

DIVINE DIRECTION! (WEEK 3)

Scripture used: [Hebrews 11:24-26 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Welcome to the third week of our series Divine Direction! Pastor Hurmon is speaking to us about God's purposes for us in everyday life. We're exploring the question "How do I know what God wants me to do in my life?" Last week we learned that God often directs us when we're facing a difficult choice. Our responsibility is to choose, and choose wisely! We saw how both Jesus and Moses made the hard choices by fixing their eyes on the long-term rewards of God's kingdom. As described in [Hebrews 12:2 \(NIV\)](#) "the joy set before" us makes the short-term struggles worthwhile. Whether it's parenting, career, or romance, wisdom often means choosing what we already know we ought to do, not giving in to our immediate wants.

KEY POINTS

- 1) ***The choices we make can either give or take life.*** God has an opinion about everything we do. Aligning our choices with God's purpose is wisdom. That's why Paul cautions us to "understand what the Lord's will is" in [Ephesians 5:15-17 \(NIV\)](#). Sometimes that means people giving us advice. Sometimes it's prayer or reading the Bible. Whatever the case, listen for God's purpose and choose to follow it. Be wise!
- 2) ***"What I ought to do" is different than "What I want to do".*** We are often torn between "the ought" and "the want". We act like we're confused, but really we just don't want to admit that it's hard to do the right thing. It's easier to pretend that we're not really sure, then end up going with "the want".
- 3) ***It's often easier to choose unwisely and commit a sin.*** God wants us to fulfill His purpose and redeem the world. That often puts us in harm's way, making difficult choices with short-term pain and then long-term gain. So what do we do instead? We choose unwisely, and sin (miss the mark of God's purpose or intent). We make choices for short-term gain even though we know that pain is coming in the long-term.
- 4) ***The world values the wrong things.*** Observe the behavior of everyday people around you. What do you see? Human beings constantly do harm to themselves and others in pursuit of three things that cannot make up for the lack of a relationship with God:
 - a. Popularity
 - b. Pleasure
 - c. Possessions
- 5) ***God's purpose is more important than the world's values.*** These three worldly things--popularity, pleasure, and possessions--are not necessarily bad. The problem arises when we choose to pursue them instead of a relationship with God. Choose God and life, as described in [Deuteronomy 30:19-20 \(NLT\)](#). Worldly success is actually a responsibility, not a privilege. We should align these things with God's purpose for us, not selfishly abuse them.
- 6) ***Christ alone is a greater value than all the world's treasures.*** Paul was very clear in [Hebrews 11:26 \(NIV\)](#). Moses could only make the choices he did because he saw the rewards of putting God first (which the writer of Hebrews indicates was an expression of choosing Christ!) Whatever the world threw at him, "he was looking ahead to his reward"!

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** – God sometimes directs us toward short-term pain, but it's a part of His larger purpose. You will be rewarded by far greater long-term gain. That's what we ought to do: the wise choice. And yet, most of us keep going back to what we want to do instead. What's a recent example of an unwise decision you made?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** – God wants the best for us. We aren't supposed to be denied popularity, pleasures, and possessions. But these things can easily become idols that we worship. What tempts you the most: popularity, pleasures, or possessions? What long-term gains are you giving up by giving in to temptation?
- 3) **DO** – Select a specific area of your life where you tend to choose short-term gain instead of long-term gain. Pray to God for the strength to choose the painful, short-term gain that aligns with His purpose. Write it out: "I will choose for what's difficult in [this area of your life]!"