

SERMON

DATE: Saturday/Sunday, August 25-26, 2018

SERIES TITLE: WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN NEEDS TO KNOW

SERMON TITLE: How to Make Good Decisions

SCRIPTURE: James 1:5-8, 3:13-18

James 1:5-8

[5] If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

[6] But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

[7] That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

[8] Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

James 3:13-18

[13] Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

[14] But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

[15] Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

[16] For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

[17] But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

[18] Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

August 25-26, 2018

Title: How to Make Good Decisions

How can I make decisions that will carry me through life?

1. Get good directions. (v 1:5)

2. Follow the Path. (vs. 1:6-8)

- *Matthew 7:24-25 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.*
- A life built on the things of God will endure the storms of life.

3. Don't waver and don't give up. (vs 3:15-18)

- Human wisdom produces human results.
 - ~ At this point in history, we are inundated with human/earthly decision making and we are suffering the consequences.
 - ~ We are building on sand and expecting to live on rock.
- Godly wisdom produces Godly results.
 - ~ We desperately need a "Harvest of Righteousness".

Lagniappe

Next Sunday afternoon 9/2/18 at 4:00 PM the church will gather at the Bogue Falaya Park in downtown Covington to participate in a time of baptism for new believers.

This may seem a bit unusual because we have a beautiful baptismal pool in our new worship center, but we do it for a reason.

Why baptism and why in the river?

First, we baptize because of the consistent teaching of Holy Scripture. Baptism is one of the two ordinances (commandments) found in Scripture for the church to practice. As a result, as far as I am aware, all Christian groups practice baptism.

Second, we follow our method of baptism because of the teaching of Holy Scripture as well. In the New Testament, everyone saved was baptized. The baptism came after salvation and not before it. Like Jesus, those in the early church were baptized (the word itself means "to dip") or immersed in the water.

Third, we baptize because of the example of Jesus who was baptized by John the Baptist at the beginning of His ministry. And because Jesus gave the command to go into all the world with the gospel, to baptize and teach those new disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).

Fourth, we baptize because by doing so we identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Paul made this plain in Romans 6:1-11. When we are lowered into the water, we identify with the death and burial of Christ. When we are raised out of the water, we identify with His resurrection.

Finally, we baptize at the river to remind ourselves of Jesus' own baptism in the Jordan River and to emphasize to our community, and ourselves, of the magnificent hope we have in Christ.

Please join us as we witness the baptisms. If you have not yet turned to Christ or followed Him in baptism, please let your teachers, pastors, or deacons know. We would love to point you toward Christ.