### STAY IN YOUR LANE

Ecclesiastes 7.13-18 // June 23, 2019

#### NOT ALWAYS AS IT OUGHT

Life is not always as it ought to be. God's Word often tells us we will live long and have joy if we follow His commands, yet we also see exceptions to that: sometimes the good die young. One dilemma we have is that proverbs aren't mean to be taken as absolute promises. They are wise sayings, observed normative phenomenon, or sound counsel, but they are not promises, such as "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Deuteronomy 4.40

#### KNOWING OUR PLACE

When we get frustrated with things not working out the way we think they ought to, we tend to take matters into our own hands. We either give up completely on God, or try extra hard to earn His favor (as we ever lost it to begin with). So the Preacher warns, "don't be too wicked, and don't be too righteous."

This may come as a surprise, but he is condoning neither "small" wickedness nor "nominal" righteousness. He is warning against getting in the wrong lane, so to speak; we should understand how the world works, how God works, and how our sin and His righteousness works, and how His favor is affected (and unaffected) by both.

> You've already got the righteousness of Christ, don't try to outdo Him. You've already got your own sinfulness, don't try to outdo yourself.

#### <u>A BETTER WAY</u>

If instead we embrace the reality that everything is not as it ought, but that following His commandments and fearing Him for each day and every turn of events in life is the best and most wise way of living, we will neither become too wicked, nor we will we grow in self-righteousness. Rather, we will walk daily with Christ, trusting in His righteousness alone, and with joy we will endure both the day of prosperity and the day of adversity.



#### This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

### ARE YOU NEW HERE?

#### WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to fill out a Connection Card so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the Connection Booth outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll join us next Sunday and consider making us your church family.

#### WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens' ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email Amber Willis at amber@lifemission.tv

#### JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our 6th - 8th graders begin each Sunday by worshiping with the adults and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our 9th-12th graders stay in the service with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email Tyler Willis at tyler@lifemission.tv.

## **Contact Us**

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### COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, who can share the Memory Verse?

Read Ecclesiastes 7.13-18. What stands out in this passage, and what stuck out to you most from the sermon on Sunday?

#### Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

Though the Gospel isn't explicit in this section, what truth about not trying to be "overly righteous" gives us great encouragement with Gospel truth?

#### Repent and Ask for Provision

Do you tend to go by your own rules in various areas of life? Or do you tend to heap on extra rules for yourself and others? Do you see ways that this has brought harm to yourself or others?

#### Your Life Mission

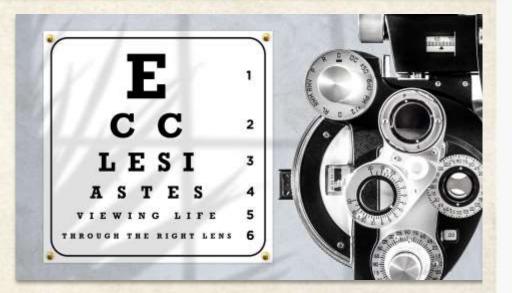
One way that we bring about destruction through these two polar opposites is by damaging the relationships in our lives. When we have been "overly righteous," we alienate people by judgement or by avoiding them. When it's by sinful living, we destroy our witness. Are there people you may need to confess some wrongdoing and damage that you have done? Consider talking with them.

What opportunities or conversations or social settings with nonbelievers are on the horizon or in your calendar that you could use prayer for, that God has ordained you to cross paths with? How can your group be praying for the people in your life that you love and care for?

End the evening in a time of prayer, praying through the theme of the night using the P.R.A.Y. model with your group. Pray for these people you have mentioned and for your heart and plan as you pursue them in love. Make sure to end your time of prayer Yielding with Thanksgiving for God's sovereignty and plan for your life.



MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY, WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.



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### SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School 207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

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