

Fil-Am Community Church
Pastor David Bennett
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Key Verse Psalms 119:105

WHERE TO GET GUIDANCE

Good morning Fil-Am this morning we are continuing on our series called “**Where Do I Go From Here**” that Pastor Rolly started last week, where he preached “**What is God’s will for my life?**”

Today we are going to deal with the issue of “**Where to Get Guidance From?**”

Psalm 119:105, "Your Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Good morning Fil-Am, it is so good to see so many bright shiny faces on this chilly Sunday morning, for time’s sake let’s get into the Word of God, or more importantly let’s get the Word of God into you.

This morning we are going to discuss where we should turn to in order to get guidance.

It is amazing to see the many things people try in order to figure out their future. It's natural to want guidance, but if we base our decisions on incorrect information we are asking for trouble!

Illustration: “Rules of the Road”

Every state has their own “**Rules of the Road**” handbook published by the DMV.

What’s the purpose of those rules? They give rules to follow for every driver: stop, go, yield the right of way, rules for passing, merging, speed limits, turn signals, etc.

This doesn't mean that every driver is going to abide by those rules, but if they are smart, they will. Following these rules will help to keep them from having accidents or from getting traffic tickets.

LIKEWISE, God's Word is given to us as a sort of "Rules of the Road" for living the Christian life; it is called the "**Word of God**", the Bible.

Not everyone abides by those rules, but if they are smart they will. They may not get a ticket from God if they break the rules, but they will miss out on Blessings he has set aside for us!

Matthew 7:24-27, *"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."*

It sounds like we all need to follow God's rules of the roads. If not, there could be a big crash in our lives.

The first thing we are going to touch on this morning is where we should **NOT** get our guidance from?

I. UNRELIABLE SOURCES OF GUIDANCE

1. Circumstances

Max Lacado wrote about a man named Robert Reed who said, "I have everything I need for Joy." His hands were twisted and his feet were useless. He cannot bathe himself; he cannot even feed himself or brush his own teeth, or comb his hair.

He has strips of **Velcro** on shirts to hold them together. His speech drags like a worn out audiocassette.

In case you were wondering, Robert has Cerebral Palsy.

The disease keeps him from **driving a car**, riding a **bike**, and going for a **walk**. However, it didn't keep him from graduating from High School or attending Abilene Christian University where he graduated with a degree in Latin.

Having Cerebral Palsy didn't keep him from teaching at St. Louis Junior College or from venturing overseas on five **mission trips**.

Robert's disease didn't prevent him from becoming a missionary in Portugal.

He moved to Lisbon, alone in 1972, there he rented a hotel room and began studying Portuguese.

He found a restraint owner who would feed him after the rush hour and a tutor who would instruct him in language.

He then stationed himself in the park, where he distributed **tracts** about Christ. Within six years he had led seventy people to the Lord, one of which became his wife Rosa.

Max Lacado heard him speak, and watched as men carried his wheelchair to the stage and they laid his worn **Bible** on his lap.

He watched his stiff fingers force the pages open, as the people in the audience wiped away tears of admiration from their faces.

Robert could have asked for sympathy, or pity, but he did just the opposite. He held up his hand in the air and boasted, "I have **everything** I need for Joy."

His shirts are held together by **Velcro**, but his life is held together by Joy. When asked how could this be?

He replied, "Because he knows the Lord through his Word!"

2. **Worldly Counsel**

The Bible defines worldliness by centering morality where we intuitively know it should be.

Worldliness is the...

- ✓ Lust of the **Flesh** (A passion for sensual satisfaction)
- ✓ Lust of the **Eye** (An inordinate desire for the finer things in life)
- ✓ Pride of **Life** (Self-Satisfaction in who we are, what we have, and what we have done)

Worldliness then, is a preoccupation with false affluence; it elevates creature comfort to the point of Idolatry.

Worldliness is simply, **Pride** and **Selfishness** in **Disguise**; it is harboring grudges, nursing grievances, and wallowing in self-pity.

The counsel of rebellion against God may be very gradual, but it increases in rapidity as you progress in it. If you begin to descend down its hill, it will take you faster and faster toward your destruction.

Christians should always be on the lookout against the beginning of Worldly Conformity.

Psalm 1:1, “*How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers!*”

Jeremiah 17:5-6,⁵ “*Thus says the LORD, “Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶ For he will be like a bush in the desert and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, a land of salt without inhabitant.”*

Romans 12:2,² “*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*”

When we trust in our natural capabilities and strengths to deliver us, we place our confidence in and get our allegiance to ourselves instead of God, in doing this our hearts depart from him.

James 4:4, “⁴ You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

The world's smiles are more **dangerous** than its frowns!

3. Conscience

Conscience tells us that we ought to do right, but it does not tell us what right is.... That we are taught by God's word

Proverbs 3:5-6, “⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him; And He will make your paths straight.”

Romans 8:6-7, “⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, ⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,...”

Ok now let's look at where we should get our guidance from...

II. COMPLETELY RELIABLE SOURCE (Bible)

Illustration: Old Book (Martin Luther)

A collector of rare books ran into an acquaintance who told him he had just thrown away an old Bible that he found in a dusty, old box. He happened to mention that Guten-somebody-or-other had printed it.

"Not Gutenberg?" gasped the collector. "Yes, that was it!"

"You idiot! You've thrown away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold at auction for half a million dollars!"

"Oh, I don't think this book would have been worth anything close to that much," replied the man. "It was scribbled all over in the margins by some guy named Martin Luther."

Brothers and Sisters, the Bible is valuable but not because it's an old book or because Gutenberg printed it at one time or because Martin Luther may have scribbled his name in it.

THE BIBLE is valuable because it is the...

- ✓ **LIVING,**
- ✓ **ETERNAL**
- ✓ **WORD OF GOD!**

And no other book can be compared to it.

God did not create us and then simply **leave us here** on Earth to wonder aimlessly through life. He gave us a guide a Book of Instructions on Life. A book that has all of life's answers as well as all the problems you will ever face.

Let's look at some interesting information about the Word of God...

- ✓ NO written work has ever been interpreted and translated as many times as the Bible.
- ✓ Thousands of manuscripts and documents have contributed to the development of the Bible as we know it.
- ✓ One thing that sets the Bible apart from other books is that it is a compilation of thousands of manuscripts, produced by a multitude of authors, in a number of different languages, such as Aramaic, Hebrew, and Greek

The Bible contains

3,536,489 letters,

773,693 words,
31,173 verses,
1,189 chapters
66 books.

- ✓ The 27 books of the New Testament were written for the most part by people who witnessed the Life of Jesus, his teachings, his miracles, his death and resurrection.
- ✓ These Biblical manuscripts were verified by a large group of religious scholar who agreed on the authenticity, authorship, and interpretation of the various works.
- ✓ It should be noted that the New Testament writers accepted the Old Testament books as the authentic Word of God, and Jesus often referred to the Old Testaments writings as God's Word!
- ✓ There are a great number of Cross references in the Bible that lend to its reliability
- ✓ Further, there is considerable agreement between the Old Testament and the New Testament
- ✓ The most compelling evidence for the validity of the Bible is the accuracy of its prophecies
- ✓ We could spend days if not weeks or months going over all the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Birth, Life, Suffering and Death of the Messiah
- ✓ It has withstood its enemies, where the enemy has tried to burn it out of existence, believers have given their very life to preserve it, and its pages are stained with the blood of martyrs.
- ✓ It has withstood because God is in it and with it.

The Bible is printed in around 2,500 languages and dialects. It is produced in a new dialect at the rate of 1 every 6 weeks.

More than 1 million copies annually are sold every year.

Someone has said thought the Bible is the best-selling book of all time, it is also the lease read book of all time.

Too many of us are willing to let our faith rest upon preacher's and teacher's words and not upon our own investigation.

- ✓ The Holy Bible has been given to us by God to **learn** about him
- ✓ The Bible provides guidelines on how we should **conduct** our lives
- ✓ By studying the Bible, we can begin to **understand** who God is and what he expects of us
- ✓ God's word is his principle source of **communication** his word is truth
- ✓ God's word communicates the **Law**, which is his will, in fact, the written word, or Holy Bible provides answers to all our problems
- ✓ God's word provides the **revelation** of his great mystery of Salvation, obtained through the atoning sacrifice of Christ

We go to church to hear the Word of God and to worship him, our hymns of praise and our thanks offerings are the means by which we communicate our appreciation for all that he has done for us, to neglect going to church and studying God's Word is to rob him of the glory, praise and adoration he deserves.

Luke 11:28, says, "... Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and observe it."

The last thing we will get into this morning is..

III. THE WORD OF GOD IS....

II Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

If scripture is from God as we believe it is then it must...

- ✓ Be Read,
- ✓ Listened to,
- ✓ Learned from,
- ✓ BE Obeyed.

The obedience is the hard part, of course.

There is another life beyond this life which is eternal, and God is trying to tell us in His Word what to do and how to get there. And it's a matter of us

- ✓ Listening,
- ✓ Learning,
- ✓ Living by faith, and
- ✓ Learning to obey God's Word.

James 1:22, "Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

Psalm 119:11, "Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee."

Illustration: Bank built around Vault...

A special speaker at a conference told of watching a building being constructed. He said first they put down a **cement pad** and then several days later they brought in a huge, heavy **silver box** and set it down on the pad.

The next few weeks they began to frame and then add drywall. Curiosity overcame him he wondered why the silver box and why install it first.

So he asked what was going in there, and he was told it was going to be a bank. And then it made sense to him. The huge, heavy silver box was the **vault**.

It was the **most important** thing.

And because of its size, weight, and importance, they had to build everything around it.

Later it would not have fit through the door, so when you build a bank, you construct that which houses what's most important to a bank, the valuables, and then you build **everything around it**.

- ✓ What a vault is to a bank,
- ✓ **Christ** is to **Christianity**,
- ✓ **Bible** is to the Church.
- ✓ Christ is the **Living Word**,

The Bible is the written word.

Together, they're the **foundation**, and contained within them are the valuable treasures that open the door to...

- ✓ **Forgiveness** from sin,
- ✓ **Rules** to live by,
- ✓ **Pattern** for the abundant life,
- ✓ And the **Pathway** to Eternity with Jesus Christ.

The Word of God is....

Word of God is a LIGHT

- **Psalms 119:130**, “*The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.*”
- **John 1:4**, “*In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*”

Word of God provided DIRECTION

- **Psalms 119:105**, “*Your Word is a Lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*”

Light is essential to our daily lives, would we try and walk at night on a strange or unfamiliar path without some source of light?

And yet as Christians we do it daily! What source of Light is shining on your path today?

Word of God STANDS forever

- **Mat 24:35**, “*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*”
- **1 Pet 1:23**, “*For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God..*”

Word of God SUSTAINS us

- **Psalms 119:11**, “*Your word I have treasured in my heart that I may not sin against you.*”

Word of God IMPARTS life

- **Rom 1:16**, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*”

Word of God PURIFIES us

- **1 Pet 1:22**, “*Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart.*”

Word of God is TRUTH

- **John 17:17**, “*Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.*”
- **John 8:32**, “*And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*”

Word of God helps us GROW

- **1 Peter 2:2**, “*As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that ye may grow by it.*”

Word of God helps us FIGHT Satan (Matt. 4:1–11)

- **Matthew 4:4**, “*But He answered and said, ‘It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’*”
- **Ephesians 6:17**, “*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*”

Word of God is POWERFUL

- **Hebrews 4:12**, “*For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*”
- **Romans 1:16**, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.*”

Word of God is REVELANT

- **Hebrews 13:8**, “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.*”

Andrew Jackson: The Bible is the Rock on which the Republic rests.

Thomas Jefferson: The Bible is the Cornerstone of Liberty.

Abraham Lincoln: In regard to the Great Book, I have only to say that it is the best gift which God has given to man.”

Daniel Webster: There is no solid basis of Salvation but in the Word of God! If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our Country will go on and prosper. I make it a practice to read through the entire Bible once every year.

Word of God is something to LIVE by

- **Luke 4:4**, “*... It is written, that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.*”

Colossians 3:16, “*Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*”

“Dwell” means to live in or be at home, scripture should permeate every aspect of the believers life and control every thought, word and deed.

Let us Pray...