

August 27, 2017

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Series: The Principle of the Path

Today's Message: The Very Best Path

Undeniable Truth: Our failure to trust or _____ to God's ways, leads to painful detours and those detours can waste years of our lives.

⇒ "Direction - not _____ - determines our destination." ~Andy Stanley

Psalm 40:8 "I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart."

Psalm 143:10 "teach me to do Your will, for You are my God..."

The Very Best Path

What God Desires Most (choose one):

___ to obey Him

___ to be good and go to church

___ to have a close relationship to Him

#1. Choices Now... Outcomes Later

* Independence is our problem; it takes years, often our _____ years, to discover that we made a big mistake.

A. Solomon Early On - Overwhelmed at 20—God says: "Ask me for whatever you want."

⇒ Solomon was wise enough to know just how wise he wasn't [1 Kings 53:7-9, 11-13]

B. Solomon Later On - Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding."

* "trust" - the idea of lying helplessly facedown, vulnerable, _____

* "lean not" - to prop something up against something else, to be supported by it

Proverbs 3:6 "In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

* "acknowledge" - recognize who God is, to respond properly with submission

#2. What God Desires Most

⇒ In the O.T. - God's _____ with Israel His people

⇒ In the N.T. - all to have a personal relationship with God

Solomon Goes Off: He trusted his own understanding, "smart politics" [1 Kings 11:1-3, 4, 5]

Solomon's Foolish Choices: Cost him his close relationship with God; God didn't pull away but rather Solomon's heart was pulled away (he with wisest man!)

⇒ **KEY:** Submission—not talent, not brains, not info.—is the key to good decision making

Solomon's Motives: * pride? * fear? * lust? * combination of all 3?

Our Natural Beat: we believe we're too smart to make stupid choices but we still go ahead and trust ourselves.

Solomon's Dad: David's Story - 1 Samuel 24:1-3, 4, 5, 6-10

David's Modeling Truth: One never accomplishes the will of God by breaking the law of God, violating the principles of God, or ignoring the wisdom of God.

Three Questions:

1. Why do I hesitate to give God full access to every part of my life?
2. What do I fear will happen on the other side of that decision?
3. What is the most difficult area of my life to yield control?

⇒ Divine Direction begins with submission.