

**DATE: June 26, 2011**

**TEXT: Proverbs 16:1-9**

**TITLE: "HOW INVOLVED IS THE LORD IN YOUR LIFE?"**

**SERIES: "GET SMART" – Wisdom for Living from the Book of Proverbs # 9**

### **INTRODUCTION: HOW INVOLVED IS THE LORD IN YOUR LIFE?**

God wants to be involved in your life.

Not in just the big decisions, but the little ones.

Not just the big disappointments, but the little ones.

Not just the big hurts, but the little ones.

Not just the big fears, but the little ones.

Not just with the big problems, but the little ones.

God wants to be totally involved in your life

How involved is the Lord in your life?

### **I. (vs. 1, 2, 4 &9) INVOLVE THE LORD IN YOUR LIFE BY CONSIDERING WHO HE IS**

#### **A. THE LORD IS SOVEREIGN**

1. Here in the middle of Proverbs, we find a series of proverbs on the sovereignty of God.
2. The Lord is the subject of verses 1-7 and 9.
3. It is significant that in each of these first 7 verses, Israel's personal name for God (Yahweh) appears.
4. These proverbs focus directly upon God.
5. In the book of Proverbs, we discover that God wants to be the very center of our lives.
6. We have looked at the phrase, "Fear the Lord" several times during this series, for it is the key phrase and theme.
7. The last verse of the preceding chapter that leads in to this group of verses focused upon the sovereignty of God begins with the theme of "Fearing the Lord."

#### **"The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor." (15:33)**

8. To fear the Lord is to live in a right relationship with God and thus live a life of wisdom.
9. The book of Proverbs is more than a book of good advice.
10. Proverbs is designed to teach people how to steer their lives properly under the command of God.
11. It is a book about God's involvement in your life and how that impacts the way you live.
12. These verses specifically stress God's activity in the affairs of men.
13. God is not as uninvolved as some might think he is.
14. God is not just watching from a distance.
15. God is not like a watchmaker who makes a watch and then lets it run.
16. God is the God who wants to be involved in our lives, for He is the Sovereign God.

17. God wants to be involved in your life because of who He is.  
18. He is the Sovereign God who is big enough to be involved in all the details of your life.

**“To man belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the reply of the tongue.” (Proverbs 16:1)**

**EXAMPLE:** (\*Picture of camp trip of seniors, some of the colleges on one slide that students are choosing, and a wedding.) As summer approaches, many of us have made plans. Some have made plans to go to college, others have made plans to go on vacation, plans to complete a variety of projects around the house. Some have made plans to be married.

19. This proverb reminds us that God is bigger than our plans.

20. While humans make plans, and rightly so, the Lord determines the outward result or, in other words, “The reply of the tongue.”

**The Message Bible paraphrases the verse by saying, “Mortals make elaborate plans, but God has the last word.”**

21. In other words - People can make plans but God determines how things will turn out.

**EXAMPLE:** On the day I was working on this message, in my own personal time with the Lord, I read the story of Balaam in Numbers 23-24. The people of Israel were traveling through the land of Moab. Balak, king of Moab, sent word to Balaam to come and put a curse upon the people of God, for they were too powerful for him. Instead, Balaam blessed the people of God three times, saying he could only do what God instructed.

22. Man can plan, but God is the God who has the final word.

**ILLUSTRATION:** It is said that Thomas a Kempis a Medieval Catholic monk who died in the 1400's, wrote the second most widely read Christian text after the Bible itself. It is called, “The Imitation of Christ.” It contains many sensitively and wisely expressed insights into spirituality and morals. He said, "For the resolutions of the just depend rather on the grace of God than on their own wisdom; and in Him they always put their trust, whatever they take in hand. \*\*For man proposes, but God disposes; neither is the way of man in his own hands."

**(Thomas Kempis)**

23. Our plans are subject to divine control.

24. To involve the Lord in our lives is to acknowledge that He is in control and to turn control of all things over to him.

**“Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.” (Proverbs 19:21)**

25. God is bigger than our plans.

26. Our own plans will come to fruition only if God allows.

**James 4:13-15: “Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this and that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, you do not know even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then**

**vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'**

27. The emphasis on the sovereignty of God is a needed corrective to the tendency of man to imagine that he is in control of things.

**"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps." (Proverbs 16:9)**

28. The Lord's sovereignty determines the outworking of our plans.

**The Message paraphrases, "We plan the way we want to live, but only God makes us able to live it." (Message)**

29. The Lord can help us to live out the plans.

30. To involve God is to recognize God's power to direct our steps.

**ILLUSTRATION: \* "In preparing for battle, I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable." (General Dwight D. Eisenhower)**

31. Planning is valuable, but God has not only the last word but the soundest.

32. The Bible, in general, teaches that only those plans that are approved by Him will succeed.

33. This verse is stating that our planning should take into account that God's plans are most important, and that we need to be open to what He wants us to do, even if that means a course correction in mid-life.

34. God is still in control, no matter what man may plan or think.

**ILLUSTRATION: \* "Because God is sovereign, He has the right to make certain claims to our lives with which we aren't always comfortable with." (Unknown)**

35. God can do so much more than our plans.

36. He can do so much more than we could ever dream when He is involved in our lives.

**EXAMPLE: Paul said it this way. "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us," (Ephesians 3:20)**

## **B. (v.2) THE LORD IS ALL KNOWING AND HE CARES ABOUT OUR MOTIVES**

**"All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord." (Proverbs 16:2)**

1. This verse speaks both to our tendency to self-justification and to God's perfect insight.

**ILLUSTRATION: Popular Commentator, Malaren says this describes, "Our strange power of blinding ourselves."**

2. Self-deception is a possibility but not with God.

3. God is interested in what is true and good, not just what appears good for the moment.

4. Just because things look good to us does not mean things look good to God.

5. We can rationalize anything.

6. People might seem innocent in their own estimation, but self-deception and rationalization make this estimation unreliable.
7. Christians can even rationalize sin.

**ILLUSTRATION: When I was working on my doctorate at Fuller Theological Seminary, I took a course on Ethics, primarily focused on ethics and sexuality. As part of the class, he brought in a homosexual pastor and a man who had once been a homosexual but testifies that God had delivered him. I listened to the pastor rationalized his practice.**

**ILLUSTRATION: It reminds me of when I met with a person who was a homosexual at a previous church and he rationalized what he was doing by trying to convince himself that it was okay. He finally concluded, "I know it is sin, but it will be okay."**

8. We rationalize sin often times to excuse our actions and justify our behavior.
9. The conclusion of the matter is that we deceive ourselves so easily, and therefore, we cannot fully evaluate ourselves.
10. We cannot evaluate ourselves by looking in the mirror of our own feelings and perspective.
11. God weighs and evaluates us by a different standard.
12. God, by his Spirit and through His word, provides the penetrating evaluation.
13. A man may be satisfied with his life, but it needs the scrutiny of the Lord.
14. God must be involved in the evaluation of our actions and our motives.

**"All a man's ways seem right to him, but the Lord weighs the heart." (Proverbs 21:2)**

15. Like a magician, we may be able to fool others, but we cannot fool God.
16. We may be able to fool ourselves but God is not fooled.
17. His perfect knowledge discerns exactly why we do what we do.
18. We can never fake God out, for God is all-knowing.

**"O Lord, you have searched me and you know me." (Psalm 139:1)**

19. God knows what is going on in us.
20. We must examine our motives.
21. What motivates you?

**ILLUSTRATION: \*\*John draw cartoon of person catching him (looking exhausted etc.) with the caption on second one, "Your man was running for six points. My man was running for his life."**

**Bear Bryant was the coach for the Alabama Crimson Tide for many years. He held the record for several years as the college football coach with the most victories. Bear Bryant was an outstanding coach and tremendous motivator. His players knew they had better play good football.**

**The story is told that during one important game, his team was ahead by six points with only one minute left in the game, and they had the ball. It looked as if they had the game sewed up. He sent in a running play to his quarterback, but the quarterback decided to surprise the other team – and Coach Bryant – by calling a pass play. He said, "They are looking**

for the run; let's throw a pass." So, he went back and threw a pass, and sure enough, the defensive cornerback, who was the speed champion of the league, intercepted the ball and headed toward the goal line. Alabama was about to lose the game. The Alabama quarterback, who was known for a good arm but not for fast legs, took off after the cornerback and caught him on the five-yard line. He saved the game; Alabama won. The opposing coach went to Bear Bryant after the game and said, "I thought that quarterback was slow! How'd he catch my world-class sprinter?" Bear Bryant looked at that opposing coach and said, "You have to understand. Your man was running for six points. My man was running for his life."

22. What motivates you?

23. The Lord alone can evaluate our behavior because He knows our motives.

24. Only God can evaluate moral behavior.

25. "Man weights the deeds; God weighs the intentions."

26. God can see us just as we are.

27. God is the ultimate appraiser.

28. God wants to not only be involved in what we do but why we do what we do.

**ILLUSTRATION: Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Commander Joe Rochefort broke Japanese communication codes. Stationed at an intelligence base in Oahu, he predicted the Japanese would attack Midway on June 3, 1942, which they did. Because of Rochefort's expertise, the United States surprised the Japanese Navy with its first defeat in 350 years. Japan lost four carriers, one cruiser, 2500 men, 322 aircraft, and their best pilots. Due to this crippling defeat, Japan eventually lost the war. Surprisingly, Rochefort never received recognition for his efforts. Instead, some intelligence men in Washington, D.C., falsified reports and claimed credit, even though they had predicted a June 10 date of attack. Washington sealed the records for 40 years and Rochefort was never properly rewarded. In fact, he was actually removed from intelligence and assigned to a floating dry dock in San Francisco. In their book, Deceit at Pearl Harbor, Lt. Cmdr. Ken Landis (ret.), Staff Sgt. Rex Gunn, (ret.), and Msgt. Robert Andrade (ret.) tell about a note Rochefort kept on his desk: **\*(on screen) "WE CAN ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING PROVIDING NO ONE CARES WHO GETS THE CREDIT."** The authors write, "That was the attitude that won the battle of Midway."**

29. He had a different motivation for what he did.

30. What motivates you to do what you do?

31. What motivates you to pray or worship? Or, witness and share your faith?

32. What motivates you to be a godly father or mother?

33. The Lord wants to be involved in our lives.

34. The Lord wants to be our supreme motivation.

### **C. THE LORD IS FAITHFUL TO WORK OUT HIS OWN PURPOSE**

**(v.4) “The Lord works out everything for his own ends- even the wicked for a day of disaster.”**

1. God has a purpose He is working out.
2. God has a destiny for your life to fulfill.
3. Your future potential is more important to God than your past history of failure.
4. Just because things don't seem to be working out does not mean that God is not at work.

**“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)**

5. The general meaning is that there are ultimately no lose ends in God's world.
6. Everything will be put to some use and matched with its proper fate.
7. God in his sovereignty ensures that everything in life receives its appropriate retribution.
8. In God's order there is just retribution for every act, for every act includes its answer or consequence.”
9. Disaster should be understood in the sense of due retribution or punishment.
10. Even evil has its ultimate answer in God's day of Judgment.
11. The Lord is at work, working out everything for His own ends for God is Sovereign and in control.

**ILLUSTRATION: (God's Faithfulness) On January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003, Evelyn Husband lost her life's partner, Commander Rick Husband, when the space shuttle Columbia disintegrated over the Texas skyline, killing everyone aboard. Standing stunned in disbelief at the landing site, she remembers her seven-year-old, Matthew, asking, “Does this mean I won't be going to Indian Guides with Dad anymore?” And, twelve-year-old, Laura, wanting to know, “Who'll walk me down the aisle some day, Mom? Or, help me with my math homework?”**

**Following the incident, Evelyn talked openly about how the faith she'd found as a teenager was still sustaining her. When interviewed, she told the world she was trusting God for strength and quoted Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all they ways, acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy path.” Addressing a women's conference, she said, “Most of you aren't going to lose the person you love most on national television. But, everyone here will face big tragedies and little everyday crises. And, your only consistency is Jesus Christ.” Her message was this: *even in the midst of intense suffering, God is faithful.***

12. God is the faithful God and you can trust Him in all things at all times.
13. The only way to truly change who we are and what we do is to change our view of God.

14. Don't be satisfied with a concept of a God who far less than He is and wants to be to you.
15. Consider who God is so you can involve the God who is Sovereign, All-knowing and Faithful, and so much more in your daily life.

## II. (v.3.) INVOLVE THE LORD IN YOUR LIFE BY COMMITTING ALL YOU DO TO HIM

**“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”**  
**(Proverbs 16:3)**

1. In the Hebrew, the imperative form used here can be considered the equivalent of a conditional clause.
2. The condition is to commit to the Lord whatever you do.
3. Our activities and plans will be no less our own for being His, only less burdensome and better made.
4. For our plans to succeed, we must depend on the Lord.
5. The Hebrew verb “commit” is literally “roll”.
6. The imagery is to roll as a stone is rolled across the mouth of a well.
7. The figurative of rolling, as in rolling one's burdens onto the Lord.

**ILLUSTRATION: \*Commentator, Matthew Henry says this passage means to "Roll the burden of thy care upon God, and leave it with him, by faith and dependence on him."**

8. This word picture calls us to entrust the totality of our lives to Him.
9. Roll every financial burden upon the Lord.
10. Roll every relationship burden upon the Lord.

**Psalm 37:5 “Commit your way to the Lord ; trust in him and he will do this;”**

**“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (I Peter 5:7)**

11. Do you have a burden you are carrying today that you need to roll upon the Lord?
12. As Christians, we are to commit our works to the Lord.
13. To commit is have complete dependence on God.

**ILLUSTRATION: \*\* In their book, “Pastors at Greater Risk” H.B. London and Neil Wiseman stated, “Only half the adults who say they’re Christians contend that they are ‘Absolutely committed’ to the Christian faith.”**

14. It is not just being interested in involving the Lord in all we do, but it is committing everything we do to the Lord.
15. This means that we cannot do anything in our lives we cannot commit to the Lord.
16. If you can't commit to the Lord, don't do it.
17. If you can't involve God in what you are doing, don't do it.
18. If God can't get involved in your conversations, you need to change your conversations.
19. If God can't get involved in your thoughts, you need to change your thoughts.

20. If God can't get involved in the way you spend your time, you need to change the way you spend your time.
21. If God can't get involved in the places you spend your time, you God you need to change where you go.
22. If God can't get involved in what you watch because He is a Holy God, you need to change what you watch.
23. If God can't get involved in the attitude you have towards someone, you need to change your attitude.
24. If God can't get involved in the activities of your day, you need to change your activities.
25. We must commit to the Lord all that we do so God can be involved in everything of our lives.
26. Put God in whatever you do.
27. It is not just committing to the Lord the things you want Him to bless.
28. It is committing to God all that you do.

**ILLUSTRATION: In the comic strip, Beetle Bailey, the General looks at his office staff who are leaning on their elbows at their desks and immediately changes a wall sign from 'THINK' to 'ACT'?**

29. God cares about what we think and He cares about what we do.
30. Are you doing the things God wants you to do?
31. Young people, are you involved in the things God wants to be involved in.
32. If your actions are done according to God, then the plans will succeed according to God's will and way.
33. Let's get involved in the things God wants to get involved in.
34. Let's do what God wants us to do with our lives so we can commit all we do to Him.
35. We are to be radically committed to Him, but we must never forget Christ is radically committed to us.
36. Commit all that you are and all that you do to the Lord so He can be totally involved in all that you are and all that you do.

**ILLUSTRATION: It was a life-changing prayer. As a teenager, this prayer changed missionary to Africa, David Livingstone's life. \*\*"Lord, lead me anywhere, just go with me; Lay any burden on me, only sustain me; sever any tie in my heart except the tie that binds me to you."**

37. Are you willing to pray a prayer like that?
38. A prayer of total commitment of all that you are and all that you do will change your life.
39. This is the commitment that says, "No matter what, I will remain committed to Christ."

**ILLUSTRATION: The Bohemian reformer, John Hus was a man who believed the Scriptures to be the infallible and supreme authority in all matters. He died at the stake for that belief in Constance, Germany, on his forty-second birthday. As he refused a final plea to renounce his faith, Hus's last words were, "What I taught with my lips, I seal with my blood." Source unknown, "Are we willing to say, 'Lord I have counted the cost. I know that being a follower is not going to be the easiest life. I**

**know that it may cost me at times to remain true. But, knowing that, I still look at what you paid for me to have salvation. I commit to you for the long term. I will be steadfast.”**

40. I will commit all I do to You; I am committed to You for You are committed to me.

### **III. (v.6-7) INVOLVE THE LORD IN YOUR LIFE BY CONFESSING YOUR NEED FOR HIS ATONING LOVE AND LIVING TO PLEASE HIM**

**“Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the Lord a man avoids evil.” (Proverbs 16:6)**

1. Sin is a problem that must be dealt with.
2. Sin separates us from a relationship with God and hinders us from living the life God can enable us to live.
3. Sin always gets in the way of wise living.
4. God wants to deal with the sin problem.
5. God deals with sin by atoning for our sin.
6. The word “atoned” in Hebrew means “covered over”, which many believe goes back to an older word meaning, “to wipe away.”
7. In the Old Testament, the word “atoned” carries the idea of removing guilt for sin.
8. It is removing sin from God’s sight.
9. Sin requires atonement because of who God is.
10. Through His love and faithfulness, God made a way to atone for our sins.
11. It is only through His great mercy that sin is atoned for.
12. His love and faithfulness bring us into a right relationship with God.

**ILLUSTRATION\*\* “God’s love for you is the greatest love story ever written. And it was written just for you.” (Pastor and author, H.B. London)**

13. God wants to be involved in our lives because He is loving and faithful.
14. The psalmist could speak of being forgiven through God’s love.

**“Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord.” (Psalm 25:6-7)**

15. Listen to the prayer of David after he had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

**“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.” (Psalm 51:1-2)**

16. In the New Testament, we think of atonement in terms of Christ’s atoning work on the cross.
17. However, when we look at the cross, we must never forget the love behind Him there.
18. It was love for you and me that put Christ on the cross.
19. It was His faithfulness that put Christ on the cross.
20. He is faithful to forgive our sin.

**“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (I John 1:9)**

21. God wants to be involved in our lives so much that He provides atonements from the sin that stops God from being involved in our lives.
22. We can only fear the Lord or live in a right relationship with Him through love and faithfulness.
23. We are not only saved from sin but we are saved for righteousness.
24. We are saved to live in a right relationship with the Holy God that requires that we avoid evil.
25. Fear of the Lord prompts the believer to turn from evil doing.
26. God is the God of forgiveness.
27. God provides love and faithfulness through atonement for sin by providing a relationship with God so we can avoid sin.

**“When a man’s ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.” (Proverbs 16:7)**

28. There is a word of encouragement given here for the person of God.
29. The life that is pleasing to God will be above reproach and find favor with others.
30. This must not be pressed to universal applications, but when we are on God’s side, doing what God wants us to do, we discover that God is on side.
31. God can handle enemies.
32. In essence, God is saying, “Follow me, live for me and let me work out your relationships.”
33. Put God first in your life and He will work it all out.

**“Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.” (Proverbs 29:25)**

34. The New Testament teaches the same concept that if you involve God in you life by putting God first and pleasing God, you can rest in Him, knowing He will work it out.

**“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)**

35. Involve God in your life by involving God in everything you do.
36. The question is this, who are we going to please?

**ILLUSTRATION: “Let us thus think often that our only business in this life is to please God.” (Brother Lawrence)**

37. We have to change audiences.
38. Which audience are we trying to please, people in this world, or God in heaven?
39. We need to understand what it means to please God and put our whole passion in doing it.

**ILLUSTRATION: Back in 2004, Bill Poovey reported in the *Currier Journal* that Rob Smitty donated one of his kidneys to a stranger. It was a noble and generous sacrifice. While browsing the Internet, Smitty developed an interest in people needing organs. He said his motivation involved doing something that would make his children proud. But, his**

10-year-old daughter wasn't impressed by his sacrifice. Amber said her father never comes to see her and never calls, not even on her birthday. "I don't think he's much of a hero," she said.

Tennessee records show Smitty had not made child support payments to Amber's mother in nine months. Just as Amber is not impressed with her father's sacrifice, God is not impressed with sacrifice that takes the place of obedience.

40. God is the one we are to please.

**Paul wrote, "Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more." (I Thessalonians 4:1)**

41. To please God is to obey His instructions.

42. Pleasing God is the passion of the one who wants God involved in their lives.

43. Don't leave God out of your finances; please God in the way you manage God's money and time.

44. Don't leave God out of your relationships; please God in your relationships.

45. Don't leave God out of your vocation; involve God in all you do at work.

46. Don't leave God out of your family; involve God in all you do.

47. God is pleased when He is involved in your life.

48. Live to please God in all that you do.

**II Corinthians 5:9 says, "So we make it our goal to please him,,"**

49. Involve God in your life by confessing your need for His atoning love and living to please Him.

50. What does it mean to you to live to please the Lord? We asked some children and youth.

**ILLUSTRATION: Video of our youth and teens answering the question, "What does it mean to you to live to please the Lord?"**

#### **IV. (v.8 &5.) INVOLVE THE LORD IN YOUR LIFE BY CHOOSING THE BETTER WAY**

**"Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice." (v.8)**

1. Life is filled with choice

**ILLUSTRATION: (\* Prop: Apple) I usually eat an apple every day. We had run a little short so I was going to pick one up at the store. When I went over to the apple section, I noticed there were wide a variety of apples. There was a produce clerk working with the apples, so I asked him which variety of apple was the better choice. He said, "Well, these apples are on sale." They were the least expensive yet, a good tasting apple. By telling me this, he quickly limited my choices. Instead of choosing from all the apples, I only had to choose apples from those in the on-sale section.**

2. When God is involved in your life, it limits your choice.

3. You only choose those things that are pleasing to God.

4. When God is involved in your choices, you will choose the better way.

5. Proverbs has a lot to say to us about choosing the better way.
6. Humility is the better way than pride.  
**(Proverbs 16:19) "Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud."**
7. God despises the attitude of arrogance.  
**(Proverbs 16:5) "The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished."**
8. Wisdom is the better choice.  
**EXAMPLE: (Proverbs 16:16) "How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver!" Be full of wisdom and follow Jesus Christ.**
9. Self control is the better way.  
**(Proverbs 16:32) "Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city."**
10. Righteousness is a better choice.  
**"Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice."**  
**(Proverbs 16:8)**
11. The word "righteousness" describes ethical conduct.
12. Choosing to be in a right relationship with God is the better way.
13. Righteousness is the result of fearing God or having a right relationship with God.
14. Righteousness is possible through Christ.  
**"Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes."** (Romans 10:3-4)
15. We have no righteousness outside of Jesus Christ.
16. Jesus is our righteousness.
17. God justifies or declares us righteous in Christ Jesus.  
**"...not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith."** (Philippians 3:9)
18. A better choice is always to pursue more of Jesus in our life.
19. To do what is right in God's eyes is always the better choice.  
**EXAMPLE: The story of Martha and Mary. Martha was busy preparing a meal for Jesus and Mary was sitting at the feet of Jesus listening to His teaching. Martha said to Jesus, "Have Mary come and help me."  
"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."** (Luke 10:41-42)
20. The life of wisdom is a life of choosing the better way by putting God first in all we do.
21. Choosing to have God totally involved in your life is the better choice.  
**ILLUSTRATION: A little honesty paid handsome dividends for Herbert Tarvin, 11, who drew praise for returning eighty-five cents that he picked up after an armored car crashed and spilled hundreds of**

thousands of dollars on a Miami street. For his honesty, Herbert, his family, and his sixth-grade class at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School spent the day at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, on the tab of Disney and Southwest Airlines. Herbert said he had to "do the right thing and turn the money in because it doesn't belong to me." Police say more than \$500,000 is still missing. Only a single mother of six, who turned in about \$20 in quarters and pennies, and Herbert returned the money, officials said.

**CONCLUSION: Are you living the life you were meant to live?**

That can only happen when God is totally involved in your life.

Living a life of wisdom is living a life where God is really and truly totally involved.

Living a life totally surrendered to God.