**Living Wisely – Pr. 16**

**Focal Truth: The fear of the Lord keeps one from evil**

*By the fear of the Lord one keeps away from evil*

*Evil is avoided by the fear of the Lord*

Ps. 103:11 – *for as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him*

Ps. 103:13 – *for just as a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him*

Ps. 103:17 – *the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him*

Living in the fear of the Lord affects all areas of my life

Pr. 16 – focuses on God’s authority over all the areas of our life

**Observations**

1. **God & my plans – 16:1,9**

*The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord*

Aramaic – *a man may arrange his thoughts, but what he says depends on the Lord*

*The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps*

Aramaic – *a man may plot out his course, but it is the Lord who directs his steps*

1. When we fear God, He gives us the words to say in every situation of life
2. When we fear God, He directs in every life situation
3. When we fear God, all holy desires, all good advice and just words to come from our mouth
4. **God & my purposes – 16:4**

*The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked from the day of evil*

Aramaic – *The Lord made everything for a purpose, even the wicked for an evil day*

1. When we fear God, we see His eternal purposes in all our earthly purposes
2. When we fear God, we understand that God uses the wicked & evil days for His purposes
3. God uses the evil of men to glorify Him! Ps. 76:10 – *the wraths of man shall praise You*
4. **God & my pride – 16:5**

*Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord, assuredly he will not be unpunished*

Aramaic – *Every haughty person is an abomination to the Lord, assuredly, he will not go unpunished*

1. When we fear God, we will not be proud because we know God punishes the proud
2. **God & my lifestyle – 16:2,7**

*All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the Lord weighs the motives*

Aramaic – *all the ways of a man seem right to him, but the Lord probes motives*

*When a man’s ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes his enemies to be at peace with him*

Aramaic – *when the Lord is pleased with a man’s conduct, He may turn even his enemies into allies*

1. When we fear God, we don’t think with self – righteousness
2. When we fear God, we know that he probes & discerns & knows our motives for every action of life
3. When we fear God, we please Him and He makes our enemies like friends
4. **God & my works – 16:3,11,20**

*Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established*

Aramaic – *Entrust your affairs to the Lord, and your plans will succeed*

*A just balance and scales belong to the Lord, all the weights of the bag are His concern*

Aramaic – *Honest scales and balances are the Lord’s, all the weights in the bag are His work*

*He who gives attention to the word will find good, and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord*

Aramaic – *He who is adept in a matter will attain success, Happy is he who trusts in the Lord*

1. When we fear God, we commit our daily works to Him for His glory
2. When we fear God, we live in honesty in all our business transactions
3. When we fear God, we live diligently in all our ways while we trust the Lord for His blessing on our works
4. **God & my choices – 16:33**

*The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord*

Aramaic – *Lots are cast into the lap, the decision depends on the Lord*

1. When we fear the Lord, regardless of how we make our choices God decides the direction of our life

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**