2) **and A Farmer sowing his seed** (3-6).
1. Both the **Merchant** & the **Farmer** must exercise **faith**, because neither can control all his circumstances.
    - a) **Slide7 Merchants**: risks: ships could hit a reef, a storm, attack by pirates, loose its cargo.
    - b) **Farmers**: risks...bad weather (drought/too much rain), locust infestation, loose crops.
  2. Life has a certain amount of **risks** (dangers, hazards) to it, & that's where **faith** comes in.

C. (1) **Cast your bread upon the waters** – or *send out your grain in ships*.

1. Solomon was very involved in **different** kinds of **trade**. (1 Kings 9:26,27 fleet of ships. Joint venture w/Hiram/Tyre. Profit was Gold)
  - a) It would be **months** or **years** before they would *return*, so this would take *faith* & *patience*.

D. **Slide8** (2) Here Solomon suggests spreading out your wealth, not to put everything into one adventure. *Diversify*. **Diversified Portfolio**.

1. Don't put all your eggs into one basket. **Or**, *send cargo on 7 or 8 ships – some of them are bound to give a return on your investment*.

E. (2b) **For you do not know** (also in 5,6). Don't let your ignorance of the future paralyze you.

F. **Slide9,10** This also can be speaking of *generosity*. [Note *give* is the key]

1. **Give a serving/share to 7 and also to 8** - is the scriptural pattern to show we should give liberally/generously. [Like 4 x's in Prov.30(3&4) & 8 x's in Amos 1 & 2]<sup>1</sup>
  - a) [Love wording in] 1 Kings 10:13 *Now King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired, whatever she asked, besides what Solomon had given her according to the royal generosity*.
2. Like this last Sunday several *Chick-fil-A restaurants* in Orlando delivered sandwiches and iced tea to blood drives supporting victims of the nightclub terrorist attack. [They are such a giving company/business/organization]
3. **Slide11** Prov.11:24,25 **There is one who scatters** (gives), **yet increases more;** **And there is one who withholds more than is right** (stingy), **But it leads to poverty.** **The generous soul will be made rich,** **And he who waters** (refreshes) **will also be watered** (refreshed) **himself**.

G. **Slide12 LIVE WHERE YOU LAND** (3)

H. **Some things** in life are **always changing** (*clouds*). **Some things** remain permanent (*tree*).

1. **Our past** for instance cannot be changed...*where it landed it landed*.
2. **Yet the present** is *still available to us*, we must *seize each opportunity*.
  - a) **Or** as **Horace** the Roman Poet said, *Carpe diem*, seize the day.

<sup>1</sup> Prov.30:15,18,21,29; Amos 1:3,6,9,11,13; 2:1,4,6.

b) **Slide13** The phrase is was actually form the longer "*carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero*", (translated as) "*Seize the day, put very little trust in tomorrow (the future)*".

- (1) The ode says that the future is unforeseen and that one should not leave to chance future happenings, **but rather** one should do all one can today to make one's future better.
- (2) **Horace** did not mean to ignore the future, **but rather** not to trust that everything is going to fall into place for you and taking action for the future today.

l. (**maybe as appl**) **In the place** – remember, God has placed us *where we are*.

1. Where we were **born** (USA/India)
2. Economically we were born into either *poor or middle class or wealthy* homes.
3. *Live where you land* – Not necessarily geographical, **but in any state I am in, there I'm going to be content**, because *that's where God has me Now*.
  - a) Bloom where you are planted.

J. **Slide14 LIVE W/O HESITATION** (4)

K. If the **Merchant** or the **Farmer** waited until circumstances were ideal...*they'd never get anything done*. [hesitation vs. diligence]

1. The wind is never right for the Sower, the clouds are never right for the Reapers.
2. Be cautious not to be *hyper-conscientious*.
3. *Don't wait for conditions that will never exist*.
  - a) *After all is said and done, there's usually more said than done*.
  - b) *If you're looking for an excuse for doing nothing, you can find one*.
  - c) This is not coming against careful observation of surrounding conditions.
4. **Slide15 NLT** *Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest*.
  - a) If you're looking for the perfect **church**, you'll never join one.
  - b) If you're looking for the perfect **ministry**, you'll never serve in one.

- c) If you're waiting until you have **enough \$ to live on**, you'll never give.
- d) If you're waiting for a certain amount in the bank before you have **children**, you'll never have kids.

L. **Slide16 Story:** The spider casts her film out to the wind, feeling sure that *somewhere or other* it will adhere and form the beginning of her web. She commits the slender filament to **the breeze** believing that there is a place provided for it to fix itself.

1. Spurgeon said, in this fashion we should believingly *cast forth our endeavors* in this life, confident that **God** will find a place for us. He who bids us pray and work will aid our efforts and guide us in his providence in a right way. **Do not** sit still in despair, **but** keep casting out the floating thread of *hopeful endeavor*, **and the wind of love** will bear it to its resting place. (Morn & Eve)

- a) Don't be fearful of the wind, use it, *cast your film* into it.
- b) Don't be fearful of the clouds, use them, let the rain *soften your soil*.

M. **Slide17 LIVE SUBMISSIVELY (5)**

N. We may know *the general plan of God*, **but** beyond our knowledge *is the detailed works of God*.

- 1. Don't try to *outguess* God & His works.
- 2. **It is enough to know** the **broad** spectrum of His plan.

O. **Slide18 LIVE DILIGENTLY (6)**

P. Note, "withhold not your hand" –

1. **Be diligent** morning until evening, then let the results (**success or failure**) rest in the hand of God.

- a) **Slide19** Keith Green used to sing, *You just keep doing your best, And pray that it's blessed, And Jesus takes care of the rest*.
- b) **Like the widow with the Mite** – To her her mite was just *a drop in the bucket*. **But** with God's *secret fertilizer* this mite grew to be more than any who had given.

2. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, *There is no limit to what can be accomplished, if it doesn't matter who gets the credit*.

3. Don't just sit there waiting for secure guarantees for life.

### III. Slide20 RULES OF LIFE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (7-10)

- A. In the 1st part (7,8) Solomon calls for enjoyment of life in view of the darkness of death.
- B. In the 2nd part (9,10) he urged that this enjoyment begin in one's youth because youth is fleeting; *but* he added that enjoyment should be tempered by responsible living because everyone is answerable to God.
  
- C. Slide21 LIVE JOYFULLY (7,8)
- D. (7) Story: Fall of 1980 I was at Fullerton J.C. It was lunch time & there was a kid at my table staring directly into the sun. He said it was good for his eyes...that it was *in the bible*. And, it was.
  1. Means<sub>(NLT)</sub> Light is sweet; how pleasant to see a new day dawning (ie. *a new day*)
  2. Each day is a fresh gift from God.
- E. (8) Darkness – Take advantage of the days of youth, *before* the days of darkness come.
  1. Jn.9:4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is **day**; the **night** is coming when no one can work.
  2. **Time** is a circus always packing up and moving away.
  
- F. Slide22 LIVE CAREFULLY (9,10)
- G. This *heart cheer in the days of your youth* - is definitely a **generalization**.
  1. It's saying, *Youth is the time for enjoyment, b4 the problems of old age set in.*
    - a) A man in his 90's said, *I don't go out much now because my parents won't let me... **Mother nature & Father time.***
- H. This is not speaking about **open season** in which *anything goes*.
  1. It is an **invitation to youth** to get all the **cheer & joy** they can out of *innocent* happiness.
  2. Slide23,24 It is how to live **Joyously** (9a) *but* **Responsibly** (9b-10).
- I. **Judgment** - Life must be lived out w/eternity's values in view.

1. 2 Cor.5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*
  2. Rom.14:12 *So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.*
- J. Your one life will soon be past, and only what is done *w/eyes fixed on Christ* will last.
- K. Augustine said, *Love/agape & do anything you like.* [Rom.13:10 *Love does no harm to a neighbor*]
- L. *Slide25 7 Ways to live: Live by Faith. Live Where you land. Live w/o Hesitation. Live Submissively. Live Diligently. Live Joyfully. Live Carefully.*