

The Good Life Oasis Living God's Way

- Intro:
1. God wants man to have a good life. He desired this from the beginning (**Gen 1:28-31**). In the garden of Eden the good life and life with God were the same thing, God even walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening (**Gen 3:8**).
 2. The beautiful tranquil life Adam and Eve enjoyed was shattered when Satan entered the garden. We too should be careful of the temptations that Satan may place in front of us (**2 Cor 11:3**).
 3. Temptations simple to define, temptations are things we substitute for God or godly things. Handling and eating forbidden fruit was not illegal. The fruit was off-limits because God said it was off-limits.
 4. It could be said that Eve was tricked in that she sought a short-cut to the good life. The short-cut proved to be disastrous to her and all mankind. What was true then is true today. There are no short-cuts to fame, fortune or instant success that do not violate some command of God.

A. Treating Others Right

1. One of the blessings of living a godly life is the ability to have a positive relationship with other people. This can be done by helping neighbors and others who are in need as we have the opportunity to do so (**Gal 6:10, Pro 3:27**).
2. Another positive trait for a godly life is to live peaceable with others (**Pro 3:29-30**).
3. No matter how hard we try we may not be able to live peaceable with all men but we should try (**Rom 12:18**).
4. Do not take advantage of others (**Gal 5:14-15, 1 Peter 1:22**).

B. Working Hard

1. Don't be a sluggard - Solomon had a lot to say about the sluggard or the lazy person who tries to get through life with as little effort and work as possible on his or her part (**Pro 6:9-11; 26:14**).
There is a lot of movement without any progress.
2. Work is good - Work is not a curse (**Pro 10:4**). We are to work to provide for our own needs and to be able to help those who cannot help themselves (**Eph 4:28**).
 - a. Ants are one example of hard workers (**Pro 6:6-8**), a wise person will follow their example in providing today for tomorrow's needs.

C. Trusting God

1. **Pro 3:5-6** - The Hebrew word trust in this verse mean "to lie helpless, facedown. It pictures a servant who waits patiently for his master's instructions with the desire to fulfill his every command. We are advised not to "be wise in your own eyes" (**Pro 3:7**). Jeremiah provide us with a good reason for not doing that (**Jer 10:23**).
The idea is that rather than relying on human wisdom, we should rely on God's Word (**Pro 16:20**).
2. This is not a suggestion to have a non-intelligent attitude toward life that avoids diligent study. The point is that one will not develop a balanced view of life without

knowing God's Word. Doing this "will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones" (**Pro 3:8**).

D. Choosing Companions

1. We should use care when choosing our friends (**Pro 12:26**). Paul reminds why this is important (**1 Cor 15:33**).
2. Paul also encourages us not to be yoked together with unbelievers (2 Cor 6:14-15). We should choose all of our close relationships with eternity in view. If our friends or our relationships with those of the opposite sex endanger our eternal life, we should be wise enough to end them.

E. Being Happy

1. Solomon had a lot to say about how to have a happy heart. (**Pro 12:25, 14:10,30; 15:13; 17:22**)
2. What is a merry heart? It is more than laughter. It is not an attitude of "Don't worry, be happy." It refers to an inward joy that outward circumstances cannot take away (**Isa 26:3**).

Questions to Consider

- How are we sometimes tempted to substitute things for God?
- Why is it wise to be cautious in selecting our friends or selecting a life's companion?
- How can we be joyful in the midst of troubles, trials, and temptations?