

“Characteristics of Wise Planning” - 1 Corinthians 16:5-12 – May 15th, 2016

- The title I've chosen for Today's teaching is, "Characteristics of Wise Planning."
- The reason being is that in our text today, the Apostle Paul will provide us with a glimpse into his own future plans and travels.
- As such, we have a Biblical template of sorts with which to understand how it is that we are to make wise plans for our future.

1. Wise planning is Biblical (Verses 5-6)

- v5 Paul begins by telling them of his future plans saying after he goes through Macedonia, he will come to them there in Corinth.
- v6 He then says, perhaps he'll stay with them for a while or spend the winter with them so they can help him wherever he goes.
- It's important to understand that planning is not only wise, it's Biblical. Sadly, many have associated plans with a lack of faith.

Proverbs 20:18 (NKJV) — 18 Plans are established by counsel; By wise counsel wage war.

Proverbs 21:5 (NKJV) — 5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.

Proverbs 15:22 (NKJV) — 22 Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.

Proverbs 16:9 (NKJV) — 9 A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

Proverbs 19:21 (NKJV) — 21 There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD's counsel—that will stand.

2. Wise planning is flexible (Verses 7-9)

- v7 He says he doesn't want to see them now so he'll make a passing visit but hopes to spend time with them if the Lord permits.
- v8 Paul goes on to say instead of spending time with them in Corinth, he will spend time at Ephesus until the feast of Pentecost.
- v9 Paul explains why saying it's because a great door for effective work has opened up to him even though many oppose him.

- I find it rather interesting that Paul would hold on loosely to his plans under the banner of whether or not the Lord will permit it.
- This speaks to the paramount importance of having plans, but not letting the plans to have you in the sense that plans change.
- It's interesting to note that none of Paul's plans we read about here actually came to pass, this because God did not permit it.

- The truth of the matter is that often times our plans are not compatible with God's will, and when they're not, God will say, "no."
- As one quipped, if the request is wrong, God says no, if the timing is wrong, God says slow, and if I'm wrong, God says grow.
- If the request is right, the timing is right and I am right then God says go! This is why James rights about saying if the Lord wills.

James 4:13–16 (NKJV) — 13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

- It's been said that God's delays are not necessarily God's denials such that, God will often times direct our steps and our stops.

One of Pastor Chuck's Chuckisms as they're affectionately referred to was "Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be broken."

G. Campbell Morgan sort of echoed this writing, "I know the fascination of having a [plan], and having everything in order, and knowing where we are going; but let us leave room, at any rate, for the interference of God."

3. Wise planning is difficult (Verses 10-12)

- v10 Paul says when Timothy comes they're to see to it that he's not intimidated, as he like Paul is carrying on the Lord's work.
- v11 He goes on to say no one should treat them with contempt but send him on his way peacefully, as he's expecting his return.
- v12 He says he strongly urged Apollos to go to them with the brothers, but he was quite unwilling until he has the opportunity.

- This is one of the most important principles when it comes to wise planning, in that, both the process and product are difficult.
- By that I mean, not only is the planning process riddled with difficulty, but the outcome of the planning can also be very difficult.
- The reason I point this out is that we're all prone to think that just because it's riddled with difficulty we must not be in God's will.

- The truth be made known the greatest of opportunities in life will often times come packaged with greatest oppositions in life.
- One commentator had some excellent insight as it relates to this saying, never doubt in the dark what God revealed in the light.
- I'm learning I can be right smack in the middle of the trial of my life, and yet be right smack in the middle of God's will for my life.

Matthew 14:22–34 (NKJV) — 22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. 23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. 24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. 25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." 28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."